**LATI 298/ WRITING AND RESEARCH DESIGN**

Winter 2016/Wednesdays 12:00-2:50 pm

Instructor: Peter H. Smith

phsmith@ucsd.edu

Good writing is essential for success in modern professional life. This seminar will deal with key elements of expository writing and “research design”—from the definition of topics through the structure of argumentation to the final presentation of results. Genres will include graduate theses, research papers, and policy memos. Emphasis will be on practical issues. Examples will focus primarily but not exclusively on Latin America. Participants will be expected to present at least two modest-sized pieces of written work, which may (or may not) be drawn from assignments in other classes.

Most class meetings will have two components: (a) a presentation by the instructor, and (b) discussion by participants. Selected readings will be available in a dropbox.

Grading will be Pass/Fail. Attendance will be obligatory.

**Required reading:**

•Wayne C. Booth, Gregory Colomb, and Joseph Williams, *The Craft of Research*, 3rd edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008.

•Anne Lamott, *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life*. New York: Anchor Books, 1995.

•online[: http://www.charleslipson.com/How-to-write-a-thesis.htm](file://C:\Users\phsmith\AppData\Local\Temp\:%20http:\www.charleslipson.com\How-to-write-a-thesis.htm)

GPS/Official Guide to Memo Writing

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

Week 1(January 6) Introduction

Lamott, *Bird by Bird*, Part One

Week 2 (January 13) Framing Questions: How?

Booth, Colomb, and Williams, *Craft of Research*, chs. 1-6

<http://www.charleslipson.com/How-to-write-a-thesis.htm>

Week 3 (January 20) Research Design: Key Elements

Booth, Colomb, and Williams, *Craft of Research*, chs. 7-10

Week 4 (January 27) Research Design: Structuring a Thesis

*Assignment Due:* Research Design for Thesis (as of now)

Week 5 (February 3) Research Designs: Discussion

Student Papers [in Dropbox]

Week 6 (February 10) Building the Argument

Booth, Colomb, and Williams, *Craft,* chs. 7-10

Week 7 (February 17) What Is a Policy Memo?

GPS/Official Guide to Memo Writing

Week 8 (February 24) Policy Memos: Discussion

*Assignment*: 3-Page Policy Memo [due February 22]

Student Policy Memos [in Dropbox]

Week 9 (March 3) Dissertations and Books

Booth, Colomb, and Williams, chs. 12-17

Week 10 (March 10) From Writer’s Block to Publication

Lamott*, Bird by Bird*, Parts Two-Four

The End