

**Job Notice for Seminar Leaders**  
**Freshman Scholars Institute-*Ways of Knowing***  
**Summer 2019**

The Freshman Scholars Institute (FSI), an intensive seven-week summer program for invited incoming first-year students, seeks seminar leaders from a range of disciplines to teach an innovative course called *Ways of Knowing*.

**Program Description**

FSI offers a cohort of entering students the chance to experience the intellectual, co-curricular, and social life at Princeton prior to the beginning of the fall semester. During the seven-week program, our Freshman Scholars have the opportunity to immerse themselves in Princeton's intellectually vibrant culture through seminar-style courses and/or laboratory research experiences, to engage with their fellow scholars in a variety of co-curricular, community-building activities, and to work closely with faculty members from a range of academic disciplines and fields. By experiencing early the many resources that Princeton has to offer, Freshman Scholars have the chance to prepare themselves to be future campus leaders and peer mentors. Participating students are a diverse and motivated group of first-generation and/or low-income scholars who have been invited to the pre-college program in order to nurture their demonstrated potential as scholars and leaders. FSI students take two courses for credit: *Ways of Knowing* and a STEM course in laboratory research or quantitative reasoning. Expected FSI enrollment is 80 students.

In 2019, FSI classes begin on July 9<sup>th</sup> and end on August 16<sup>th</sup>. The final course presentations will take place on Wednesday, August 21<sup>st</sup>. The course is scheduled to meet Mondays from 10:35-12:35, Wednesdays from 10:35-12:05, and Thursdays from 10:35-12:05. Seminar leaders will also meet in individual draft conferences with students during weeks 1, 2, 4, and 6, which can be scheduled at a convenient time for you and your students. In weeks 3 and 5, instructors will hold regular office hours. The closing BBQ for the program will be held on Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> and final grades are due Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. Seminar leaders are compensated a minimum of \$12,000 for teaching the course (this is in addition to their regular year's salary). Compensation is calculated by multiplying the lecturer's salary for next year by 0.1665, and adding a course development stipend of \$4,000. Eligibility for benefits will be determined by the Office of the Dean of the Faculty.

**Course Description**

"*Ways of Knowing*" (HUM 250/STC 250) is an immersive seminar that empowers first-year students to become active producers of knowledge in an academic community by introducing them to scholarly ways of thinking, reading, and writing across the University. In this course, students will analyze and engage a variety of multidisciplinary and multi-generic texts that stage inquiries into a shared topic of intellectual and social concern. In Summer 2019, *Ways of Knowing* will focus on the broad theme of "Power and Institutions." Through this multidisciplinary exploration, students will gain an understanding of the diverse—and intersecting—ways that scholars ask questions and generate knowledge. Most importantly,

students will use this understanding to make their own academic contribution to this scholarly conversation.

A core value of a Princeton education is that students develop the ability to craft clear, convincing, and persuasive arguments based on their own original analysis in order to emerge as independent thinkers among a community of scholars. The learning goals of Ways of Knowing help lay the groundwork for this in three crucial ways. First, students will develop strategies for and experience with effective and critical reading. Students will learn to purposively read canonical and non-canonical scholarship from across the disciplines. In so doing, they will learn how to process a large quantity of texts and how to think analytically about those sources. Second, students will apply these critical reading skills to put diverse texts in conversation with one another, to analyze the contours of this conversation, and to carve out their own intellectual space within it.

Finally, Ways of Knowing establishes a foundation for students to become active leaders in the university community. While the primary emphasis of the course is to introduce students to hone critical reading, thinking and writing skills, instructors will also emphasize the habits of good citizenship and collaboration upon which the University thrives; students will gain experience in sharing their ideas in a seminar environment as well as providing thoughtful feedback to others through active listening skills. Throughout the summer, students will cultivate habits of reflection about their future intellectual work at Princeton and beyond.

### **Course Format**

In seminar meetings, students read and discuss important canonical and non-canonical works from a wide variety of disciplinary and methodological homes. Students learn critical reading, thinking, and writing techniques, and write essays that analyze and contribute to the scholarly conversations developed in these texts and in the seminar room.

