

W21 EWRT D002 Crit Read, Writ & Think 21Z Morfee 34615

Critical Reading, Writing and Thinking

Instructor: Professor Julie Morfee

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Drop in Office Hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:30 am-12:30 pm and 2:30-4:00 pm on Zoom.

By Appointment Only Office Hours: After 1 pm Monday, Friday and Saturday on Zoom.

Course Prerequisites: Successful completion of EWRT 1A

Class Meetings: This class meets live online on via Zoom conference on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30-2:20 PM

Course Description

The official English Department description for this course says that you will:

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

EWRT 2 is a higher level course that teaches you how to read, write and think with an analytical and creative mindset. EWRT 2 traditionally deals with sociological, political and interpersonal issues. You'll learn to ask challenging questions, question your assumptions, write persuasive arguments, and dissect stereotypes and misrepresentations.

It is important to stay intellectually inspired and emotionally engaged in difficult times. My goal is that you'll leave this class feeling more connected to others, and gain skills that will help you succeed, in school, in daily life, and in whatever you are most passionate about.

Course Format

Internet access is required. Although this is an online course, it is not a self-paced course. You will get and submit assignments through the course management software, Canvas. You will do just as much work as if we were spending time in a face-to-face classroom. Expect to do something for the class zooms on Tuesdays and Thursdays and do additional homework over the weekend.

Participation: Zoom Conferences and Canvas Discussions

The class will meet online together all at the same time from 1:30-2:20 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays for a live Zoom conference. All Zoom conferences will be recorded in case you occasionally cannot attend live.

There will be Canvas discussion forum about the assigned readings almost every week, and each student will get points for regularly and substantially posting, according to requirements which I will give you for each discussion. It will be your responsibility to make sure that you post to discussions or submit assignments by the deadline.

If you think that it will be difficult for you to consistently attend these meetings due to your other responsibilities, let me know and I will find a way for you to participate.

Even though we are online, this course is a Writing Workshop. You will receive points for your active participation, not your passive screen time. If you log in to see every discussion or conference, but participate minimally, a C is the highest grade you can get in the class.

Required Texts

Here is a link to *Asking The Right Questions*, a supplementary book that we will be using throughout the quarter: [\\$CANVAS_COURSE_REFERENCES\\$/file_ref/gb5df8d4d6175b33671469005eff66222/download?download_frd=1](#)

You'll need to buy or borrow a copy of *The Book of Unknown Americans* by Cristina Henríquez by week 3 of the quarter. You can order a hardcopy from the De Anza bookstore, buy the ebook or audiobook on Amazon, or even borrow the e-book from a public library. There are also free or very inexpensive PDFs of it available online, although they are not the easiest to navigate.

Any format of this book is fine as long as you have a way to take notes as you read.

I recommend that you buy a copy of the book if you can afford it. We will be reading the whole thing carefully.

I also recommend having access to a good English composition handbook with grammar rules and the most recent MLA formatting guidelines in it. While it is no substitute for a handbook, here is a link to an overview of MLA format to get you started: [Link](#) (Links to an external site.)

The Purdue OWL website also has a lot of helpful grammar and MLA format guidelines: [Link](#)

(Links to an external site.)

In addition to assigning the texts I list above, I will also require you to read short articles which I will give you links to in assignment prompts. You must do all the assigned reading to succeed in this class.

Course Requirements:

You'll write one ungraded writing sample, two shorter graded 3-5 page out of class essays, a required revision of a shorter essay, one discussion reflection, and one graded timed essay (midterm). At the end of the course, you will write a final 8-10 page analytical research paper about a topic related to the class readings.

****Note that in order to maintain active status in the course you must login within the first week of the term and submit all of your essay and familia assignments by each of their ultimate deadlines. Failure to complete the writing assignments and to post and respond to the discussion forums may result in being dropped from the course and will ultimately affect your course grade. For example, if you keep up with all of the shorter essay assignments, but do not turn the final research essay, you will fail the course. If you find yourself falling behind, it is your responsibility to contact me as soon as possible so that we can plan how you will finish your work.**

Grading

96% and up =A, 90-95%=A-, 87-89%=B+, 83-86%=B, 80-82%=B-, 77-79=C+, 73-76%=C, 70-72%=C-, 69-67=D+.

Grade Components

Essays: 70 %

Participation including Zoom discussions, canvas posts, and your collaborative student led discussion and individual reflection: 15%

Drafts, Journal entries, Quizzes, and Writing Exercises: 15 %

Maximum Points will be assigned as follows:

150 points each for Essays 1-3 and a required revision

150 points per person for your familia-facilitated discussion, including your individual typed 2 page double spaced reflection.

