Honors Thesis Studio Utopia

What is Studio Utopia?

Often during the thesis process, you may feel lost, lonely, and confused. This is normal. Studio Utopia provides an escape from the vacuum by providing an environment where you actively dialogue and collaborate on your research and writing. Studios consist of small groups of students engaged in research and writing processes. A facilitator participates to help guide the discussions, but the sessions revolve around the needs of the members. In a studio, you become a member of a community made up of fellow researchers and writers who assist one another in exploring ideas and engaging in research, responding to and evaluating the text, and working with each member to determine the ideal form for their thesis.

What is your role as a studio member?

Because the success of the studio depends on the interaction of all the members, joining a studio means committing to the following:

- attending all studio sessions (Studios meet every other week approximately 5 times during the semester.)
- completing writing for discussion prior to the studio time
- responding to the work of others

In collaboration with all group members, you determine the tone and pace of the thesis studio.

What's the role of a studio facilitator?

The studio facilitator acts as another voice in the group, responding as a studio member to the work of each participant. In addition, the facilitator provides the following:

- guiding the conversation in a studio session and making sure it remains focused on the students’ writing and writing processes
- assisting students in understanding and working through the thesis processes
- assisting students in understanding and working through their role as immediate audience
- acting as a conduit between students and the thesis coordinator (Karen Weber)

The facilitator is there to help you figure out how to navigate the thesis process. Facilitators are trained in the studio process; however, they are not the experts in your field. You are.

Why join Studio Utopia?

By committing to the studio process, you will find that you deepen and advance your own thesis experience. In addition to having an accountability group that will assist you in staying on track to finish within two semesters, you also have a safe forum for testing your ideas and writing (thus improving your writing and practicing for your defense), access to others’ processes and revisions which may inform your own, and a group of peers who are experiencing the same joys and pain that you are. To join, contact Michelle Miley (mmiley@uh.edu) or Karen Weber (kweber2@central.uh.edu).