Throughout the FSI term, students meet regularly with their seminar leader in individual conferences to discuss their writing and other matters. Each instructor will host draft conferences with each student for each paper.

Students will also meet weekly for small group reading and writing feedback sessions with their embedded undergraduate WOK Course Fellow. The primary goals of these sessions are two-fold: 1) to provide additional space and time for students to practice critical reading strategies and process and analyze course texts; and 2) to encourage peer exchange throughout the drafting process. Each instructor will provide mentorship, guidance, and structure for their undergraduate WOK Course Fellow, meeting at least once per week. WOK faculty members are encouraged to speak to Dean Khristina Gonzalez with any nominations for promising undergraduate course fellows.

## **Schedule**

The tentative summer schedule is as follows:

- Seminar meetings: Mondays, 10:35am-12:35pm, Wednesdays, 10:35am-12:05pm, and Thursdays, 10:35am-12:05pm
- Individual Student Conferences (weeks 1, 2, 4, 6): Wednesday, Thursday, Friday afternoons/evenings (exact schedule at instructor's discretion)
- Weekly planning meetings with WOK Course Fellow: Mondays or Tuesdays (to be scheduled at instructor's discretion)
- Faculty Luncheons: Thursdays 1-2:30pm
- Final Presentation: Wednesday, August 21<sup>st</sup>
- Closing BBQ: Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> 5-7pm

## **Course Development**

Ways of Knowing is an experiment in teaching and learning, and seminar leaders will be integral to developing the course. Instructors are expected to work closely together to revise and develop pedagogical materials, course assignments, and logistics. This summer's faculty will revise course assignments and curriculum materials developed by the previous summers' interdisciplinary groups of seminar leaders. Each instructor will also serve as a mentor to an undergraduate Course Fellow paired with the section. Instructors will have the opportunity to nominate prior students for this opportunity. This mentorship will involve weekly summer meetings, 3-4 hours of collaboration prior to the course, and close collaboration throughout the summer.

To facilitate this work, seminar leaders will attend two meetings during the spring semester, a WOK seminar retreat in May, a WOK launch meeting on July 19<sup>th</sup>, once-a-week lunches during FSI, and a debriefing session in September. Seminar leaders who have not been trained in Princeton Writing Program pedagogy will attend at least one additional training session, to learn strategies for responding to students' writing in conferences, in-class workshops, and written comments. The tentative schedule is as follows:

- Two Course Reading Faculty Meetings: TBA in April
- Faculty Retreat: Thursday, May 17th-Friday, May 18th
- FSI Launch Meeting: Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup>
- Weekly Faculty Lunches: Every Thursday, 1-2pm, July 11<sup>th</sup>-Aug 15<sup>th</sup>

- Debriefing Session: September 2019 TBA

### **Instructions for Applying:**

#### ***Returning Instructors:***

To apply, please send the following materials to Andy Hakim at [ahakim@princeton.edu](mailto:ahakim@princeton.edu), Keith Shaw ([kms Shaw@princeton.edu](mailto:kms Shaw@princeton.edu)), and Christy Kahler ([christyk@princeton.edu](mailto:christyk@princeton.edu)) by March 13<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.

- CV and
- One paragraph (may be embedded in the email) describing what you have gained professionally from your work teaching in FSI in the past, and what you hope to contribute to the program and the course in the upcoming summer.

#### ***First-Time Instructors***

To apply, please send the following materials to Khristina Gonzalez ([kfg2@princeton.edu](mailto:kfg2@princeton.edu)), Keith Shaw ([kms Shaw@princeton.edu](mailto:kms Shaw@princeton.edu)), and Christy Kahler ([christyk@princeton.edu](mailto:christyk@princeton.edu)) by March 13<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.

- CV and
- Cover Letter (~1½ pages), which should include an explanation of your interest in teaching “Ways of Knowing.” Your letter should describe your reasons for wanting to teach in this course and in the FSI program, share ideas for the kinds of pedagogical activities you think would be most effective in this course, discuss your approach to an inclusive pedagogy, and detail your experience partnering with others to develop a course or other teaching event, such as a faculty workshop or colloquium.

Please feel free to direct questions to Andy or Keith.