

## **Coll 202- Open Books-Open Minds Discussion Leader, Mentor Program**

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### **Course Description and Goals:**

This one credit course is designed to work integrally with the Open Books-Open Minds program and with Rhode Island College classes that adopt the common book. Initially First Year Writing courses were identified as the potential “home” for the common book selection (though the book is not limited to writing or first year classes). The OBOM mentor program, however, need not be limited to FYW courses. Upper level students will serve as discussion leaders and will facilitate analysis of and dialogue about the common book in a class, and the instructor and the mentor work together to discuss scheduling and to coordinate discussion of the common book. The discussion leaders also participate and encourage participation in Open Books – Open Minds events.

The **15 hours time commitment for the semester** will consist of training and instruction, sessions as discussion facilitator in a course engaging the common book, and attendance at OBOM events. You may also attend some of the meetings of the OBOM committee or student conference subcommittee meetings.

### **About Open Books-Open Minds:**

The Open Books-Open Minds program at Rhode Island College was launched in the spring semester of 2006 by the Curricular Initiatives Committee of the American Democracy Project. With the subsequent inclusion of student mentors, the program became part of the overall Rhode Island College experience as an extra-curricular activity that went beyond a focus on entering freshmen and transfer students. While the goals of the project focused initially on first year students, the overall goal was for broader campus involvement that encouraged informal discussion groups, introduced students to the intellectual life of the College, and provided for some common intellectual ground. Common reading programs seek to generate intellectual and social engagement throughout campus and help to create a sense of community, increase the vitality of intellectual/academic discourse on campus, and overall improve participants’ feelings about their school. Evidence also suggests that these programs help with student retention.

In 2012 OBOM became a component of the new **First Year Experience** plan, but it broadens participation by integrating upper-classmen as academic discussion leaders, allied with a section of First Year Writing. We hope to further broaden the program by encouraging the inclusion of the common book and OBOM mentoring program in other classes at RIC. In this way, Open Books-Open Minds continues to pull in various segments of the Rhode Island College community in discussions of the common book which take place in a number of contexts, such as lectures, art exhibits, film screenings, and the annual spring student conference.

**You can keep track of your participation by writing in the dates of the sessions you attend.**

**REQUIRED: 15 HOURS OF TIME**

**Enter Dates**

<b>In-class Discussion</b>	<b>OBOM Events</b>	<b>OBOM Committee Work/Meetings</b>	<b>College 202 Sessions and Training</b>	<b>Final Paper (enter date submitted)</b>