

EWRT 2: (15Y) Critical Reading, Writing, & Thinking (5 units) Course Syllabus

Class Details:

EWRT 2: **Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:30 pm-2:20 pm**

Classroom: Hybrid(Canvas)/Face to Face classes

Tuesdays/Thursdays on campus in AT 305

Instructor Contact Information:

Email: gordonlauren@fhda.edu

(you can also reach me through
canvas messages)

Office Hours:

on campus in the Language Arts Village (L-47); zoom* available by appointment only

<https://www.deanza.edu/villages/>

- Tuesdays: 2:30-4:30pm
- Wednesdays: 2:30-3:30pm
- Thursdays: 2:30-4:30pm

**Zoom link is on the canvas homepage*

Note: I am sometimes slow to respond to email as I receive several emails a day. Meeting me in person or on zoom is preferred especially if it's a longer question. I will try to respond to email between 9am-5pm, after 5pm my responses will be more sporadic. Just like you, I am trying my best to have boundaries between work and personal time to decompress from this online world. I recommend looking at assignments ahead of their deadlines and asking me questions ahead of time. On the weekends, please give me 48 hours to respond as I tend to take time off on the weekends to relax & prepare for the following week. Thank you for respecting this!

Course Description:

This course allows students to develop critical thinking skills and the ability to apply these skills to reading and writing. Students will practice analytical and argumentative academic essays based on the reading of complex texts, and the use of outside research leading to analysis, comparison and synthesis, and a documented research paper

Student Learning Objectives (SLOs):

By the end of the quarter in EWRT 2:

- Apply critical thinking skills to writing and complex readings
- Demonstrate academic (analytical, argumentative) writing based on reading of complex texts
- Demonstrate analysis, comparison, synthesis, and documentation of independent research

Required Materials/Texts:

- Link and PDFS provided by me on Canvas

- A folder (physical or digital) to keep all the handouts, notes, and the classwork you participate in. I create a lot of documents through Google docs, Google Slides, and Jamboard that are like living handouts for us to collaborate on together. Being able to access these documents *throughout* the quarter will be very important.
- Reliable Internet access & wifi
- Daily checking of your email and our canvas page for assignments, feedback, and updates on the course.

Tech Components:

- You'll need to check the EWRT 2 Canvas page and your email daily
- **Zoom is required** for, for some office hours, & for tutoring sessions
- All assignments, grades and feedback from me will be provided on Canvas. **You will be asked to upload most of your assignments as docs and PDFs.**
- If you are using google docs, here are instructions on how to convert to these files. For any other program you are using, it may help to search online using keywords like this: "how to convert pages to Word or PDF"
 - <https://www.maketecheasier.com/convert-google-docs-to-word/>
 - <https://9to5google.com/2019/11/09/create-google-docs-pdf-document/>
 - <https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT202227>

Assignments, Exams, & Grading:

Essays = 80% of your grade

- Essay #1 = 100 points (*does not count towards final grade*)
- Essay #2 = 100 points
- Essay #3 = 150 points
- Essay #4 = 200 points (***Your research paper is worth 200 points since it is 2x the amount of words and requires more research and critical analysis and writing.*)
- Essay #5 (Reflection Essay) = 100 points

Informal reading & writing assignments= 10% of your final grade (these are generally 50-100 points per assignment depending on the workload entailed. These assignments are of value as they help you practice critical thinking & writing that will be needed as part of your essay assignments).

- **Reading Responses:** Reading Responses are short essays that help me see that you have understood the reading and are grappling with the concepts by asking questions & making connections. You will be asked to submit your annotations/reading notes.
- **Short Writing assignments:** You will also be practicing writing techniques in shorter assignments. I may have you focus on the audience, or thesis, or introduction strategies for example. Or paragraph structure and how to analyze your quotations. We also focus on critical thinking in these assignments through the use of questioning yourself and the texts. Helping you to remain curious and dig deeper into the topics we discuss and write about.

