

# MAT 594R - Academic Research Writing

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Winter 2016

Tuesdays 5-6pm, 1 unit

Curtis Roads

MAT 594R addresses academic writing (broadly construed, including 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, proposals to faculty). It incorporates the following activities:

- Study hall (a regular time and place that we all work independently together)
- English class (grammar, vocabulary, writing clearly, writing formally, removing redundancy, active vs. 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)
- Technical tools, techniques, and tricks (mainly Word and LaTeX and associated bibliographic tools like EndNote and BibTeX, plus online tools such as Google Docs, overleaf, Dropbox, git)
- Venue to share works in progress, get feedback (people read excerpts, or have a simulated peer review process where we critique each others' completed 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)

MAT 594R is a place where we frequently ask and attempt to answer the question "How do I get a PhD at MAT?" What are the new boundaries of a contemporary well researched PhD in the 21st century? How can a MAT PhD dissertation expand into new territories as artistic, historical, theoretical, and technical novelty?

**Format**

Weekly 60 minutes. Generally one or more students email a draft to the class list a day or two before, and we typically spend the bulk of each meeting discussing each of these pieces in detail: questions, suggestions, associations, recommendations. Often students lead the discussion with loose guidance and participation from the instructor.