



Summer Programs 2011

The Graduate Writing Center holds several programs during the summer to help graduate students who are at the dissertation and dissertation proposal stages. The programs meet once a week for 2.5 hours during 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.

For guidance on field-specific issues, participants must be 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 **must** be a registered UCLA graduate student during spring 2011 and be at the appropriate stage for the program to which you apply.

DISSERTATION BOOT CAMPS (Summer Session A, June 20 – July 29)

- 1) [Dissertation Boot Camp \(Humanities & Arts Focus\)](#)
- 2) [Dissertation Boot Camp \(Qualitative Social Sciences Focus\)](#)
- 3) [Dissertation Boot Camp \(Sciences, Engineering, & Quantitative Social Sciences Focus\)](#)

DISSERTATION PROPOSAL BOOT CAMPS (Summer Session C, August 1 – September 9)

- 1) [Dissertation Prospectus Boot Camp \(Humanities & Arts Focus\)](#)
- 2) [Dissertation Proposal Boot Camp \(Social Sciences Focus\)](#)
- 3) [Scientific Writing/Proposal Boot Camp \(Sciences & Engineering Focus\)](#)

Dissertation Boot Camps (Summer Session A, June 20 – July 29)

1) DISSERTATION BOOT CAMP (HUMANITIES & ARTS FOCUS)

This program targets humanities and arts graduate students who have advanced to candidacy and are at the dissertation-writing stage. The program will teach writing strategies and provide structure to help people produce a draft of a dissertation chapter. Graduate students from social science fields who use humanities approaches, such as textually-oriented historians or political science students who focus on theory, may also apply to this program. ***This program will meet for the 6 weeks of Summer Session A (Thursdays, 5:30–8:00pm, June 23rd–July 28th).***

How to Apply for the Humanities & Arts Dissertation Chapter Boot Camp: Interested graduate students must fill out [the application \(linked here\)](#) and return it electronically (to gwc@gsa.asucla.ucla.edu) by no later than **Wednesday, June 15th**. Please be sure to put the exact words "humanities dissertation boot camp" in the subject line of the email. Space is limited.

Not sure whether you should do the Humanities or Qualitative Social Sciences Dissertation Boot Camp? Your dissertation would fit better in the humanities category if one or more of the following applies: you study texts and/or aesthetic objects; you don't have separate chapters on literature review and methods; you don't work with human subjects (in a manner requiring IRB approval); and your chapters are organized in a purely topical way. Your dissertation would fit better in the qualitative social sciences category if one or more of the following applies: you have separate methods and literature review chapters; you work

with human subjects and went through the IRB process; you do descriptive or ethnographic research based on interviews and observations; your data analysis involves coding; and/or you write your findings in results and discussion chapters. Some research falls in between humanities and qualitative social sciences, such as ethnographic studies, and studies of language and performance. We will be covering issues related to ethnographic writing in the qualitative dissertation boot camp but not in the humanities boot camp. If you are not sure which section to choose, please consult with the GWC coordinator (Marilyn Gray: mgray@saonet.ucla.edu).

Preparation for the Humanities & Arts Dissertation Boot Camp (for those accepted)

First Session Homework: Participants must bring an outline (as detailed as possible) of the dissertation chapter they'll be working on during the Boot Camp, organized notes on the dissertation chapter's primary, secondary, and theoretical sources, and a bibliography of all chapter-relevant secondary sources (append annotations when helpful). We strongly recommend organizing the current chapter's notes and materials into a binder and all chapter-relevant electronic files into a dedicated folder on your computer. Before the first session, read/skim a dissertation recently completed in your department, preferably one chaired by your dissertation committee chair, to get a sense of structure and organization.

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

Required Text: Joan Bolker. [Writing Your Dissertation in Fifteen Minutes a Day](#). 1998. (Available at the UCLA bookstore.) Read before first session.

2) DISSERTATION BOOT CAMP (Qualitative Social Sciences Focus)

This program targets graduate students who have defended their proposals, completed the majority of their research and data analysis, and are ready to write or already writing the results and discussion chapters (or sections). The program will address writing issues specific to qualitative research as well as general writing and organizational strategies. The program will also provide a collaborative environment to help people make weekly progress on their dissertations. ***This program will meet for the 6 weeks of Summer Session A (Tuesdays, 5:30–8:00pm, June 21st–July 26th).***

How to Apply for the Qualitative Social Sciences Dissertation Chapter Boot Camp: Interested graduate students must fill out [the application \(linked here\)](#) and return it electronically (to gwc@gsa.asucla.ucla.edu) by no later than **Wednesday, June 15th**. Please be sure to put the exact words "qualitative social sciences dissertation boot camp" in the subject line of the email. Space is limited.

