

Ethnic Studies 290A - Master's Thesis Writing in Ethnic Studies

Fall 2008

Professor Ross Frank (rfrank@ucsd.edu)

Hours: Tues. 11AM-1PM; Wed. 12-2PM & by appt.

SSB 103, Mon. 12-2:50PM

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Course materials available at: <http://dss.ucsd.edu/~rfrank>

Course Description:

This seminar will function as a writer's group in order to help you significantly advance the process of conceptualizing, organizing, and writing a research-based text. In seminar we will read each other's work, discuss the concepts, method, and mechanics of constructing and writing a thesis, and provide comment to help with the process.

Recommended text (@ Groundwork and UCSD Bookstore – ordered for other courses):

Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. *The Craft of Research*. Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing. 2nd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago press, 2003.

Other readings will be available on reserve online at: <http://reserves.ucsd.edu>

Class Schedule

Week 1 September 29 **Bring your research materials!**

Please bring to class all of your notes, notebooks, binders, note cards, audio/video recordings, electronic files — everything that you are using to document and keep track of your MA research project.

Week 2 October 6 **Discussion of Projects**

Boice, "The Four-Step Plan"; Benchley. "How to Get Things Done".

Week 3 October 13 **No Meeting – Write! Write! Write**

Week 4 October 20 **Draft Introductions – Group 1**

Zerubavel, "The Writing Schedule"; Staw, Making Your Writing World Even Safer"

Week 5 October 27 **Draft Introductions – Group 2**

Bolker, "From Zero to First Draft"; Lamott, "Shitty First Drafts".

Week 6 November 3 **No Meeting – Write! Write! Write**

Week 7 November 10 **Draft Discussion, Round 1 – Group A**

Palumbo, "In Praise of Goofing Off".

Week 8 November 12 **Draft Discussion, Round 1 – Group B**

Bolker, "Interruptions from Inside".

Week 9 November 24 **Draft Discussion, Round 2 – Group I**

Boice, "Rules for Comfort and Fluency".

Week 10 December 1 **Draft Discussion, Round 2 – Group II**

Assigned Reading

Week 2

Boice, Robert. "The Four-Step Plan" *Professors as Writers : A Self-Help Guide to Productive Writing*. Stillwater, Okla.: New Forums Press, 1990, 93-117.

Benchley, Robert, and Nathaniel Benchley. "How to Get Things Done". *The Benchley Roundup*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1983, 5-10.

Week 4

Zerubavel, Eviatar. "The Writing Schedule". *The Clockwork Muse : A Practical Guide to Writing Theses, Dissertations, and Books*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1999, 15-35.

Staw, Jane Anne. "Making Your Writing World Even Safer". *Unstuck : A Supportive and Practical Guide to Working through Writer's Block*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2003, 135-147.

Week 5

Bolker, Joan. "From Zero to First Draft". *Writing Your Dissertation in Fifteen Minutes a Day : A Guide to Starting, Revising, and Finishing Your Doctoral Thesis*. New York: Henry Holt, 1998, 49-62.

Lamott, Anne. "Shitty First Drafts". *Bird by Bird : Some Instructions on Writing and Life*. New York: Anchor Books, 1995, 21-27.

Week 7

Palumbo, Dennis. "In Praise of Goofing Off". *Writing from the inside Out : Transforming Your Psychological Blocks to Release the Writer Within*. New York: Wiley, 2000, 141-144.

Week 8

Bolker, Joan. "Interruptions from Inside". *Writing Your Dissertation in Fifteen Minutes a Day : A Guide to Starting, Revising, and Finishing Your Doctoral Thesis*. New York: Henry Holt, 1998, 86-98.

Week 9

Boice, Robert. "Rules for Comfort and Fluency". *How Writers Journey to Comfort and Fluency : A Psychological Adventure*. Westport, Conn.: Praeger, 1994, 235-246.

Selected books on writing:

- Benchley, Robert, and Nathaniel Benchley. *The Benchley Roundup*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1983.
- Boice, Robert. *Professors as Writers : A Self-Help Guide to Productive Writing*. Stillwater, Okla.: New Forums Press, 1990.
- . *How Writers Journey to Comfort and Fluency : A Psychological Adventure*. Westport, Conn.: Praeger, 1994.
- Bolker, Joan. *Writing Your Dissertation in Fifteen Minutes a Day : A Guide to Starting, Revising, and Finishing Your Doctoral Thesis*. 1st ed. New York: Henry Holt, 1998.
- . *The Writer's Home Companion : An Anthology of the World's Best Writing Advice, from Keats to Kunitz*. New York: Henry Holt and Co., 1997.
- Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. *The Craft of Research*. Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing. 2nd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago press, 2003.
- Goldberg, Natalie. *Writing Down the Bones : Freeing the Writer Within : Expanded with a New Preface and Interview with the Author*. Shambhala Pocket Classics. Expanded ed. Boston: Shambhala, 2006.
- Huddle, David. *The Writing Habit: Essays*. Salt Lake City: Peregrine Smith Books, 1992.
- Lamott, Anne. *Bird by Bird : Some Instructions on Writing and Life*. 1st Anchor Books ed. New York: Anchor Books, 1995.
- Palumbo, Dennis. *Writing from the inside Out : Transforming Your Psychological Blocks to Release the Writer Within*. New York: Wiley, 2000.
- Roberts, Carol M. *The Dissertation Journey : A Practical and Comprehensive Guide to Planning, Writing, and Defending Your Dissertation*. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Corwin Press, 2004.
- Staw, Jane Anne. *Unstuck : A Supportive and Practical Guide to Working through Writer's Block*. 1st ed. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2003.
- Swetnam, Derek. *Writing Your Dissertation : How to Plan, Prepare and Present Successful Work*. Rev. and upd. 3rd ed. Oxford: How to Books, 2004.
- Zerubavel, Eviatar. *The Clockwork Muse : A Practical Guide to Writing Theses, Dissertations, and Books*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1999.
- Zinnser, William. *On Writing Well: The Classic Guide to Writing Non-Fiction*. New York: Harper and Row, 1998.