



Writing and Research Workshops

Winter 2010

The Graduate Writing Center Winter will offer general writing workshops on a variety of topics as well as a few specialized workshops for non-native speakers of English. We will also hold targeted writing workshops for graduate students in the areas of Humanities & Arts, Social Sciences, and Sciences & Engineering. Additionally, we will post information about workshops being offered by the UCLA libraries and the ATS Statistical Consulting Group. Special thanks to our campus programming partners: UCLA Library, Writing Programs, Academic Technology Services Statistical Consulting Group, Counseling and Psychological Services, and the Career Center.

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Research Workshops

EndNote

This session offers a basic overview of the purpose, uses, and features of EndNote, a software program that helps researchers manage their research and produce bibliographies for projects large and small.

TBD

Location: Research Library East Electronic Classroom, room 21536 ([map](#))

Zotero

This session offers a basic overview of the purpose, uses, and features of Zotero a free FireFox extension that helps researchers manage references. Students are encouraged to bring in their own computers with Zotero 1.0.1 already installed.

TBD

Location: Research Library East Electronic Classroom, room 21536 ([map](#))

Research Appointments

Graduate students are welcome to contact Library's subject specialists any time for further assistance with research, library resources, and subject databases. [Contact information for subject librarians.](#)

To see the most current schedule of UCLA Library workshops, [consult the UCLA Library seminar page.](#)

Statistical Software Workshops

ATS Stats Consulting Seminars and walk-in consulting:

For walk-in consulting information, Stat books for loan, and the most up-to-date listing of seminars, please see the [ATS Stats Group website](#). Click [here](#) for more detailed location information, including directions to the Visualization Portal in the Math Sciences building.

General Writing Workshops

Best Practices for Writing Your Master's Thesis

Netta Avineri, Applied Linguistics & TESL

This workshop will begin with a discussion of scope, expectations, and time constraints as related to master's theses. We will then consider writing and organizational strategies for the typical components of master's theses in different disciplines. Lastly, we will discuss approaches to and tips for revision of the project. Students at any stage of writing are encouraged to attend.

Two times (same workshop):

1) Thursday, January 14th, 6:15-8:00pm

Location: Graduate Student Resource Center, Suite B11 (basement level) ([map](#))

2) Friday, January 15th, 1:15-3pm

Location: Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) ([map](#))

Teaching and Writing: What Teachers & TAs Need to Know

Bruce Beiderwell, Director, UCLA Writing Programs

Marilyn Gray, Coordinator, Graduate Writing Center

This workshop, which is designed for TAs in the humanities and social sciences, will cover how to help students improve their writing and review how to teach writing concepts, such as thesis statements, organization, and summary versus analysis. The workshop will also cover appropriate ways to respond to student writing, including etiquette for commenting on student papers and best practices for one-on-one meetings with students.

Tuesday, January 26th, 5:00-7:00 pm

Location: Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) ([map](#))

Grammar 101: A Refresher Workshop

Marilyn Gray, Graduate Writing Center Coordinator

What is the difference between "who" and "whom"? Is "politics" singular or plural? What is a dangling modifier, and how do I avoid it? Designed for both native and non-native speakers of English, this workshop will review pronoun use, tricky issues in subject-verb agreement, and dangling and misplaced modifiers. Participants will also practice editing for grammatical accuracy.

Friday, February 12th, 12:00-2:00pm

Location: Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) ([map](#))

Punctuation 101: A Refresher Workshop

Marilyn Gray, Graduate Writing Center Coordinator

Does a comma always go before "and"? What is the difference between "which" and "that"? This workshop will review commas, semicolons, colons, parallel structure, and restrictive and non-restrictive clauses. Participants will also practice editing for punctuation.

Friday, February 19th, 12:00-1:45pm

Location: Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) ([map](#))

Leading through Writing

Netta Avineri, Applied Linguistics & TESL

Marilyn Gray, Coordinator, Graduate Writing Center

This interactive seminar will examine how writing relates to leading and influencing others in academic & professional settings. We will discuss both the process of writing for the individual and the role of the writer in the larger academic/professional community. The seminar will also consider how becoming a leader in your field

involves entering into a community's conversation through effective communication, etiquette, ethical behavior, and appropriate and collegial critique.

Tuesday, February 23rd, 2:00-3:50 pm

Location: Ackerman 3517

Style 101: A Refresher Workshop

Marilyn Gray, Graduate Writing Center Coordinator

I've been told that my writing is "dense" and "passive" and that my sentences don't "flow." How can I fix these problems? This workshop will help participants improve the clarity and cohesion of their sentences and paragraphs. They will also practice editing for style.

