

Abolitionist Praxis in the Classroom

A FACULTY DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR IN TEACHING for 2023-24

Co-led by Sophia Hsu, Ph.D., and Sarah Soanirina Ohmer, Ph.D.

"Abolitionist teaching is built on the creativity, imagination, boldness, ingenuity, and rebellious spirit and methods of abolitionists to demand and fight for an education system where all students are thriving, not simply surviving."

--Bettina Love, *We Want To Do More Than Survive*



Lehman WAC is committed to building a community of teachers dedicated to improving and supporting student writing. In 2023-24, we will discuss ways to create environments for students to thrive through various kinds of writing across the disciplines. The yearlong seminar will focus on abolitionist theory to reimagine our assessment practices, syllabi, classroom spaces, and teaching methods. We will discuss how small changes in writing pedagogy and assessment can contribute to dismantling the settler-colonial, neoliberal university and to shaping a liberatory future inspired by abolitionist world-making processes. We will also brainstorm ways to promote educational justice by revising our assessments, syllabi, course policies, assignments, and/or rubrics.

Topics:

- Mutual Learning & Accountability
- Transformational v. Transactional Learning
- Intrinsic Motivation & Academic Success
- Shifting from the Educational Survival Complex
- Teaching the Impossible v. the Possible
- How Schooling is Tied to the Prison Regime Nexus

Accepted applicants will receive a stipend & commit to:

- Attending the seminar (10am-1pm) on Sep. 29, Oct. 27, Dec. 1, Feb. 23, Mar. 22, and Apr. 12. *Fully on Zoom!*
- Working with WAC Fellows to experiment with abolitionist strategies to transform their writing pedagogy in a class of their choosing.
- Revising or creating alternative assessment practices grounded in abolitionist frameworks.

Applications accepted through Friday, September 8, 2023.
Click here for the application link.

For more information, contact WAC Co-Coordinators sophia.hsu@lehman.cuny.edu & sarah.ohmer@lehman.cuny.edu.

Click here for the writing-intensive guidelines, and visit the WAC website here.