



Summer Programs 2008

The Graduate Writing Center will hold several programs this summer to help people who are at the dissertation and dissertation proposal stages. The programs will meet once a week (2-3 hour meetings, depending on the program) for six weeks in either Summer Session A or Summer Session C. **Plan to participate and have a productive summer!**

Please Note: Participation requires submitting an application by the deadline indicated for the program because space is limited and we need to make sure participants are eligible and ready.

Additional Note: For guidance concerning field-specific issues, it is best if participants are able to consult faculty advisors/mentors during the course of these programs.

Eligibility: Our summer programs do not require formal registration during the summer, but you be a registered graduate student during spring 2008 and be at the appropriate stage for the program to which you apply.

DISSERTATION BOOT CAMPS (Summer Session A, June 23 – August 1)

(Applications are closed)

- 1) [Dissertation Chapter Boot Camp \(Humanities Focus\)](#)
- 2) [Dissertation Results Chapter Boot Camp \(Social Sciences & Sciences Focus\)](#)
- 3) [Master's Thesis Writing Groups](#)

DISSERTATION PROPOSAL BOOT CAMPS (Summer Session C, August 4 – September 12)

(We still have room in the humanities and sciences/engineering sections.)

- 1) [Dissertation Prospectus Boot Camp \(Humanities Focus\)](#)
- 2) [Dissertation Proposal Boot Camp \(Social Sciences Focus\)](#) (The social sciences section is full.)
- 3) [Dissertation Proposal Boot Camp \(Sciences & Engineering Focus\)](#)

DISSERTATION BOOT CAMPS

(Summer Session C, August 4 – September 12)

1) DISSERTATION CHAPTER BOOT CAMP (Humanities Focus)

Jeannine Murray-Román, PhD, Comparative Literature

Marilyn Gray, Graduate Writing Center Coordinator

This program targets humanities graduate students who have recently advanced to candidacy and are beginning to write the first chapter of their dissertation (which need not be chapter one, but rather the first chapter one launches into, and preferably not the introduction.) The program will teach writing strategies and provide structure to help people produce a draft of their first dissertation chapter. Graduate students from social science fields who use humanities approaches, such as textually-oriented historians and political science students who focus on political philosophy, may also apply to this program. ***This program will meet Mondays, 1:00-3:30pm for the six weeks of Summer Session A (June 23rd - July 28th).***

How to Apply for the Dissertation Chapter Boot Camp

Interested graduate students need to fill out an application [linked here](#), and return it electronically (to gwc@gsa.asucla.ucla.edu) by no later than Friday, May 30th. Please be sure to put “**humanities dissertation boot camp**” in the subject line of the email.

Preparation for the Dissertation Chapter Boot Camp (for those accepted)

First Session Homework: Participants must bring a 300-500 word dissertation abstract, a rough chapter outline, organized

notes on the dissertation chapter's primary sources, and a bibliography of all chapter-relevant secondary sources (append annotations when applicable/helpful).

Homework for Subsequent Sessions: Each session after the first will require five to ten pages of new writing. There may also be other reading and homework assignments to reinforce writing skills and strategies.

Required Text: Joan Bolker. [*Writing A Dissertation in Fifteen Minutes a Day*](#). 1998.

Please purchase the required text before the first meeting of the program.

2) DISSERTATION RESULTS CHAPTER BOOT CAMP (Social Sciences & Sciences)

Ellen Stolzenberg, PhD, Education

Marilyn Gray, Graduate Writing Center Coordinator

This program targets social sciences and sciences graduate students who have defended their proposals, completed the majority of their research and data analysis and are ready to write the results and discussion chapters. (*Note: This program is more appropriate for students writing a traditional rather than an article-based dissertation.*) ***This program will meet Tuesdays, 9:30-noon for the six weeks of Summer Session A (June 24th - July 29th).***

How to Apply for the Dissertation Results Chapter Boot Camp

Interested graduate students need to fill out the application [linked here](#) and return it electronically (to gwc@gsa.asucla.ucla.edu) by no later than Friday, May 30th. Please be sure to put “**dissertation results boot camp**” in the subject line of the email.

Preparation for the Dissertation Results Chapter Boot Camp (for those accepted)

First Session Homework: For the first session, participants must bring a 300-500 word abstract and a fairly detailed outline of the results chapter (though we recognize that the outline may change as people write--we are mainly concerned that people have sufficiently analyzed their data so that they are really ready to write). Before the first session, read a dissertation recently completed in your department, preferably one chaired by your dissertation committee chair, and skim it to get a sense of structure and organization.

