
MAT 594R: Academic Research Writing

Curtis Roads

Winter 2020

Friday 5-6 PM, 1 unit

MAT conference room, Elings 2003

MAT 594R is a course on academic writing, including PhD proposals, PhD dissertations, Master's project documents, academic papers, diagrams, illustrative photographs, artist statements, curriculum vitae, course proposals, presentation abstracts, liner notes, letters of application, grant proposals, and proposals to faculty. It incorporates the following activities:

- English class (grammar, vocabulary, writing clearly, writing formally, removing redundancy, active versus passive voice)
- Research methods seminar (what is research, how to do a literature search, how to cite, how to frame your work, how to state hypotheses and conclusions, how to identify and state contributions)
- Sharing technical tools, techniques, and tricks (Grammarly, Scrivener, Word, LaTeX and associated bibliographic tools like EndNote and BibTeX, plus online tools such as Google Docs, overleaf, Dropbox, git)
- Sharing works in progress, getting feedback (people read excerpts, or have a simulated peer review process where we critique each others' papers)
- Identification and discussion of publication venues (i.e. CMJ, NIME, ISMIR, ICMC, ISEA, ACMMM) as well as deadlines and the application process.
- Group therapy (anti-procrastination strategies)

We meet weekly for 60 minutes. Sometimes one or more students email a draft to the class list several days before, and we spend the meeting discussing these pieces in detail: questions, suggestions, associations, recommendations. Often students lead the discussion with guidance and participation from the instructor. Guest lecturers present their experiences and insights to the class.