

## **SUPPORT COURSES OFFERED FALL + SPRING 2006**

GS 700: *Thesis & Dissertation Writing Class* (Offered Spring & Summer)

GS 710: *Thesis & Dissertation Writing Tutorial* (Offered every semester)

GS 750: *Professional Writing* (Offered Fall)

AEC 082: *Classroom Communication for International Teaching Assistants* (Offered every semester)

Enrollment hours in the thesis and dissertation writing class and tutorials can be used as thesis/dissertation hours if both the department and the graduate division approve this.

Course descriptions for the Graduate School and Applied English Center classes are given below. Fall schedules and locations are given below.

### **Enrollment**

For information about the content of courses and to get instructor permission to enroll, please contact the instructor, Christine Jensen, 864-1322, [cjensen@ku.edu](mailto:cjensen@ku.edu).

To provide a copy of your schedule & get a permission to enroll number, please contact Doris Gasper, 864-4606, [dgasper@ku.edu](mailto:dgasper@ku.edu).

### **Writing Courses**

GS 710: *Thesis and Dissertation Tutorials*

Credit hours: 2-6

Fall 2006: Time & location to be assigned

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 send their writing to the instructor 1-2 days before a scheduled ½-hour conference. Instructor permission required (see above under Enrollment).

GS 750: *Professional Writing*

Credit hours: 4

Fall 2006: TR 2:30-4:20

206 Fraser

This class is for graduate students needing to hone their reading and writing skills early in their degree programs. Students first analyze the structure of professional texts and work to improve reading speed and comprehension. Then, students write summaries and summary critiques (reviews) in order to learn the basic skills for writing review papers and literature reviews. In order to do this well, students need to master paraphrasing/summarizing without plagiarizing and using cohesion strategies. Students are taught a variety of rhetorical structures for presenting information. In final papers using one or more of the rhetorical structures, students integrate material from readings around a central argument or claim by evaluating data or ideas,

developing a solution for a problem described in primary sources, or evaluating the causes of or reasons for a good or bad status quo. Emphasis is placed on learning to cite and quote primary materials, organizing the content logically, and improving English grammar and usage. Students submit portfolios which include all copies of the papers written for class, copies of the articles read in order to write papers, assignments, sample papers, and a reflection paper. Grammar/editing tutorials and writing conferences are required components of the course. Instructor permission required (see above under Enrollment).

GS 700: *Thesis & Dissertation Writing Class*

Credit hours: 4

Spring 2007: TBA

Location: TBA

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 meet with the course instructor to discuss how well 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 portion of the work will be individualized, assignments can be tailored to meet your needs. A grammar/editing lab will be a required component of this course. Instructor permission required (see above under Enrollment).

### **Teaching Preparation**

AEC 082: *Classroom Communication for International Teaching Assistants*

Summer – Credit hours: 3, MTWR 10:20-11:20 + Discussion

Fall, spring – Credit hours: 4, MWF 11:00-11:20 + Discussion

- 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.

## **COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES**

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers a variety of counseling services for graduate students. Located on the 2nd floor of Watkins Health Center, CAPS is staffed with professional social workers, counseling and clinical psychologists and a psychiatrist to assist graduate students in dealing with personal concerns. Services available include individual and couples counseling, as well as a support group called "Dissertation Distress."

## **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.

## **THESIS/DISSERTATION WRITING SUPPORT GROUPS**

### *Dissertation Blues*

Leaders: Frank De Salvo, Director of Counseling/Psychological Services, and Christine Jensen, Coordinator of Graduate Student Support Services, Applied English Center

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.

For fall meeting time and location: TBA.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Christine Jensen, 864-1322, [cjensen@ku.edu](mailto:cjensen@ku.edu).

### *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](mailto:writing@ku.edu) for more information. Call or e-mail for times group will meet.