

**(Office Hours:** (On Zoom) MW 1:00-2:00 PM

**Syllabus for EWRT D001A 66Z: Composition and Reading (Fall 2021)**

(5 units): CRN# **00859**

**Instructor:** Charles Gray

**Instruction:** online

**Instruction dates:** 9/20/21-12/10/21

- **Office:** NA
- **email:** charlesleonardgray@gmail.com
- **Office Hours:** (On Zoom) T 12:00-1:00 PM

**Important Dates:**

- Last Day to Add: 10/2/21
- Census Date: 10/4/21
- Last Day for Drops w/ Refund: 10/3/21
- Last Day for Drops w/o W: 10/3/21
- Last Day for Drops: 11/12/21

**Course Description (time requirements)**

- Reading and writing are both time consuming activities, but individuals vary widely in the rates at which they do either or both. I think it would be prudent to schedule **at least 15 hours of time each week** dedicated to the reading and writing for this course.

**Course Description (content)**

- This course will be divided into six modules.
- Each module will have assigned readings from two novels, a collection of essays, and materials posted on our Canvas website.
- All modules will have a 20-point writing assignment in response to the content of the module.
- Each module will have an open discussion where students can ask questions about course content and procedures and interact in various ways analogous to a real

classroom.

- There will be four major writing assignments as detailed below.
- This course will look at Western Genre Fiction in contrast with Literary Fiction by reading two novels (listed in “Required Texts”).
- This course will look at essay structure and technique by reading very recent essays by prominent writers.
- This course will emphasize MLA format for substantial essay writing projects stemming from class reading and discussion.

### **Required Texts**

- 1) Portis, *True Grit* (ISBN: 9781590204597)
- 2) McCarthy, *No Country for Old Men* (ISBN: 9780307387134)
- 3) Aciman (ed.) *The Best American Essays: 2020* (ISBN: 9780358359913)

### **Student Learning Outcomes for this Course**

- EWRT1A\_SLO\_1: Practice writing as a multi-step process including planning and revising with attention to varying purposes, audiences, and rhetorical strategies.
- EWRT1A\_SLO\_2: Read and analyze rhetorically and culturally diverse narrative and expository texts from a variety of perspectives.

### **How the grades work**

- There will be **four** major writing assignments. Each of these assignments will be worth **100 points**. Details of the assignments are below.
- There will be **six** short written responses worth **20 points each**.
- Each student will keep a learning journal dedicated to this class. The details of how to make journal entries will be published on the Canvas website.

- The final grade for the class will be based mostly on the scores given on the written assignments. The standing assignment of the learning journal, along with participation on the discussion boards in the individual modules will be considered and may add or detract a half grade (+ or -) from the final course grade.
- The total score of all assignments completed by the student will be divided by the total possible score to yield a percentage, which will translate to a letter grade roughly as seen here:
  - 60-F, 61-D-, 62-D-, 63-D, 64-D, 65-D, 66-D+, 67-D+, 68-D+, 69-D+, 70-C-, 71-C-, 72-C-, 73-C, 74-C, 75-C, 76-C+, 77-C+, 78-C+, 79-C+, 80-B-, 81-B-, 82-B-, 83-B, 84-B, 85-B, 86-B+ 87-B+, 88-B+, 89-B+, 90-A-, 91-A-, 92-A-, 93-A, 94-A, 95-A, 96-A+, 97-A+, 98-A+, 99-A+, 100-A+

### **Basic Rules for Everyone:**

- 1) All course work must be turned in to the Canvas website; **there are no exceptions to this.**
- 2) All assignments must be turned in on time! Two late assignments **may** limit you to a grade that is one half grade below that indicated by the written grades. **No excuses** are accepted for late work (There are no exceptions to this.), so be very careful about due dates. Work may be turned in up to one week late, but it will be marked as late. Please do not email me and request an extension; just submit your work as soon as possible. The Canvas time stamp will be the ultimate arbiter of lateness.
- 3) There are no extra credit assignments though I may add small assignments (such as quizzes or short essays) to the course point total in the course of the semester.
- 4) No “incomplete” grades will be awarded, so be aware of the final drop date with “W.” After that date, you must be given a letter grade.

### **Academic Integrity Policy**

The entirety of the college’s academic integrity policy is in force at all times in this class. The details of that policy can be seen on the college website and in the student handbook. Specific to this class is that **any** work submitted containing plagiarized material will receive a grade of **one**, and this can have serious consequences for your grade and your student status. Do not expect flexibility or sympathy in this area. If you have **any** questions about what materials to use or how to use them, please ask me.

**Student Success Center** (This information may change due to the coronavirus. The latest

information will be on the college website.)

Need help? De Anza's Student Success Center offers free online and on-campus tutoring and workshops! Visit <http://www.deanza.edu/studentsuccess> for our hours and information. Or just stop by to chat or sign up!

- Academic Skills Center for workshops in ATC 302
- General Subject tutoring in ATC 304
- Listening & Speaking and World Language support in ATC 313
- Math, Science and Technology tutoring in S43
- Writing and Reading tutoring in ATC 309

Student Success Center Resources are available online to all De Anza students on Canvas: <https://deanza.instructure.com/enroll/MAF7Y8>

### **Major Writing Assignments** (may not be due in this order)

- Listed below are basic assignment topics. Detailed prompts for each assignment will appear on the Canvas website for the class.

#### **I. Discuss the Myth of the West:** Maximum 1500 words **(100 points)**

- Give the general story contained in the myth and comment on its relationship to current super-hero stories and police and detective stories.

#### **II. Discuss Bell, Moss, Cogburn, and LaBoeuf as mythic heroes:** Maximum 1500 words **(100 points)**

- Are they prototypical cowboys? Are they all good?

#### **III. Discuss Anton Chigurh, Tom Chaney, and Lucky Ned Pepper as mythic villains:** Maximum 1500 words, MLA format **(100 points)**

- A character study of the antagonists and other bad guys in *No Country for Old Men* and *True Grit*

#### **IV. Literature or Pulp?:** Maximum 1500 words, MLA format **(100 points)**

- Discuss *No Country for Old Men* and *True Grit* as literary fiction or genre fiction.

**Smaller writing assignments** (may not be due in this order)

**I. Responses:** There will be **six** short essay responses to texts and ideas arising from the weekly modules (**20 points**).

- These responses will be MLA-style essays of approximately 400 words.
- These essays will be nearly weekly and grow out of materials in the individual modules.

**II. Learning Journal:** Each student will keep a learning journal in a physical journal or electronic document (**10 points**).

- Supporting materials for creating a learning journal will appear on the Canvas website.