Winter 2009 Writing and Research Workshops

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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Statistical Software Workshops

Using American Community Survey data:
Tuesday, January 13 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.
in CLICC Classroom C (no reservation required)

SPSS Syntax Part 2:
Wednesday, January 14 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
in Visualization Portal, MS 5628 (**location**)

Introduction to Stata:
Wednesday, January 21 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
in CLICC Classroom C (**reservation required**)

Introduction to SAS:
Wednesday, January 28 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
in CLICC Classroom C (**reservation required**)

Introduction to SPSS:
Wednesday, February 4 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
in CLICC Classroom C (**reservation required**)

Data Management in UNIX:
Wednesday, February 4 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
in Visualization Portal, MS 5628 (**location**)

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 13th, 12:00-2:00pm
Location: Visualization Portal, Math Sciences Building room 5628 (location)

For walk-in consulting information and the most up-to-date listing of seminars,
please see the **ATS Stats Group website**.

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.
Thursday, January 15th, 5:00-7:00pm
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.

Thursday, January 29th, 5:00-7:00pm
Location: Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) ([map](#))

Teaching and Writing: What You Need to Know
Bruce Beiderwell, Director, UCLA Writing Programs
Marilyn Gray, Coordinator, Graduate Writing Center
This workshop will cover major writing concepts, such as thesis statements, organization, and summary versus analysis. The workshop will then cover strategies for efficient ways to help students improve their writing as well as relevant resources available to graduate students. The final part of the workshop will discuss 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 27th, 4:00-6:00 pm
Location: Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) ([map](#))

Punctuation 101: A Refresher Workshop
Andrea Olinger, Applied Linguistics & TESL
Jessica Preece, Political Science
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, January 23rd, 12:00-1:30pm
Location: Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) ([map](#))

Grammar 101: A Refresher Workshop
Andrea Olinger, Applied Linguistics & TESL
Jessica Preece, Political Science
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, January 30th, 12:00-1:30pm
Location: Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) ([map](#))

Style 101: A Refresher Workshop
Andrea Olinger, Applied Linguistics & TESL
Jessica Preece, Political Science
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 6th, 12:00-1:30pm
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.
Monday, February 23rd, 3:00-4:50 pm

Location: Ackerman 2412

Introduction to Publishing an Academic E-Journal
This workshop is designed for UCLA graduate students involved with publishing an academic journal who are interested in adding an online component to an existing print journal, converting a journal to digital delivery, or discussing best practices for the online environment. Students interested in beginning this process and planning to approach the Graduate Students Association for funds are welcome to attend. The workshop will also cover publisher-author agreements, copyright issues, creating and producing journal Web sites, maintenance, dissemination and evaluation of e-journal impact, options for peer-reviewed open-access, and, current campus online publishing options. Presenters will include staff of the UCLA Library and the Graduate Students Association, which have co-organized the event. Admission is free, and no reservations are required; seating is on a first-come basis.
Thursday, February 26th, 4:00-600 p.m.
Location: Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) ([map](#))

Citation and Academic Integrity Issues for Graduate Students
Eudora Loh, YRL Librarian
Common research and writing situations often present complex questions related to citation and paraphrasing. In support of maintaining academic integrity, this workshop will offer practical guidance for citing sources and using information ethically.
Tuesday, March 3rd, 4:00-5:30pm
Location: Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) ([map](#))

Dissertation and Proposal/Prospectus Workshops

Strategies for Writing the Humanities Dissertation Prospectus
Jeannine Murray-Román, 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.
Tuesday, January 13th, 4:00-6:00pm
Location: Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) ([map](#))
RSVP requested (to help us make sure we have enough room and enough handouts), but not required. To RSVP, please send an email to gwc@gsa.asucla.ucla.edu, with the subject heading "rsvp hum prospectus")