Friday, February 26th, 12:00-1:45pm

Location: Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) ([map](#))

Revision Workshop: Strategies for Revising Longer Texts

Marilyn Gray, Graduate Writing Center Coordinator

This hands-on workshop will provide people with revision strategies for longer texts, such as master's theses, dissertation chapters or proposals. Please bring a hard copy of your own work, at least 15-20 double-spaced pages (more is fine). If you would like to do some of the preparation work ahead of time, start working on a backwards outline by tagging each paragraph with a phrase describing its main point.

Friday, March 5th, 12:00-1:45pm

Location: Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) ([map](#))

Editing Skills Workshop

Marilyn Gray, Graduate Writing Center Coordinator

This hands-on workshop will guide people through strategies for improving writing at the sentence level. We will look at common problems like the overuse of weak verbs, passive voice, and nominalizations as well as offer specific tips to strengthen clarity and flow. Please bring a hard copy of your own work, at least 5-10 double-spaced pages (more is fine).

Friday, March 12th, 12:00-1:45pm

Location: Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) ([map](#))

Dissertation and Proposal/Prospectus Workshops

Strategies for Writing the Social Sciences Dissertation Proposal

Mac Marston, Archaeology

This workshop will give an overview of the main components of a dissertation proposal in the social sciences and cover strategies for writing the introduction, literature review, methods, and significance sections. These strategies should be adapted to your department's and advisor's expectations about the structure and content of your proposal. Please bring two copies of your abstract to this workshop.

Two times (same workshop):

Thursday, January 21st, 5:00-7:00pm

Friday, January 22nd, 1:00-3:00pm

Location: Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) ([map](#))

Strategies for Writing the Humanities Dissertation Prospectus

Allison Crumly, Comparative Literature

This workshop is geared towards giving incipient prospectus writers the tools to write their prospectus over the course of two months. We will discuss literature review and argument development as well as how to turn the many different pieces of a prospectus into a coherent document. Nota bene: this is meant to be an addition to--not a substitution for--serious discussions with your advisor about what is expected of you in your home department.

Two times (same workshop):

Thursday, January 28th, 5:00-7:00pm

Friday, January 29th, 1:00-3:00pm

Location: Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) ([map](#))

Overcoming Procrastination & Perfectionism

Dr. Alan Nagamoto, Counseling and Psychological Services

Dr. Nagamoto oversees the dissertation support groups at Counseling and Psychological Services and has years of experience working with graduate students. He will explain how to overcome some of the major pitfalls common to graduate students and dissertators.

Wednesday, February 24th, 5:00-7:00pm

Location: Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) ([map](#))

Revision Workshop: Strategies for Revising Longer Texts

Marilyn Gray, Graduate Writing Center Coordinator

This hands-on workshop will provide people with revision strategies for longer texts, such as master's theses, dissertation chapters or proposals. Please bring a hard copy of your own work, at least 15-20 double-spaced pages (more is fine). If you would like to do some of the preparation work ahead of time, start working on a backwards outline by tagging each paragraph with a phrase describing its main point.

Friday, March 5th, 12:00-1:45pm

Location: Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) ([map](#))

Humanities Writing Workshops

Strategies for Writing the Humanities Dissertation Prospectus

Allison Crumly, Comparative Literature

This workshop is geared towards giving incipient prospectus writers the tools to write their prospectus over the course of two months. We will discuss literature review and argument development as well as how to turn the many different pieces of a prospectus into a coherent document. Nota bene: this is meant to be an addition to--not a substitution for--serious discussions with your advisor about what is expected of you in your home department.

Two times (same workshop):

Thursday, January 28th, 5:00-7:00pm

Friday, January 29th, 1:00-3:00pm

Location: Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) ([map](#))

Preparing and Presenting Conference Papers in the Humanities

Allison Crumly, Comparative Literature

The purpose of this workshop is to present strategies for writing a conference paper from scratch or transforming an already existing document to fit a particular call for papers. From titles to opening up for questions, we will discuss different methods for preparing an engaging and substantive oral presentation, including various technological aids you may want to use.

Thursday, February 25th, 5:00-7:00pm

Location: Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) ([map](#))

Revision Workshop: Strategies for Revising Longer Texts

Marilyn Gray, Graduate Writing Center Coordinator

This hands-on workshop will provide people with revision strategies for longer texts, such as master's theses, dissertation chapters or proposals. Please bring a hard copy of your own work, at least 15-20 double-spaced pages (more is fine). If you would like to do some of the preparation work ahead of time, start working on a backwards outline by tagging each paragraph with a phrase describing its main point.