Discussion posts= 10% of your final grade. These are short writing assignments that allow you to reflect and respond in community with others in the class. I hope this will add to the community we will be creating in our Zoom and in person meetings. *(Additional posts will receive up to 5 points of extra credit per assignment)*

Grading Scale:

A 93% and above A- 90-92% B+ 87-89% B 83-86% B- 80-82% C+ 77-79% C 73- 76% D+ 70-72% (not passing) D 60-69% (not passing)	*I will round up your course grade to whole numbers, so 89.5 will round up to 90 (an A-) and 89.4 will round down to 89 (a B+).
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Class policies:

Attendance is required:

- Attend every meeting, arrive on time, bring the required materials, be prepared to write and participate, take notes on lecture and discussion, and stay for the whole class.
- I take roll at the beginning of class. If you aren't in your seat, with your materials in class on your desk, and your phone put away, you are considered late since you aren't ready to begin.
 - If you miss 2 class meetings before week 2, you will be dropped from the course.
 - If you miss 4 class meetings by week 4, you will be dropped from the course.
 - Arriving more than 5 minutes late or leaving early will count as half of an absence.
 - Being more than 20 minutes late for class counts as an absence.

Communicate if you're having trouble! Send me an email **and** come to office hours if you are having any problems with getting to class, reading, getting started on your essays or finishing assignments. Maybe we can figure something out together.

Participation/Class Discussions:

- I want all of us to see this course as a seminar/workshop course and not a lecture course. While lecture classes consist of professors lecturing to their students, seminar courses revolve around **class discussions and small group work**. Even though we will have some hours online this quarter, I still want to try to recreate the feeling of us all being in the same room. So, we will have the zoom meetings in addition to in person meetings as a way for us all to interact and process information. These lessons, in addition to your HW assignments, really help me see what you are understanding and what you need more clarification on; this helps me in planning the classes each week.
- A workshop course involves discussing and grappling with questions and challenging texts as a reader and planning, drafting, revising, and editing as a writer. **It is important to be prepared to**

do this kind of work both in and outside of class. Your participation in class is required and essential. (Including canvas/google doc assignments during class, group work, & meetings with me).

- Though I will guide the class, this is *your* space and your community in which to freely discuss ideas and share thoughts about reading & writing in all its stages, so that you may learn from each other's unique perspectives. You will get out of this class what you put into it.

Assignments/Late Work:

- I don't accept late work!
- Turn in all Assignments: Produce *complete, thoughtful* drafts of every assignment, and turn all work in on time. Post every assignment online by the deadline. Brainstorming & draft assignments must meet word count requirements to be complete.
- In this hybrid course, you will submit your assignments and post to the discussions by the due date. If you have an emergency, please send me a Canvas Inbox message or email as soon as you are able. The due dates are meant to keep us on track! Check the syllabus tab on canvas as well as the calendar tab for due dates and reminders, and set your notifications in your account settings. A handy tip is to set a calendar item or alarm on your phone to remind yourself of the due dates.
- **I am unable to accept assignments over email.**
- Keeping up with the schedule of each week's modules, completing the readings and HW assignments, will help you develop stronger and more thoughtful essays.

Group Work/Peer Feedback:

- Work with your group mates to complete group assignments to the satisfaction of everyone in the group.
- Divide group assignments fairly and complete, on time, all the work you agree to take on for your group.
- Participate actively during every peer review assignment (**meet word count requirements**) and push yourself to provide your group mates with feedback to help them become better writers throughout the quarter by **providing thoughtful written feedback**. Taking their work seriously enough to think hard about how it can be improved is crucial for your success and theirs in this course.

Feedback and Reflection in this course:

- Use the feedback provided by me and your group mates to improve your writing. You do not have to make every change suggested by your readers, of course, as readers will sometimes disagree. But you must take all feedback seriously, and **your drafts should show evidence of your careful consideration of your readers' suggestions.**
- **Revise thoroughly and thoughtfully.** Revision means substantially clarifying your ideas, re-organizing your argument, rethinking your claims, strengthening your evidence, deepening your research, adjusting your style, and/or reimagining your relationship with your audience. Even if you have not received thorough feedback from the peer review assignment, **make at least one substantial revision before the next workshop and before turning in the final draft.**

- Proofread drafts (even first drafts) to eliminate distracting surface errors and typos. Revised drafts do not have to be perfect, but you should learn any grammar rules that consistently cause you trouble, by talking with a classmate, using a handbook, working with a tutor, and/or meeting with me.
- If I indicate on a draft that I would like you to schedule an appointment to talk with me, do so within the week. Especially if your essay isn't passing.
- Avoid Plagiarism*

Academic Integrity

What is Academic Integrity?

