

EARN 2 UNITS WHILE MENTORING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

FSEM 100: (W)rites of Passage: Navigating the Transition to College

Tuesdays 4:00-5:50pm

2-units (Graded Credit/No Credit)

Instructor: Susan Harris, Ph.D.



This Freshman Seminar will explore the rites of passage that mark the transition from high school to college. The course will offer a space for students to reflect on who they are, where they come from, and where they are headed—and the role of higher education in shaping this dynamic process.

Completing a service-learning assignment through the [Joint Educational Project \(JEP\)](#) has become a kind of rite of passage for thousands of USC students. All students in the course will become JEP writing-mentors for college-bound high school students from the Los Angeles Unified School District who participate in USC's [Neighborhood Academic Initiative \(NAI\)](#).

As suggested by the course title, writing will play a primary role in the course. USC students will support the high school seniors as they draft their college application essays. In addition, the FSEM students will write reflective essays that investigate the roots of the self, critically examining how race, class, gender, education, and other social forces create and constrain individual opportunities. The USC freshmen will help to orient the high school seniors to college life, sharing their own experiences as new college students.

The course is taught by Susan Harris, who serves as the Executive Director of the USC Joint Educational Project. A USC alumna, she earned a doctorate in Sociology and Marriage & Family Therapy in 2001. Please feel free to email her with any questions about JEP or the Freshman Seminar: scharris@usc.edu.