



## *The Dickens Project*

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*University of Pennsylvania*  
*University of Southern California*  
*University of Tennessee, Knoxville*  
*University of Texas, Austin*  
*Vanderbilt University*

## **Professional Opportunities for Graduate Students of the Dickens Project**

The Dickens Project welcomes graduate students not only to the universe of Dickens but also to the universe of academe. The activities described below prepare students for various facets of an academic career. Graduate students from member institutions have the opportunity to participate in one of these options each year during the summer conference in Santa Cruz known as the “Dickens Universe.”

Students nominated to represent their university at the conference will be emailed a link to a Registration Form allowing them to indicate which of the following professional activities they prefer. Seminars/workshops meet daily for one hour, unless indicated otherwise.

These assignments are first-come first-served, so students are encouraged to make their selections as soon as possible.

### **Pedagogy Workshop: M-Th 9:00 AM**

This group discusses practical ways to enhance teaching. For example, topics might cover asking productive discussion questions, designing successful writing assignments, the special challenges of teaching long novels, ways to interweave genres in a course, shaping a syllabus (particularly for a nineteenth-century course), and all in between. Students may meet assistant professors who are in the throes of designing new courses and senior faculty who have long experience of teaching at different levels. This workshop is designed for students at all levels of teaching experience.

### **Presentation Workshop: M-Th 9:00 AM (limited to 8 students)**

Students at any level are invited to submit a 200-word proposal describing a text designed for oral presentation. Two consortium faculty members will lead a small group of students in this workshop on the oral delivery of written texts. Students should bring the proposed piece of writing (no more than two to three pages) to Santa Cruz for this hands-on activity. Likely projects include the opening pages of a conference paper or the introduction to a job talk. The workshop meets three days for one hour each day and is excellent preparation for those beginning to present their work at conferences as well as those preparing for job talks.

### **Publication Workshop: M-Th 9:00 AM (limited to 15 students)**

This workshop is designed to help students at any level think about publishing essays and articles in academic journals. We will do this thinking through a sequence of topics, questions, and short exercises. We will also glance at other genres of academic writing (the book review, the dissertation, the book), but the central focus will be on essays and articles. Questions will include: What are the target journals in the field? How are they different? How do you decide where to send your writing? What are editors looking for? How do you “work up” a seminar paper or conference paper for submission to a journal? How do you submit it? Are there things you can do to improve your chances of acceptance? What are the best books to read on the subject of academic writing?

### **Writing Workshop: M-Th 9:00 AM (limited to 8 students)**

Students at any level are required to submit a 400-word proposal describing a piece of writing for discussion in a small workshop. Due to time constraints, the piece should be

no longer than five pages. The written work might take a variety of forms: the narrative portion of a grant application, the abstract for a conference paper, a short conference paper itself, a draft of the dissertation prospectus or abstract, or a five-page methodological section of the dissertation, for example. The three to four members of the writing workshop will share a draft with the Dickens Project faculty mentor and with each other early in the summer. In Santa Cruz, the group will consider general issues of argument and style and discuss each person's text. The Writing Workshop would be appropriate for students at various stages of their graduate work. (\*Submit proposal only if ranking this as first or second choice.)

**Team-teaching with another grad: M-F 11:30 AM (8 pairs)**

The class offered to the general Dickens Universe participants is led by two graduate students and emphasizes close reading of the summer's featured novels. The class includes undergraduates; high school, college, and community college teachers; students; and Dickens enthusiasts from all walks of life. The teaching pairs meet for an orientation session with a faculty member, who is also on hand during the week to answer questions and offer suggestions. Classes meet one hour each day. This option would be particularly useful if you have few opportunities to gain teaching experience at your home institution.