Friday, March 5th, 12:00-1:45pm

Location: Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) ([map](#))

Social Sciences Writing Workshops

Strategies for Writing the Social Sciences Dissertation Proposal

Mac Marston, Archaeology

This workshop will give an overview of the main components of a dissertation proposal in the social sciences and cover strategies for writing the introduction, literature review, methods, and significance sections. These strategies should be adapted to your department's and advisor's expectations about the structure and content of your proposal. Please bring two copies of your abstract to this workshop.

Two times (same workshop):

Thursday, January 21st, 5:00-7:00pm

Friday, January 22nd, 1:00-3:00pm

Location: Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) ([map](#))

Writing Statistical Results

Christine Wells, Statistical Consulting Group, UCLA Academic Technology Services

Whether writing the results section of a dissertation or publication, many people find writing the results section challenging, difficult and sometimes even painful. In this seminar, we will discuss ways of making this process easier and more manageable, including helpful preparation steps and resources for specific wording. General guidelines regarding what to include (and what not to include) in the results section will also be provided.

Friday, February 4th, 12:00-1:30pm

Location: Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) ([map](#))

Preparing a Conference Paper: PowerPoint Presentations in the Social Sciences

Mac Marston, Archaeology

This workshop will focus on techniques for outlining, building, and presenting an effective 10-20 minute oral/video (e.g., PowerPoint) presentation as typically presented in the social sciences. We will discuss strategies for converting a written paper into an oral presentation, for using limited time effectively, and for incorporating multimedia elements into a presentation, among others.

Thursday, February 18th, 5:00-6:30pm

Location: Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) ([map](#))

Science and Engineering Writing Workshops

Practical Tips for Writing a Scientific Paper

Scott Arno, Neuroscience

This workshop will cover the basics of how to plan for, prepare, and organize science-specific writing, including term papers, manuscripts and abstracts. We will also cover style, common structure and grammar errors, and tips for avoiding problems such as excess jargon and ambiguously stated hypotheses.

Thursday, February 3rd, 5:00-6:30pm

Location: Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) ([map](#))

Writing Statistical Results

Christine Wells, Statistical Consulting Group, UCLA Academic Technology Services

Whether writing the results section of a dissertation or publication, many people find writing the results section challenging, difficult and sometimes even painful. In this seminar, we will discuss ways of making this process easier and more manageable, including helpful preparation steps and resources for specific wording. General guidelines regarding what to include (and what not to include) in the results section will also be provided.

Friday, February 4th, 12:00-1:30pm

Location: Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) ([map](#))

Preparing and Presenting 10-Minute Conference Talks in the Sciences

Scott Arno, Neuroscience

This workshop will cover the principles of the 10- minute talk in the context of biomedical sciences. We will discuss how to condense your research into PowerPoint, and how to effectively present it within the allotted timeframe. We will cover stylistic issues and public speaking issues as well.

Thursday, March 4th, 5:00-6:30pm

Location: Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) ([map](#))

Online Workshops: We have some previously-recorded online workshops about writing in the sciences, including workshops on applying for the NIH NRSA fellowship and writing dissertation proposal and an article-based dissertation in the sciences. For more information, click [here](#).

ESL Workshops

Email Etiquette at the University

Marilyn Gray, Graduate Writing Center Coordinator

As a graduate student, you will write thousands of emails while getting your degree—emails that invite professors to serve on your dissertation committee, emails that ask for extensions on papers, emails in which you introduce yourself to potential mentors or advisors. Designed for graduate students who speak English as a second or foreign language, this workshop breaks down the language necessary to make polite requests over email. It also covers basic email etiquette and includes opportunities to edit emails written by real graduate students.

Friday, January 8th, 12:00-2:00pm

Location: Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) ([map](#))

Academic Writing Skills Workshop for ESL Graduate Students

Netta Avineri, Applied Linguistics & TESL

In this interactive workshop, ESL graduate students will learn skills and strategies to build their fluency, accuracy, and comprehensibility in English academic writing. In addition, we will discuss useful on-campus, online, and print resources that will help students to work independently to improve their writing. There will also be time for questions and answers about ESL writing issues and concerns.

Tuesday, January 12th, 5:00-7:00pm

Location: Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) ([map](#))

See also Grammar 101, Punctuation 101, and Style 101 under General Writing Workshops.