- Academic integrity means honesty in academic work. All of your coursework should be a result of your own efforts. I understand that you can often feel pressured and overwhelmed by the demands of school, work, and personal commitments. No matter what level of stress you may be experiencing, it is still expected that you will approach your work with honesty and integrity. While I recognize that mistakes can happen, violating the college's academic integrity policies may compromise your academic career. You would also be devaluing your resulting degree or certificate when you enter the workforce or transfer and cannot meet the expectations that your degree or certification requires.

This can include:

- Using someone else's ideas (even if it's not the exact wording) w/o giving the original author credit.
- Plagiarism can also include having another person write your assignment for you or using an essay that someone has already written (from another student or from an online source or a book).
- This also includes using **CHATGPT** for your assignments.
- Most writing assignments will be submitted through turnitin.com.

If a student is caught plagiarizing one or all of the following consequences could occur:

- Receiving a zero on an assignment
- Reporting the incident to administration (which may result in being dropped from classes, or from coming back to De Anza)

Some ways to avoid plagiarism:

- Taking careful notes to help you distinguish between your own ideas & language & those you have borrowed from sources
- Attempting to cite all sources correctly even in first drafts & double-checking that all sources are cited correctly by the time you submit the final drafts
- Never attempting to disguise another's work as your own
- *Never purchasing essays online; or using **CHATGPT***
- Never engage in any other act of academic dishonesty, including re-submitting work you've previously submitted (for another class). *New ideas only come about because we are all constantly borrowing ideas and sharing our work with others; be generous about attributing and citing those whose work has influenced your own.*

Expectation Agreement: (completed together in class– 1/11)

Means of Communication with me & each other :

- Reach out to other students on your own

Time Management and Planning:

- Calendar and focus on assignments due
- Creating you your own calendar
- Completing assignments in a good amount of time

Behavior in & out of class:

- Respectful towards others ideas; open minded
- No cheating; no plagiarism; no AI

Preparation for class:

- Look at schedule and have an idea of what's to come
- Come to class on time (check traffic ahead of time)

Other categories you might want to add to the syllabus?

- Small quiz; cohort on topics we are discussing in class

What you can expect of me:

Means of Communication: I will be periodically available by email, available for questions before and after class, and will be present at my listed office hours. .

Time Management and Planning: I will keep canvas up to date. I have created a weekly schedule on our Canvas homepage and have all of our assignments and materials on our canvas page by week. This allows me get drafts back quickly so you can revise and progress in the course. I will do my best to stick to the calendar & I'll tell you ahead of time should I need to make any changes.

Behavior: I will assist you in finding extra support if you need it, I will also listen to your ideas, and concerns and try to make this classroom community one in which you feel comfortable and able to grow and show up as yourself. I will respect each one of you and answer your questions and respond to your ideas with kindness. I will also be open to change and learning from each one of you as the quarter progresses.

Preparation: I will show up on time and be prepared with material to review/discuss readings and help you expand your creativity and critical thinking abilities. I will also come prepared with feedback on your work and ways to help you continue to grow as a writer.

Accommodations & Student Resources:

Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact me. Disability Support Services (DSS) is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. The DSS is located in the Student and Community Services Building and can be reached by telephone (408-864-8753) or by email: dss@fhda.edu

Other Helpful Resources:

Food Pantry https://www.deanza.edu/outreach/food_pantry.html

Financial Aid <https://www.deanza.edu/financialaid/>

Library <https://www.deanza.edu/library/>

Bookstore <https://www.deanza.edu/bookstore/>

Student Success & Retention Services: <https://www.deanza.edu/ssrsc/>

Transfer Center <https://www.deanza.edu/transfercenter/>

Math Performance Success Program (MPS) <https://www.deanza.edu/mps/>

Honor's Program <https://www.deanza.edu/honors/>

Counseling <https://www.deanza.edu/counseling/index.html>

Child Care <https://www.deanza.edu/child/>

Disability Support Services <https://www.deanza.edu/dsps/dss/index.html>

EOPS (Extended Opportunities Programs & Services) <https://www.deanza.edu/eops/>

Health Services <https://www.deanza.edu/healthservices/>

HEFAS <https://www.deanza.edu/vida/hefas.html>

Psychological Services <https://www.deanza.edu/psychologicalservices/>

Here is the link to our college's services page which lists all the services our campus offers. I recommend checking this out on your own to see what might be helpful during your time as a student here!

<https://www.deanza.edu/services/>