

Due Date Policy

We are all human. I'm a dad, spouse, teacher, and researcher (and I aspire to fill those roles in that order—although I'm not always successful). In order to be a well-balanced person, I strive to tackle large projects sustainably (and you should too*). To this end, I try to respond and grade papers sustainably. I can only effectively respond and/or grade about 3-5 papers a day, depending on the scope of the project. This habit means that my due date policy is a little quirky. There are no set due dates. Instead, I ask you to schedule the due dates of your papers and projects (if you're in a group, this might require some communication between you and your teammates). Typically, I ask that you turn in your papers or projects within a two to three week span. Important items to remember about this policy are as follows:

- 1) If you need accommodations (DRES or otherwise) for late papers, please email me or talk to me before/after class. Because the due dates are scheduled, I hold you to these dates. However, I recognize that life events come up. As long as you touch base with me 24 hours before the due date, I will grant an extension. I'd rather have higher quality work anyways! ☺
- 2) I typically ask for you to email me the projects at 8 pm because I prioritize family time from 4-8 pm. I typically read the papers at night and then I wake up in the morning and respond to them. I find "marinating" on the papers overnight is part of my responding/writing process—just like writing itself is a process (as you'll hear me say repeatedly throughout the semester).
- 3) I've found that this process means you receive feedback and/or grades much faster than normal; most of the time, you'll get a response from me within 24 hours. However, I can't guarantee that I'll be this quick every time because sometimes life gets in the way.

The details

- a) The class following when I first assign the initial paper/project, I hold sign-ups for due dates. I ask that you look at your other schedules and due dates in preparation for signing up. I've found that the last due date is not always the best day because you might have a test, problem set, or paper due that day. Sometimes soon actually is better!
- b) On the first sign-up day, people in class get "first dibs" on due dates. I get to class about 10 minutes early this day and those who are early get to sign up first. But remember, last may not always work best for you.
- c) Only 3-5 people can take a particular day. While this number is a little arbitrary, I've found that this number is my "sweet spot" for what I can respond/grade without feeling overwhelmed.
- d) After the first assignment, those who signed up last get to sign-up first. We'll then rotate the order as the semester progresses.

We are all human...

I've found that honesty and transparency works best for this policy. If a day works really well for you but is taken, then talk to your peers (and me) about switching with them. We are sometimes busier than our peers and vice-versa. Not only does this help you meet people in the class but also helps build the professional communication necessary in today's workplace. I recognize there are bumps in the road with this policy. I ask that we respect each other's busy schedules, especially during busy times of the year. We'll hit these bumps together.

*I've found the best study habit for tests: study one hour a day for eight days. This gives you the "overnighter" preparation without the need for extreme caffeine while creating a sustainable work flow. Just try it once—you might be pleasantly surprised.