

## **EDST 602 A**

This seminar allows PhD students the opportunity to critically unpack and reflect on your doctoral journey and what it means to engage in a doctoral experience. Emphasis is placed on understanding the complexities and tensions involved in being a student in a dynamically changing university and wider communities of practice. We set the scene by examining unwritten rules and tacit knowledge in doctoral studies, the experience of social, racialized and gendered difference, and the role of emotions, identities and networks of support in the doctoral journey. We then delve into the particulars of academic writing, the doctoral dissertation, being and becoming writers, and questions of authorship, ethics and time management. This is followed by a critical examination of the political economy of doctoral study in Canada, funding opportunities, and writing research proposals. We then consider experiences of doctoral supervision and life beyond the dissertation. At an institutional and organisational level, the Seminar provides participants with an opportunity to be informed about the various phases of the doctoral program in which they are enrolled. This includes information about university and departmental policies and requirements at UBC, for instance, with regard to the comprehensive examinations (aka “Comps”), the constitution of a supervisory committee, the development of a research proposal, and how to apply for which funding opportunities that are available to graduate students. We will also look at UBC Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (G +PS) policies and procedures regarding achieving candidacy, submitting dissertations for examination, selecting external examiners, and defending.

(note: text above is drawn from Prof. Andre Mazawi’s 602A course description, adapted by instructor Pierre Walter)