5-15 points for each homework assignment, including assigned rough drafts and outlines

5-15 points per quiz.

10 points for each Canvas discussion post of 300 words minimum.

10 points for participating in each class Zoom conference

10 points for participating in each of Three individual Zoom appointments with me.

200 points for the Final Research Paper

There will be occasional extra credit assignments, at my discretion.

Grades are not negotiable. While I do accept revisions if you follow the guidelines that I explain below, I will not respond to requests for a better grade for individual essays or for the course as a whole. I will evaluate your writing based on criteria that I will give you. It is your responsibility to ask about any requirements that you don't understand.

Due Dates and Extensions

All work must be turned in to me by the date it is due in order to receive maximum points. Most assignments will be locked shortly after they are due, and you will not be able to submit them unless I give you an extension. Unless you have a sudden health or family emergency, I will give you an extension only if you contact me before the due date to let me know what's going on, make a plan with me to complete the work soon, and show me that you can do so without falling further behind. If you need an extension

on an assignment other than the timed essay, please contact me before the due date.

Familias

To help you feel welcome and engaged in the class, and encourage you take charge of your own learning, I will assign each of you to one of five familias (families), and this group will be your class home base for the quarter. (I learned this strategy from the wonderful students and professors involved in LEAD, or Latino Empowerment At De Anza.) You will help your familia members to do their individual best work in the class. You don't need to tutor or mentor each other but do support each other, share ideas and work together fairly and respectfully. Make sure that you exchange contact information so that you can help each other stay on top of deadlines.

Familia Facilitated Discussions

Each familia will be responsible for facilitating and writing questions for a Zoom discussion on several pre-assigned chapters from *The Book of Unknown Americans*. You will be required to prepare for this discussion and lead it together, as a familia. Before leading discussion, each familia will be required to clear its discussion plans with me. After the discussion, each member will write a 2 page double-spaced reflection on how he or she learned from, or contributed to, facilitating the discussion.

Plagiarism

The Random House Dictionary defines plagiarism as “the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one’s own original work.” Plagiarized work will receive a failing grade, with no exceptions. In some cases, it may result in being reported to the dean of students and/or a failing grade in the course. If you are unsure whether something qualifies as plagiarism, talk to me about it BEFORE turning in the work. If you want to include the ideas or words of others in your writing, you must be sure to cite them correctly.

Revision Policy

You can revise any essay except the final or the writing sample for a better grade, provided that you make significant changes, and keep up with current work. Please contact me beforehand, so that we can discuss your revision plans and decide on a due date. When you turn in your revision, please let me know what changes you made. Otherwise, I can't accept the revision. Writing revisions is one of the best ways to improve your grade.

Course Etiquette

An atmosphere of respect is central to this class. All students should feel comfortable participating in discussions, debates, and peer review workshops. Questions and critical thinking are encouraged, but disrespect, including insults, non-constructive criticism, and refusal to participate, will not be tolerated. Log in ready to learn with an open, focused mind.

Private Conferences

Each student is required to have at least THREE private conferences with me and will earn 10 points for completing each of these visits. (At least one needs to be a Zoom conference, either with or without video. After that, exchanging two or more emails with me about a paper will also count as an appointment.) Please make additional appointments with me as often as you like. I want you to become a better writer, and I'm here to help.

DSS

De Anza has great support services for people with disabilities. If you have already worked with Disabled Student Services and have had accommodations in the past, please contact them immediately, so they can officially let me know what your needs are for this quarter. If you have, or think you might have, a permanent or temporary disability, don't be afraid to check them out! They'll help you figure out what kind of help you need. As someone with a physical disability, I used college support services to help me succeed as both an undergraduate and graduate student at UC Berkeley, and get my doctorate. Here's how you can reach DSS:

Email: dss@deanza.edu

Phone: 408.864.8753

SSC

The Student Success Center (SSC) has created a Canvas "class" website about their resources, and I highly recommend that you sign up for it. Link You'll learn all about tutors and workshops that can help you succeed this quarter and beyond, including Writing and Reading Center peer tutors that can give you extra help with any stage of your writing, for any class.

Final Notes

Always make a copy of your work and back up your files.

Save all essays and homework until the end of the quarter.

You can choose to take the course P/NP or Credit/ NC. If you want to do this, make sure to visit De Anza's My Portal website and change your grading option by the official deadline. If you receive a NC or NP, you must repeat the course.

If you stop logging in or doing assignments without notifying me, and you have not officially withdrawn yourself by the deadline, you will receive a failing grade

Contact me first when you have questions or concerns about the class. I will respond to your email within 24 hours.

Useful Links

Canvas Student Guides (Links to an external site.): Answers to frequently asked Canvas questions

De Anza Online Learning Link (Links to an external site.)