Course Description
This course is designed to foster and support your thesis-writing process. Ours is a thesis-based seminar that serves as a writing workshop: we will write in class together, you will draft portions of your thesis, you will give and receive feedback on your writing. This class will also offer professional development for students interested in academic careers. Students apply research methodologies, engage in peer-reviewing and oral presentations, and develop their writing for academic journals.

Course Objectives
At the end of the course, students will:

- integrate the knowledge from their coursework in writing their thesis;
- employ research methodologies in the field of media, culture, and communication;
- understand and participate in the processes of self-editing and peer-reviewing;
- have the skills needed to prepare for and present conference-quality papers.

Readings
Required:

Recommended:

Grading Criteria
Your grade in this course requires the successful completion of each primary assignment, including:

- Draft of Research Questions/Introduction
- Draft Literature Review
- Draft Methods Section
- Draft conference paper/journal article

You will hand in each assignment and receive a grade of either Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U). If you receive a U, you may redo the assignment until it is deemed satisfactory. Letter grades will be assigned based on the corresponding number of (S) assignments completed.

Participation
Participation involves coming to class, completing all of the required readings and active participation in lecture and discussion. Active participation also means your regular contribution to our selection of course readings: as a class we will seek out, select, and critique model texts that illustrate the kinds of writing moves you will be asked to do in your academic career. You will also be required to present your work, give and receive feedback on class assignments, and be an active member of our writing workshop.

**Course Schedule**

| Week 1 | January 20: Course Introduction |
| Week 2 | January 27: Overview of Thesis Components/Conceptualizing and Writing Research Questions Assignment Due: Thesis summary and Research Questions |
| Week 3 | February 3: The Literature Review Reading: To Be Assigned Assignment Due: Comments/Critique of Example Literature Reviews |
| Week 4 | Feb 10: The Literature Review, cont. Assignment Due: Annotated Bibliography; brief presentations |
| Week 5 | Feb 17: The Literature Review, cont. Assignment Due (To be posted on B-Board by Friday of Prior Week): Completed Draft Literature Review; Feedback session on Lit. Reviews |
| Week 6 | Feb 24: Pairing Research Questions with Research Methods; Qualitative Methods Reading: To Be Assigned |
| Week 7 | March 3: Research Methods, cont.; Quantitative Methods, Writing Methods Section Reading: To be Assigned |
| Week 8 | March 10: Research Methods, Cont. Assignment Due: Draft Methods Section |

**Note:** *Completed first drafts of your thesis are DUE to your advisor by early April, roughly.*

| Week 9 | March 17: SPRING BREAK |
| Week 10 | March 24: Conceptualizing & Drafting Research Findings Reading: To be Assigned |
| Week 11 | March 31: Research Findings, cont. Assignment Due: Presentation of Preliminary Research Findings |
| Week 12 | April 7: Developing Thesis into Conference Paper/Journal Article |
Reading: TBA

Week 13  April 14:  Developing Thesis…, cont.
         TBA

Week 14  April 21:  TBA

Week 15  April 28:  TBA