

**Ethnic Studies 290B: Master's Thesis Preparation  
Spring 2011**

Mondays 3 - 5:50 PM  
SSB 253

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Office Hours: Monday 12:30 – 2:00 pm, Wednesday 1 – 2:30 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. Available at UCSD Bookstore.

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 28. Introduction, Scheduling, and Setting Goals.

Week 2. April 4. Discussion and feedback for Students A and b. Student "A" will submit long work; student "b" a short piece in progress. Each will lead discussion on the other's drafts in class.

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

Week 3. April 11. Discussion and feedback for Students B and c. Student B will submit long work; student "c" a short piece in progress. Each will lead discussion on the other's drafts in class and provide written comments.

Week 4. April 18. Small Group Writing in Class; no presentations.

Read: *Writing Your Dissertation*, Chapter 4

Week 5. April 25. Discussion and feedback for Students C and a. Student C will submit long work; student “a” a short piece in progress. Each will lead discussion on the other’s drafts in class and provide written comments.

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

Week 6. May 2. Discussion and feedback for Students a and B. Student B will submit long work; student “a” a short piece in progress. Each will lead discussion on the other’s drafts in class and provide written comments.

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

Week 7. May 9. Discussion and feedback for Students b and C. Student C will submit long work; student “b” a short piece in progress. Each will lead discussion on the other’s drafts in class and provide written comments.

Read: *Writing Your Dissertation*, Chapters 2 and 9

Week 8. May 16. Discussion and feedback for Students c and A. Student A will submit long work; student “c” a short piece in progress. Each will lead discussion on the other’s drafts in class and provide written comments.

Week 9. May 23. No class. Meet with faculty advisors this week and prepare final drafts for Saturday, May 28 submission.

Week 10. May 30. Memorial Day Holiday.

Class rescheduled for **Wednesday, June 1, 2 - 4 pm**. Discuss Final Drafts for all students.

### **Requirements and Guidelines**

- 1) Each week we will read a long and short submission from two students. The “long” writer will submit a longer draft of writing, optimally between 10 – 20 pages and no more than 30 pages. The “short” writer will submit a short piece of writing in progress (about 5 pages and no more than 10 pages in length).
- 2) Each student will submit a total of four drafts (two long and two short) during the quarter, plus a final draft of the thesis. 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.
- 3) When submitting your work, 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.
- 4) Attend every class and participate in in-class exercises.
- 5) Discuss draft with that week’s partner before your in-class presentation, ideally in person.
- 6) Lead and facilitate class discussion on your writing partner’s draft as scheduled.
- 7) Provide written comments for your writing partner the day of in-class presentation.
- 8) Meet with professor at least once during the quarter during office hours, after your first and before your last presentation.
- 9) Meet with your thesis advisor at least once during the quarter.
- 10) Students who do not submit their written work in a timely fashion or do not participate in feedback sessions will receive an unsatisfactory grade.

	M	T	W	Th	F	S	Sun	M
<b>Long Writer</b>	Prepare draft for next Monday; give draft in class to partner.	Discuss draft with partner.		Revise	Revise	Email revised draft to all by 7 pm	Everyone: Read drafts & prepare comments. Long writer will prepare written comments for short writer.	Lead discussion on short writer's draft.  Non-presenter brings snacks.
	M	T	W	Th	F	S	Sun	M
<b>Short Writer</b>		Discuss draft with partner.		Write	Write	Email short revised draft to all by 7 pm	Everyone: Read drafts & prepare comments. Short writer will prepare written comments for long writer.	Lead discussion on long writer's draft. (This discussion will comprise the bulk of the feedback session.)  Non-presenter brings snacks.