Harvard Course in Reading and Study Strategies
Spring 2018

What are the aims of the course? The course helps students to develop a repertoire of reading strategies for reading actively and purposefully, with a sense of agency and authority. Topics include:

- Developing Awareness
- Reading with Questions
- Discerning Structure
- Making Sense
- Creating a Summary
- Evolving as a Reader
- Monitoring Your Understanding
- Identifying Text Functions
- Trusting Your Wits
- Minding Your Memory

Is it a speed-reading course? While students in the Harvard Course in Reading and Study Strategies do increase their reading speed, the course is not primarily a speed-reading course. Reading efficiently is not just a matter of moving your eyes quickly over the pages; it is a matter of using your mind actively and your attention judiciously. The Reading Course equips students to read mindfully and purposefully, which helps to improve focus, comprehension, memory, and speed.

Is there homework? There is no homework other than to transfer the skills you learn in class to the work you do in your own life by practicing your new strategies on your regular reading and studying.

When and where does the course meet? The mini-course meets in the Science Center. This year, the spring term session of the course meets Monday through Friday, February 5-9, 2018, 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Who can take the course? Anyone can register for this course: Harvard students, students from other colleges and universities; secondary school students; and professionals and others who want to read more actively, strategically, and effectively. The course is appropriate for both native and non-native speakers/readers of English who are seeking to read expository texts at an advanced level (i.e., at an undergraduate, graduate, or professional level).

How do I decide which session of the Reading Course to take? Any student is welcome to take any of the five sessions of the Harvard Course in Reading and Study Strategies that are offered during the year. One of the three sessions offered in the fall is specifically tailored to non-native English readers. That said, non-native speakers can take any of the other sessions, and native speakers can take the specially tailored session. The specially tailored session will address the same topics as the other sessions but will also devote particular attention to the structure of American academic/expository texts, the implicit assumptions about authority at work for American academic writers and readers, and students’ experience of adjusting to Harvard/university courses and classrooms.

How do students register and pay for the course? Advance registration is required; register online at bsc.harvard.edu/readingcourse. Harvard students may term bill (except students in the Harvard Extension School). Extension School and non-Harvard students may pay by credit card.

* There are three sessions of the course in the fall term, one in the spring, and one in the summer. After the February 2018 session, the next session of the course will be offered Monday through Friday, June 25-29, 3:30 to 5 p.m., 2018; details will be posted at bsc.harvard.edu/readingcourse.