

Course Syllabus

Edit

EWRT2: Critical Reading, Writing and Research (Section 01Y)

Winter 2025

Instructor: Sergio Rizzo

email address: rizzosergio@fhda.edu

In-person Office Hour: M 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM in L47 (The Language and Communication Village)

Online Office Hour: W 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM and by appointment

Invite Link for office hours:

Invite Link <https://fhda-edu.zoom.us/j/89130709197>

<https://fhda-edu.zoom.us/j/89130709197> Links to an external site.

Mode of Instruction:

Instruction will be a combination of in-person, classroom instruction (**Mondays from 8:30 to 10:20 AM in Room L82**) and the asynchronous platform **CANVAS**. I will be contacting you through Canvas email and announcements, and you may contact me through Canvas email or my work email: rizzosergio@fhda.edu. I will respond to an email in 24-48 hours.

Course Texts :

Readings for the course will be available as pdf. files or through websites. Certain quizzes and paper topics will be based on specific films (e.g. *12 Years a Slave*, *Django Unchained*, and *Do the Right Thing*). For the quizzes, links to the relevant movie scenes will be found in the introductions to the quizzes in the modules. However, for the purposes of writing a paper using a particular film, I would recommend that you purchase a copy of the film or get online access to it. For a nominal fee, all the films the course uses can be rented or purchased through Amazon or other streaming movie web sites.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate analytical skills in the reading of literary (and non-literary) texts linked by common theme or issue
2. Demonstrate analytical, organizational, verbal, and research skills in writing
3. Evaluate multiple sources and integrate them in an analytical research paper

Course Description:

Using themes drawn from African American literature, film and comedy, this course teaches students advanced reading, writing, and research skills. The reading and writing you do for the course will lead to a major research project requiring the documenting, evaluating, summarizing, and synthesizing of various critical sources for an analytical paper.

Papers (75%)

There will be summary assignments and two critical research papers weighted as follows:

- Summary Paper (15%)
- Slavery and White Supremacy Paper with Summaries of Three Critical Sources (30%)
- Race and Intertextuality Paper with Summaries of Three Critical Sources (30%)

ALL PAPER ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED IN ORDER TO PASS THE CLASS. The research papers must use critical sources that you will document with the MLA method of in-text citation and a Works Cited page.

Submitting Papers:

All papers should be submitted to me on the appropriate submission page in the Canvas course modules. You need to submit your file in a format that allows me to comment on the papers: **e.g. Microsoft Word**. All writing assignments will be submitted to Turnitin. **WHEN SUBMITTING PAPERS TO TURNITIN BE SURE GO THROUGH THE CANVAS PLATFORM.**

HOW TO FIND WRITTEN FEEDBACK FROM ME ON YOUR WRITING ASSIGNMENTS SUBMITTED ON CANVAS:

Your graded papers will have two sets of comments by me on the files you submit on Canvas. There will be a comment at the end of the paper which discusses your paper in a wholistic fashion, as well as line-by-line and marginal comments within the body of the paper. Depending on the browser you have, you may have to look for my comments on your paper. Consult the Canvas Student Guide's "[How do I view annotation feedback comments from my instructor directly in my assignment submission?Links to an external site.](#)"

Part of my line-by-line and marginal commentary will be grammar related. For an explanation of the grammar abbreviations I use and a brief explanation of the grammar issue they refer to consult the [Short Marking Guide Download Short Marking Guide](#).

Late/Incomplete Papers:

It is important for you to submit your paper by the deadline. Turnitin will not accept late submissions, and if your paper is not vetted by Turnitin, I cannot guarantee that I

will be able to accept and grade your paper if there are questions about its authorship. It is your responsibility to submit the paper by the due date and, if necessary, provide evidence that it is your writing and not plagiarized. **A good way to do this is to keep a separate file of your notes and drafts of the paper as a back up.**

Papers are due on the days indicated in the weekly modules on Canvas. Late papers or papers with missing pre-writing exercises will be accepted, but may be graded down. Papers missing pre-writing exercises or summaries may be graded down 1/3 of a letter grade or more. Late papers may be graded down a 1/3 of a letter grade after the day they are due and another 1/3 for each day they are late after the initial due date. So, for example, a paper that earned a B but was turned in the day after it was due would be marked down to a B-, two class days late would drop it to a C+, and so on.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism occurs when a student uses another's work, ideas, or words and misrepresents them as one's own. Over-reliance on AI generated writing is also a form of plagiarism. Inadvertent misuse of sources is enough to fail a student's work. Knowingly misrepresenting another's work as one's own may fail the student from the course. It is each student's responsibility to avoid plagiarizing.

Quizzes (15%)

This course will have weekly quizzes on the relevant readings and movies or movie scenes in the weekly modules. For full credit, quizzes should be done by their due dates in the modules. The average of your grades on the quizzes will be worth 15% of your course grade.

Final Exam (10%)

There will be an in-person final exam on **MONDAY, MARCH 24TH FROM 7:00-9:00 AM IN ROOM L82**. It will be a 500 word interpretive essay in response to a choice of prompts based on texts used during the quarter.