Course Description
This seminar serves as the gateway into the Writing Associates Fellowship Program. Students are introduced to the theory and pedagogy of composition studies and the concept of reflective practice. The seminar asks students to connect theory with practical experience when assessing how best to engage with different student writers and different forms of academic prose. Students will interact with the complexity of their new positions as peer mentors while learning how to be a professional within this role. The course explores such questions as:

- What is the best way to work with different writers?
- What strategies work best with different aspects of the writing process?
- What is argument, and why is it important to academic discourse?
- How and why does peer tutoring work?
- How do WAs negotiate their roles of peer and tutor?

A goal of the course is to have WAITs question their assumptions about the writing and WAing processes in order to be more confident and qualified to help different students with their writing. WAITs will engage and raise questions about what it means to write and help others with writing.

This class is a credit/no credit course. Students must successfully complete all aspects of the course to receive credit and to be accepted as a full load WA.

If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact Leslie Hempling in the Office of Student Disability Services (Parrish 113) or email lhempli1@swarthmore.edu to arrange an appointment to discuss your needs. As appropriate, she will issue students with documented disabilities a formal Accommodations Letter. Since accommodations require early planning and are not retroactive, please contact her as soon as possible. For details about the accommodations process, visit the Student Disability Service Website at http://www.swarthmore.edu/academic-advising-support/welcome-to-student-disability-service. You are also welcome to contact me privately to discuss your academic needs. However, all disability-related accommodations must be arranged through the Office of Student Disability Services.

Required Course Texts
Weekly set of articles and WA Handbook (available on Moodle)

Recommended Course Texts (can be purchased through Amazon)

Course Requirements
Below is a brief description of the requirements for the course. More details including the goals for each assignment will be located on Moodle.

Class citizenship
This class runs very much like a seminar. Students are expected to attend class and participate in class discussions and activities. WAITs should bring questions from their own experiences as writers and new WAs to the content of class discussion. Please be on time so as not to disturb the flow of class discussion.

Short Analysis Papers
You will be assigned two short (4-5 pages) analysis papers. The goal for these papers is to put the readings for the course in conversation with your own experiences as a writer and WAIT. Each paper should address the posed question through the use of class readings and your initial WA experiences. Feel free to use the first person, but these papers should be more formal than a journal entry. The first paper will focus on written comments and the second paper will focus on conferencing. More details will be posted on Moodle.

Seminar discussion
Students will be responsible for leading one seminar discussion. Prior to leading, students will meet with a speaking associate in the Writing Center who will help prepare seminar leaders for a successful discussion. Students will begin the discussion prior to class by posting a brief blog post with discussion questions on Moodle.

Exploration of a discipline
Each student will be assigned a discipline. Your job will be to uncover the genre and writing expectations of that discipline through analysis of readings from that field and interviews with faculty. The goal of this assignment is to document the similarities and differences across disciplines.

Filming of a conference
The best feedback you might receive in this course is to see yourself WAing. During the semester you will have at least one of your conferences filmed. This filming will take place after fall break so it shouldn’t be during your first round of conferences.

Inquiry Project
As a WA, questions will emerge as to “what is the best way to do X?”, or “how do I work with a student who is X?” In small groups or individually WAITs will select a topic or question related to their WAing. The goal of this project is to analyze a relevant question to WAing through the lens of published research and original data.

Portfolio
Reflection practice is a key part of the WA Program. The portfolio serves as the bridge between your work in English 1C and your continued role as a WA. For your portfolio in addition to other materials you will submit a reflective piece (2-3 pages) explaining how your WAing has developed over the course of the semester and what goals you have as they move on from the course. We will discuss your portfolio during the final conference for the course.

Conferences
Three times during the semester we will meet for individual conferences with me. During the
first conference we will discuss written comments and how you approach WAing of a paper. The second conference will involve discussion of conference skills and debriefing of the videoconferencing project. Finally, at the end of the semester we will review your portfolio, share feedback, and set up goals for the next semester.

**Mentoring groups**
A WAIT Mentor (senior WA) will be assigned to work with 2-3 WAITs. WAIT Mentors will:

1. Meet with their group to discuss issues related to WAing.
2. Observe each WAIT during their first round of conferences and again during the final round of conferences. Afterward you’ll meet to discuss the conference. Together the WAIT and WAIT Mentor will brainstorm how to improve upon a WAIT’s conference style.

In addition, the WAIT Mentors will conduct workshops to help with conferencing and working with different learning styles. WAITs will be contacted by their WAIT Mentor by the second week of class.

**Working as a Course WA**
In order to have real experiences to discuss and engage with throughout this semester, you will be assigned a half-load of Course WAing. Because you are receiving credit for this work, you will not receive a stipend for this work this semester, but you will receive this stipend in subsequent semesters. During the first class we’ll discuss details for how these assignments will work and how to set up a constructive relationship with your Course WA professor.

**Working in the Writing Center**
WAITs will work four two-hour shifts during the course of the semester. Your time in the Writing Center will be paid hourly at the top pay scale. You will sign up for these shifts the third week of the semester.

**Important Dates to Remember**

There will be no class Oct. 8 & 9. Instead both classes will meet together on Sunday, Oct. 4 from 12:30-3:00pm. Location t.b.a

There will be no class Nov. 26 & 27. We follow the Thanksgiving schedule with the Thursday seminar meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 8 and the Friday seminar meeting on Monday, Dec. 7.