Not sure whether you should do the Humanities or Qualitative Social Sciences Dissertation Boot Camp? Your dissertation would fit better in the humanities category if one or more of the following applies: you study texts and/or aesthetic objects; you don't have separate chapters on literature review and methods; you don't work with human subjects (in a manner requiring IRB approval); and your chapters are organized in a purely topical way. Your dissertation would fit better in the qualitative social sciences category if one or more of the following applies: you have separate methods and literature review chapters; you work with human subjects and went through the IRB process; you do descriptive or ethnographic research based on interviews and observations; your data analysis involves coding; and/or you write your findings in results and discussion chapters. Some research falls in between humanities and qualitative social sciences, such as ethnographic studies, and studies of language and performance. We will be covering issues related to ethnographic writing in the qualitative dissertation boot camp but not in the humanities boot camp. If you are not sure which section to choose, please consult with the GWC coordinator (Marilyn Gray: mgray@saonet.ucla.edu).

Preparation for the Qualitative Social Sciences Dissertation Boot Camp (for those accepted)

First Session Homework: Participants must bring an outline (as detailed as possible) of the current dissertation chapter and organized notes on the current dissertation chapter's relevant sources/data. We strongly recommend organizing the current chapter's notes and materials into a binder and all chapter-relevant electronic files into a dedicated folder on your computer. Before the first session, read/skim a dissertation recently completed in your department, preferably one chaired by your

dissertation committee chair, to get a sense of structure and organization.

Homework for Subsequent Sessions: For each session after the first meeting, participants must complete 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 Your Dissertation in Fifteen Minutes a Day*](#). 1998. (Available at the UCLA bookstore.)

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

3) DISSERTATION BOOT CAMP (Sciences, Engineering, & Quantitative Social Sciences)

This program targets graduate students who have defended their proposals, completed the majority of their research and data analysis, and are ready to write or already writing the results and discussion chapters. This program will address writing issues specific to scientific writing as well as general writing and organizational strategies. ***This program will meet for 6 weeks (Wednesdays, 5:30–8:00pm, June 22nd – July 27th).***

How to Apply for the Sciences Dissertation Chapter Boot Camp:

Interested graduate students must fill out [the application \(linked here\)](#) and return it electronically (to gwc@gsa.asucla.ucla.edu) by no later than **Wednesday, June 15th**. Please be sure to put the exact words "sciences dissertation boot camp" in the subject line of the email. Space is limited.

Preparation for the Sciences Dissertation 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 either a results chapter or an article (if your chapters are articles). Before the first session, read/skim a dissertation recently completed in your department, preferably one chaired by your dissertation committee chair, to get a sense of structure and organization.

Homework for Subsequent Sessions: For each session after the first meeting, participants must complete a required writing assignment 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 Your Dissertation in Fifteen Minutes a Day*](#). 1998. (Available at the UCLA bookstore.) 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 may be additional readings that we will make available electronically.

Dissertation Proposal/Prospectus Boot Camps (Summer Session C, August 1 – September 9)

The Dissertation Prospectus/Proposal Boot Camps are designed to help graduate students finish a draft, or at least make substantial progress on a draft, of their dissertation proposals or prospectuses. Each session will cover writing strategies for the components of the dissertation proposal/prospectus as well as organizational strategies for the process. For guidance concerning field-specific issues, participants should consult with faculty advisors/mentors during the course of these programs.

Schedule: The program will meet once per week (2.5 hours) for 5 weeks during Summer Session C. Please see specifics below.

Humanities & Arts Prospectus Boot Camp: Thursdays, 5:30–8:00pm (August 4th–September 1st)

Social Sciences Proposal Boot Camp: Tuesdays, 5:30–8:00pm (August 2nd–August 30th)

Scientific Writing/Proposal Boot Camp: Wednesdays, 5:30–8:00pm (August 3rd–August 31st)

How to Apply for the Dissertation Proposal/Prospectus Boot Camps: Interested graduate students must fill out [the application \(linked here\)](#) and return it electronically (to gwc@gsa.asucla.ucla.edu) by no later than **Friday, July 15th**. 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 or 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. Also make sure that you have organized notes for each of your other sources. **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 the UCLA bookstore.)

2) Social Sciences Dissertation Proposal Boot Camp: For the first session, participants must bring a carefully annotated bibliography and an abstract. Participants should be ready to articulate their research questions, methods, variables and hypotheses succinctly. **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, write a short paragraph (at least 3 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 the UCLA bookstore.) There will be additional required readings that we will make available electronically.

3) Scientific Writing/Proposal Boot Camp:

For the first session, participants must bring an annotated bibliography and an abstract. Participants should be ready to articulate their research questions, methods, variables and hypotheses succinctly. **Annotated Bibliography** for your literature review. Annotate the most relevant sources in preparation for your literature review/background section. **For Proposals, Bring Research Plan:** Relatively well-articulated plan for your experimental work, and/or 2-3 well-defined specific aims of your research. **Abstract:** describe your project in 250-500 words. **For Research Proposals:** 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 to your field. Very often graduate students are encouraged to write proposals in a format that may be used for extramural funding applications. If you are writing a comprehensive paper or a proposal for an oral exam and your department has its own format, please consult your department's guidelines so that the group can better assist you. **Note:** Space permitting, people working on other types of writing projects may join this program.

Previous Workshops and Programs

[Click here to see an archive of past programs and workshops.](#)