# CENTER FOR WRITING AND LEARNING

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Professor: Julie Christoph

**100 Strategies for College Reading** 0.25 units. College reading presents significant challenges, both in the amount of material assigned and in the complexity of ideas. Students frequently remark that they have difficulty getting through the required reading in a course, that they have problems concentrating on the material, or that they cannot remember what they have read. They are expected to learn to read selectively but carefully, to identify passages that require close reading, and to search out the structure of a text. Furthermore, assigned reading is often a diverse collection of primary and secondary sources, rather than sections from one authoritative textbook. This course is designed to help students become more demanding and skillful readers, able to effectively navigate the demands of college reading. Students develop new techniques to improve their reading efficiency, both in terms of speed and comprehension. By making reading and studying into a conscious activity, students are better able to extract information from a scholarly text, critically question the material they read, flexibly adjust reading strategies according to the task, and vary their reading speed to enhance comprehension. Class instruction is supplemented by an online speed reading program, although this class is not primarily concerned with speed reading. *Pass/Fail Required. Offered frequently.*

**299 Writing Personal Statements** 0.25 units. This course is designed to help students write effective personal statements for post-graduation opportunities, whether for fellowships or graduate or professional school applications. The course introduces writers to the concept of the personal essay as a genre, through readings that include both the theoretical discussions and examples of the genre. Students write multiple drafts of personal statements, and through that process discover what is essential to convey about themselves for the particular application. Significant time is devoted to sharing drafts with the other writers in the class and providing feedback to deepen the learning process. *Pass/Fail Required. Offered occasionally.*

**300 Theory and Praxis of Peer Learning** 0.25 units. This course is designed to prepare first-semester writing advisors and peer tutors to be effective in their new roles in the Center for Writing and Learning (CWL). Through discussions on writing center theory and practice, critical pedagogy, cultural competence, and interdisciplinarity, this course prepares new peer tutors and writing advisors for effective and reflective practice, as well as equips them with the skills to contribute to the intellectual conversation of the Writing Center with original research. *Prerequisite: Employment at the CWL. Pass/Fail Required. Offered frequently.*

**398 Practicum in Peer Tutoring** 0.25 units. CWL 300 discusses ways in which peer tutors at the Center for Writing and Learning (CWL) might use their influence as knowledgeable peer collaborators to disrupt inequalities in higher education. This follow-up course is designed to go into more depth about the larger social contexts that shape educational inequalities at the college level. By discussing racial bias in the criminal justice system and the school-to-prison pipeline, the class examines the role that educational inequalities have on producing the carceral state. By combining academic class time with volunteer work at the Washington Corrections Center for Women, this class helps peer tutors learn how to use their tutoring skills to pursue social justice outside the CWLT. *Prerequisite: CWL 300. Credit will not be granted to students who have received credit for REL 307. Pass/Fail Required. Cannot be audited. Offered occasionally.*

**495 Independent Study** Variable credit up to 1.00 unit. Independent study is available to those students who wish to continue their learning in an area after completing the regularly offered courses in that area. *May be repeated for credit up to 4.00 units. Cannot be audited. Cannot be taken Credit/No Credit.*