

**Ethnic Studies 290B: Master's Thesis Preparation  
Spring 2010**

Mondays 1- 3:50 PM  
SSB 253

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Office Hours: Monday 11:30 am - 1 pm, Wednesday 12 – 1:30 pm

**Course Purpose:** The immediate focus of this course is writing and completing the Master's Thesis, but also getting you on track for writing the doctoral dissertation. Each week we will be doing writing exercises and providing feedback in class. While we will work on writing and revising, another critical component of this class is learning how to give thoughtful, constructive, and concrete feedback to colleagues, verbally and in writing. We will also cover professionalization and other academic issues.

**Required Readings:**

Joan Bolker. *Writing Your Dissertation in Fifteen Minutes a Day: A Guide to Starting, Revising, and Finishing Your Doctoral Thesis*. New York: Owl Books, 1998.  
Other readings will be provided via WebCT or handouts.

**Suggested Reading:**

Peter Elbow. *Writing With Power: Techniques for Mastering the Writing Process*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1998.

**Schedule**

Week 1. March 29. Introduction, Scheduling, and Setting Goals.

Week 2. April 5. Discussion and feedback for Group One

Read: *Writing Your Dissertation*, Chapters 1 and 3

Week 3. April 12. Small Group Writing in class

Week 4. April 19. Discussion and feedback for Group Two

Read: *Writing Your Dissertation*, Chapter 4

Week 5. April 26. Discussion and feedback for Group One

Read: *Writing Your Dissertation*, Chapters 5 and 6

Week 6. May 3. Discussion and feedback for Group Two

Read: *Writing Your Dissertation*, Chapters 7 and 8

Week 7. May 10. Discussion and feedback for Group One  
 Read: *Writing Your Dissertation* Chapters 2 and 9

Week 8. May 17. No class. Meet with faculty advisors this week.

Week 9. May 24. Discussion and feedback for Group Two

Week 10. May 31. Group Discussion and Other Issues

**Requirements:**

- 1) Email drafts of your writing every other week, for a total of three drafts. When it is your turn to submit your work, please email it to the entire class and professor no later than Saturday at 7 PM. Do not submit more than 30 pages; 10 to 20 pages is optimal. When you submit your work, please provide a short introductory paragraph with the following information: how this section/chapter/chunk is situated within the larger thesis and what kind of help and feedback you most need.
- 2) Attend every class and participate in in-class exercises.
- 3) Meet and discuss draft with your partner the week before your in-class presentation.
- 4) Lead and facilitate class discussion on your writing partner's draft every other week.
- 5) Provide written comments for your writing partner the week of in-class presentation.
- 6) Meet as a writing group with me at least once during the quarter during office hours, after your first and before your last presentation.

	M	T	W	Th	F	S	Sun
<b>Non-presenting week</b>	Exchange printed drafts in class  Bring snacks	Meet with partners to discuss drafts		Revise	Revise	Email revised draft to all by 7 pm	Everyone: Read drafts & prepare comments
	M	T	W	Th	F	S	Sun
<b>Presentation week</b>	Lead discussion on a partner's draft						Everyone: Read drafts & prepare comments