DISSERTATION STUDIO

Quick Guide

DESCRIPTION:

The goal of the dissertation studio is very simple: to get you to write! The dissertation studio is for doctoral students who are writing their dissertations (actual writing, not researching or conducting lab work). This is an opportunity to have a period of focused time and support for writing your dissertation. As we all know, writing involves some level of discipline and commitment. We provide the space, the time, and the snacks, but you must come with a commitment to make progress on your dissertations.

COMMITMENT & EXPECTATIONS:

If you apply, please understand that you are committing to the following:

- You are committing to attend all 5 days of the studio, from 8:30am-2:00pm each day. If you cannot make this commitment, you should not apply for the Dissertation Studio this time around. **If, for whatever reason, you miss more than 4 hours of the Studio (at once or cumulatively), you will be withdrawn from the Studio for the remainder of the week.**
- Arrive at each session on time, no later than 8:30AM and stay for the duration of each daily session.
- Writing time will begin promptly at 8:30am. Once writing time begins, enter the studio quietly and exercise silence for all in the room.
- You are permitted to take 2 separate 15-minute breaks outside of the Studio rooms (1 morning, 1 afternoon.) Breaks are not for socializing with Studio members, long phone calls, meetings, or other distracting activities and should not exceed 15 minutes each.
- Disable all phone/tablet/laptop notifications. You are not permitted to check your email or social media sites during this time. Use of internet should be relegated to locating and/or referring to academic sources for the purpose of writing.
- When directed, interact and engage with other participants to think about writing through peer review and discussion.
- You may be redirected by Studio staff at any time to help you and others stay focused.

WHAT WE WILL PROVIDE:

- A quiet work space
- Coffee and light breakfast each day
- Snacks
WHAT YOU SHOULD BRING:

- Your laptop; we will not be providing computers (you can rent a laptop from UTEP Tech Support)
- Any hard copy sources you need to write
- Something to work on (in case you hit writer’s block); but really, you should be writing!
- A light sweater/jacket/blanket; the room can get cold.
- Your own snacks, in case you don’t like ours or you have special dietary needs
- Ear plugs or headphones if necessary; portable music should not be so loud that anyone else in the room can hear it.

AGENDA FOR EACH DAY:

**M – F 8:30AM-1:30PM:** writing time (Monday exception-see below)

**M 8:30-9AM:** introductions, review of expectations, and goal setting for the week

**MWF 1:30-2PM:** peer review 2 pages of work

**TR: 1:30-1:45PM:** small group check-in; 1:45-2:00PM

NOTIFICATION TO SUPERVISING FACULTY:

Please be aware that your supervising faculty will be notified of your participation in the Dissertation Studio.