Harvard Course in Reading and Study Strategies
Spring Session 2017

What are the aims of the course? The course helps students to develop a repertoire of strategies for reading expository text and to develop a sense of judgment about how to use those strategies. Topics include:

- Reading with Your Eyes and Your Mind
- Reading with a Question
- Understanding the Structure of Text
- Overviewing and Subvocalizing
- Summarizing
- Anticipating and Intuiting
- Remembering What You Read
- Zooming Out: Navigating Longer Texts
- Zooming In: Close Reading
- Reading with Authority

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.

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 efficiently. 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).

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 for a total of 10 hours. The Spring 2016 session is:

February 6 - 17, 4 to 5 p.m.

The course will also be held July 10-21, 2017, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

See bsc.harvard.edu/readingcourse for details. The course meets in the Science Center.

What is the cost of the course? Is financial assistance available? The cost for this course is $25 for students in Harvard College and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, $150 for all others. For Harvard College students on financial aid, the Financial Aid Office will automatically apply an additional term bill credit toward the cost of the fee, in proportion to a student’s financial aid package. For Harvard graduate students, financial assistance varies by program; students should speak with their particular program director.

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.

In the fall of 2017, there will be a session of the course that is tailored to non-native speakers/readers of English. That course is not an ESL course, i.e., a course in how to read English. It is for students with proficiency in reading English who seek strategies for reading more effectively and efficiently.