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):


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


Week 4


Week 5


Week 7

Week 8

Week 9
Selected books on writing:


