

This message is information on support services available to you as graduate students. It includes information on ongoing services such as the writing center tutorials, courses that will be offered in the spring and summer, and information on ongoing writing support groups.

Christine Jensen

Coordinator, Graduate Student Support Services

cjensen@ku.edu

4-1322

WRITING CENTER

The Writing Center offers ongoing tutorials in which you can meet one on one with a tutor, or work with a tutor online throughout your graduate career. The writing center also offers a thesis and dissertation writing support group (see section on support groups). For hours and locations please visit their website at <http://www.writing.ku.edu> or call 864-2399.

SUPPORT COURSES:

GS 750: *Professional Writing* (offered fall semesters)

GS 700: *Thesis & Dissertation Writing Class* (offered spring and summer semesters)

GS 710: *Thesis & Dissertation Tutorials* (offered fall and spring semesters)

New Course: *Professional Presentation Skills* (stay tuned, will launch fall 2006 or spring 2007)

AEC 082: *Classroom Communication for International Teaching Assistants*

See course descriptions below for basic information on these courses. For information about the content of courses, please contact Christine Jensen, 864-1322, cjensen@ku.edu.

To enroll in the courses, please contact Doris Gasper, 864-4606, dgasper@ku.edu.

Writing Skills

GS 700: *Thesis & Dissertation Writing Class*

(Offered spring 2006 and summer 2006)

Credit hours: 4

In this course, you will not only learn the important principles for writing a thesis or dissertation but also write the parts you are ready to write. In order to learn the principles, each week you will read about the traits of a thesis/dissertation chapter and then identify the essential elements for each chapter using a dissertation from your own disciplines. Each week (summer)/every other week (spring) you will have a written assignment to complete, and you will meet with the course instructor in conferences to discuss how well

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the writing reflects the essential chapter elements. When the suggested revisions are finished, you will receive feedback on your editing/grammar. You will then make a final revision for a grade.

While some of you may have already started writing your thesis or dissertation and be able to write a specific chapter, others of you may be at a stage where you are only ready to write summaries of articles and a portion of your literature search. Since this conference portion of the class will be individualized, assignments can be tailored to meet your needs. A grammar/editing lab will be a required component of this course.

GS 710: Thesis and Dissertation Tutorials

(Offered fall and spring semesters)

Credit hours: 2-6

These tutorials are designed for students who have already started to write their theses or dissertations. If you have already taken the thesis/dissertation course, you will work only on your writing. For those who have not taken the course, you will read materials about writing the individual chapters as well as working on your own writing. You may enroll in between 2-6 hours depending on the amount of work you plan to do. You will need to consult the course instructor about the number of hours you are signing up for. Students meet with the course instructor one hour each week.

GS 750: Professional Writing

(Offered fall semesters)

Currently being offered. Offered again in the fall of 2006.

Credit hours: 4

This class is intended for you if you are in the early stages of the degree program and need to hone your reading and writing skills. It will help you learn the skills you need to read course materials and write papers for graduate courses. First of all, you will do reading that focuses on improving reading speed and comprehension. You will also read and analyze the structure of texts so that you are able to emulate such texts. In the writing component, you will first be asked to write summaries based on materials from your field. From there you will move to writing summary critiques and comparative critiques of articles from your field. In order to accomplish this, you will need to learn first and foremost to paraphrase original texts. The final paper for the course will be an argument style research paper in which you will be asked to critique primary sources, comment on data or ideas, and present an analysis or argument in which you integrate material from readings. Emphasis will be placed on learning to cite and quote primary materials, organize the content logically, and improve your academic English, grammar, and usage. A grammar/editing lab is a required component of the course.

Oral Skills

New Course: *Professional Presentation Skills*

Stay tuned: will be launched either in the fall of 2006 or the spring of 2007

Credit hours: TBA

In this class, you will learn strategies for making strong presentations and practice making presentations. The focus will be on presentations for graduate student venues such as department seminars, conferences, and dissertation defenses. You will be able to view and critique your own presentations.

AEC 082: *Classroom Communication for International Teaching Assistants*

(Offered every semester)

Summer – Credit hours: 3

Fall – Credit hours: 4

- Improve your ability to teach in an American classroom
- Hone your presentation skills
- Prepare for conference presentations
- Become more comfortable presenting in graduate seminars

This course focuses on improving your communication skills in classroom, professional, and social settings. You attend a Pronunciation Seminar that focuses on factors influencing your comprehensibility in English, and you attend a Classroom Expectations Seminar that highlights cultural expectations in the classroom and teaching and presentation techniques. You deliver 6 videotaped mini-lectures or presentations during the semester, and perform self-evaluations as well as receive feedback from the course instructor. KU undergraduates also attend these mini-lectures and provide feedback. In addition to the class, you meet with the instructor for an individual tutorial for 45 minutes per week and participate in one or more discussion sections each week with native speakers to improve your fluency.

For information on this course, please contact Howard Pollock, 864-4606, hpollock@ku.edu.

THESIS/DISSERTATION WRITING SUPPORT GROUPS

Dissertation Blues

Got those dissertation or thesis writing blues? Join us to strategize about the ways you might solve the problems you are having with such matters as writer's block, selecting your advisor and committee members, using effective communication with committee members, making effective use of your time, writing in cross-disciplinary settings, deciding whether you really want to complete your degree, getting committee members to agree, and getting the support you need.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Christine Jensen, 864-1322, cjensen@ku.edu.

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Leaders: Ellie Le Compte, Psychologist, and Christine Jensen, Coordinator of Graduate Student Support Services, Applied English Center
Fall (every other Thursday), 5:30-6:30
Location: Fall semester, 1023 Kentucky (Office of Ellie Le Compte in green house, parking on Kentucky or in the First Christian Church parking lot across the street). Go in the east door. It is the first room on the left.
October 13, October 27, November 10, No meeting on Thanksgiving (November 24), December 8
For spring meeting times and locations: stay tuned

Dissertation Distress Group

This group is a very focused problem-solving group designed to develop the behavioral changes required to make progress on your dissertation, prospectus, or thesis. Group members establish practical goals each week and receive direct, no-nonsense feedback and suggestions. This group is very supportive and often creative. Group members work hard and have fun.

Call for times group will meet. Contact Dr. Pam Botts, 864-2277.

Dissertation Writing Group

Whether you are just beginning your dissertation, nearing your defense, or finishing an early draft, if you join us you will find you are not alone. Graduate students have high expectations for quality research and writing and a need for ongoing support throughout the dissertation process. This dissertation and thesis writing support group provides graduate students with a community of writers that offers them several complimentary types of support, including

- Feedback on your writing
- Encouragement to set and accomplish goals
- Resources for resolving conflict and solving problems
- Aid in overcoming “writers’ block” and other writing challenges.

Roles of Leaders and Group Members: KU Writing Center staff help the group identify needs and organize agendas, as well as provide resources to the group and members as needed. Group members provide each other with interdisciplinary writing feedback and peer support for setting goals, solving problems, and working efficiently and effectively as writer-researchers.

If you’re interested in joining the dissertation and thesis writing group, please call 864-2399 or email writing@ku.edu for more information. Call or e-mail for times group will meet.