Homework for Subsequent Sessions: Each session after the first meeting will have a required writing assignment of a minimum of four to five pages of new writing. There may also be other required reading and homework assignments to reinforce writing skills and strategies.

Required Reading for First Session: Joan Bolker. [*Writing A Dissertation in Fifteen Minutes a Day*](#). 1998. {available at the UCLA bookstore or amazon.com} Skim the entire book, focusing on the parts that are useful to you. We recommend a more careful reading of chapters 3, 4 and 8.

Reading for Subsequent Sessions: There will be additional readings that we will make available electronically.

DISSERTATION PROPOSAL/PROSPECTUS BOOT CAMPS (Summer Session C, August 4 – September 12)

The Dissertation Prospectus/Proposal Boot Camps are designed to help graduate students finish a full draft of their dissertation proposal or prospectus by September. Each section will cover strategies for the components of the proposal/prospectus as well as writing and organizational strategies for the process. For guidance concerning field-specific issues, it is best if participants are able to consult faculty advisors/mentors during the course of these programs.

Schedule: The program will meet once per week (2 hours) for the six weeks of Summer Session C, except for the week of Labor Day.

Humanities: Mondays, 3-5pm, August 4th - September 8th.

Social Sciences: Tuesdays, 10am-noon, August 5th - September 9th.

Sciences and Engineering: Tuesdays, 5-7pm, August 5th - September 9th.

How to Apply for the Dissertation Proposal/Prospectus Boot Camps

Interested graduate students will must fill out the application [linked here](#) and return it electronically (to gwc@gsa.asucla.ucla.edu) by no later than Tuesday, July 1st. Please be sure to put “**proposal boot camp**” in the subject line

of the email. Space is limited.

Homework for the Dissertation Proposal/Prospectus Boot Camps (for those who are accepted)

See below for assignments due at the first session. There may be other required reading and homework, and each session will have a required writing assignment.

1) Humanities and Arts Prospectus Boot Camp:

For the first session, participants must bring a bibliography and an abstract. For humanities, participants should be ready to articulate their working thesis argument and critical approaches.

Annotated bibliography - bring a bibliography of your secondary and theoretical sources. Select four or five of the most important theoretical and secondary sources and write a short paragraph about each. For all other sources, make sure that you have organized notes for each.

Abstract: describe your dissertation in 300-500 words.

Reading Assignment: Joan Bolker. [*Writing Your Dissertation in Fifteen Minutes A Day*](#). 1998. Chapters 1, 3 and 4. {available at amazon.com or the UCLA bookstore}

2) Social Sciences Dissertation Proposal Boot Camp:

For the first session, participants must bring a carefully annotated bibliography and an abstract. For social sciences and the sciences, participants should be ready to articulate succinctly their research questions, methods, variables and hypotheses.

Annotated bibliography of your top 50 secondary and theoretical sources. For the top 4-5 most important theory and secondary sources, write a long paragraph per annotation. For all other sources that will be discussed in the literature review (more than a passing reference or footnote), write a short paragraph per annotation. For the remaining sources, write 1-2 sentences per annotation.

Abstract: describe your dissertation in 300-500 words.

Reading Assignment: Joan Bolker. [*Writing Your Dissertation in Fifteen Minutes A Day*](#). Chapters 1, 3 and 4. {available at amazon.com or the UCLA bookstore}

There will also be a required reader - check back here after July 1st for more information.

3) Sciences and Engineering Dissertation Proposal Boot Camp:

For the first session, participants must bring a carefully annotated bibliography and an abstract. For social sciences and the sciences, participants should be ready to articulate succinctly their research questions, methods, variables and hypotheses.

Annotated bibliography for your literature review. For the most relevant sources, annotations should be 50-100 words.

Research plan: Relatively well-articulated plan for your experimental work, and/or the 2-3 well-defined specific aims of your dissertation research.

Abstract: describe your dissertation in 300-500 words.

Research Proposal: use the web to investigate graduate research fellowship opportunities at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Science Foundation (NSF), or at the funding agency most relevant in your field. Very often graduate students are encouraged to write proposals in a format that may be used for extramural funding applications.