Strategies for Writing the Social Sciences Dissertation Proposal
Netta Avineri, Applied Linguistics & TESL
Mac Marston, Archaeology
Jessica Preece, Political Science
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.
Thursday, January 22nd, 5:00-7:00pm
Location: Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) ([map](#))
RSVP requested (to help us make sure we have enough room and enough handouts), but not required. To RSVP, please send an email to gwc@gsa.asucla.ucla.edu, with the subject heading "rsvp ss proposal")

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 18th, 5:00-7:00pm

Location: Graduate Student Resource Center, Room B11, Student Activities Center (basement level) ([map](map))

Getting Started on the Dissertation: How to Get Going and Keep Going

Marilyn Gray, Graduate Writing Center Coordinator

This workshop gives an overview of organization, time management, writing process issues and writing strategies. Recommended for people in the early stages of the dissertation, but useful for all stages.

Tuesday, February 24th, 4:00-6:00pm

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

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

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

Humanities & Arts Writing Workshops

Strategies for Writing the Humanities Dissertation Prospectus

Jeannine Murray-Román, 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.

Tuesday, January 13th, 4:00-6:00pm

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

RSVP requested (to help us make sure we have enough room and enough handouts), but not required. To RSVP, please send an email to gwc@gsa.asucla.ucla.edu, with the subject heading "rsvp hum prospectus")

Preparing and Presenting Conference Papers in the Humanities

Jeannine Murray-Roman, 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 12th, 5:00-7:00pm

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

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

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

Social Sciences Writing Workshops

Strategies for Writing the Social Sciences Dissertation Proposal

Netta Avineri, Applied Linguistics & TESL

Mac Marston, Archaeology

Jessica Preece, Political Science

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.

Thursday, January 22nd, 5:00-7:00pm

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

RSVP requested (to help us make sure we have enough room and enough handouts), but not required. To RSVP, please send an email to gwc@gsa.asucla.ucla.edu, with the subject heading "rsvp ss proposal")

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.

Tuesday, February 3rd, 4:00-6:00pm

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 13th, 12:00-1:30pm

Location: Visualization Portal, Math Sciences Building room 5628 ([location](#))

Science and Engineering Writing Workshops

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. Students also have the option to stay and practice giving a talk.

Thursday, February 5th, 4:00-5:00pm workshop; 5:00-7:00pm practice session

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 13th, 12:00-1:30pm

Location: Visualization Portal, Math Sciences Building room 5628 ([location](#))

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

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.
Thursday, January 29th, 5:00-7:00pm
Location: Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) (map)

Email Etiquette at the University
Andrea Olinger, Applied Linguistics & TESL
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 16th, 12:00-2:00pm
Location: Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) (map)

Email Etiquette for the Job-Seeker
Andrea Olinger, Applied Linguistics & TESL
Markell Steele, UCLA Career Center
As a graduate student, you will write many emails in the service of finding a job--emails that request informational interviews, set up interviews, and follow up on interviews. This workshop, which is designed for graduate students who speak English as a second or foreign language, will break down the language necessary to make polite requests over email. It will also cover basic email etiquette and include opportunities to edit emails written by real graduate students.
Thursday, February 19th, 4:00-6:00pm
Friday, February 20th, 12:00-2:00pm
Location: Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) (map)

Choosing the Right Word: Using a Corpus to Improve your Writing
Andrea Olinger, Applied Linguistics & TESL
What nouns do writers use with "latent"? Is "data" singular or plural in your field? How is "besides" used at the beginning of a sentence? And has someone ever told you, "This word isn't right, but I don't know
why?" Designed for non-native speakers of English, this workshop will give you some tools to improve your word choice. It will introduce you to several free online databases of written English and show you how to find answers to your word choice and grammar questions. It will also demonstrate how to create your own discipline-specific corpus. Bring a laptop if you have one.
Friday, February 27th, 12:00-2:00pm
Location: Conference Room 4, Student Activities Center (basement level) (map)

Previous Workshops and Programs

Click here to see an archive of past programs and workshops.

UCLA