

EWRT 1A Syllabus Winter 2024

Office Hours on campus: T 12-1:20 TH 12-1:00

Zoom only W 5-6pm and by appointment

Office hour Zoom link:

<https://fhda-edu.zoom.us/j/8253047038>

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WELCOME TO EWRT 1A!

Course Themes: Freedom and Happiness; Pathways and Roadblocks

How are we imprisoned, and how do we block our own happiness? We all want the freedom to find out who we really are, to explore the world, to have a life that is meaningful, one where we have the opportunity to experience true happiness. Yet we may find ourselves trapped, imprisoned psychologically, socially or literally, unable to discover a path to happiness and fulfillment. In this course, we will use writing and reading to explore how people express this drive to free their bodies, minds and communities and create more fulfilling lives.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- EWRT 1A: Practice writing as a multi-step process including planning and revising with attention to varying purposes, audiences, and rhetorical strategies.
- Read and analyze rhetorically and culturally diverse narrative and expository texts from a variety of perspectives.

Course Goals: Students who engage the course with diligence and curiosity will gain confidence and competence in

- Writing effective, multi-source academic essays
- Reading critically to understand and use organizational patterns
- Distinguishing between surface, “literal” reading and interpretation
- Discovering connections, patterns and analogies in order to compare and evaluate alternative points of view, values and meanings, including those from research sources.
- Writing as a complex, cyclical process of discovery, planning, drafting and revising

Required Text: available at De Anza College Bookstore

- *Kindred* by Octavia Butler
- All other course materials will be available via Canvas

Writing Requirements: Students will write about 6,000-7,000 words, including

- Four essays 3-5 pages long based on the course readings and personal experience.
- An in-class essay
- Process work (outlines, drafts and workshops)

All final drafts will be submitted via Canvas. It's best to write outside Canvas and save frequently because sometimes the website freezes up. Keep copies of all your work in case you run into problems.

Reading and Homework: I have designed the reading and other assignments to help you write better essays and become a stronger reader. In order to participate in class and benefit from each meeting, you must do the assignments listed in the schedule **before class**. Homework that is late for any reason will lose ten percent. I do not give credit for homework that is more than a week late.

Participation: Presenting ideas to a group is a crucial academic and job skill and I want to promote your growth in this area. Quieter students should challenge themselves to break out of their safety zone and become more engaged; likewise, those who always talk in discussion need to be aware of making room for others. I will work to foster De Anza's mutual respect policy in the classroom.

Attendance is required. Attend every meeting, arrive on time, bring the textbooks, be prepared to write and participate, take notes on lecture and discussion, and stay for the whole class. I do not grade on attendance, but you can't participate if you are not in class, so your participation grade will suffer if you are absent even a couple of times. In addition:

- If you miss 2 class meetings, you will be dropped from the course.
- Arriving more than 5 minutes late or leaving early will count as half of an absence.

Communicate if you're having trouble! Send me email and come to the office 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.

Grading for EWRT 1A Essays and quizzes--75% Process work (prewriting, organizer, draft, online discussion--20% Class participation--5%	Grading Scale: A 93% and above; A- 90-92%; B+ 87-89%; B 83-86%; B- 80-82%; C+ 77-79%; C 70-76%; D+ 67-69%; D 63-66%; D- 60-62%; F below 60%
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*Note: I will “round” your total course grade to whole numbers, so that 89.5 will round up to 90 (an A-) and 89.4 will round down to 89 (a B+).

Extra Credit: You will have the opportunity to revise one essay for grade improvement (the new grade will erase the old one, including any late penalty if applicable). You can earn up to 5 extra participation points by attending a De Anza career, transfer or literary event and submitting a one paragraph summary of it.

Late work: Any paper turned in after the due date will be considered late and it will lose one letter grade (10%). Late essays and homework can be turned in for **ONLY one week after the deadline**. In class essays **MUST** be written on the scheduled date. However, if there are circumstances beyond your control we might be able to work out an extension of essay writing deadlines if you discuss the issues with me before the due date and if the situation warrants an exception.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism and cheating include copying someone else’s test or homework, cutting and pasting from an online source without quoting, using others’ ideas without citing the source, getting someone else to write it up using your outline, using artificial intelligence to write for you, and any other small or large act of academic forgery. The penalty is, at *minimum, a “0” on that assignment*, and it could result in an “F” in the course. In addition, **all** cases of cheating and plagiarism will be reported to De Anza College administrators who may expel habitual cheaters.

- **Missing or plagiarized work receives a “0” grade, twice as low as an “F.”** Therefore, missing or plagiarized essays have the effect of two failing grades.

Student Resources: Feel free to visit my office or email me. I enjoy helping students, so don’t be shy. If your schedule conflicts with my office hours, I can make an individual appointment. Free tutoring is also available to you in the WRC (Writing and Reading Center, ATC 309). As part of the EWRT 250 course, you will also be required to meet three times with either a tutor, counselor or me.

Equal Opportunity: Access to education is a fundamental human right regardless of background, immigration status or disability. If you have questions about how your immigration status may impact your educational opportunities, please talk to me so that I can help you find useful resources. If you need an accommodation for any disability, such as vision, hearing, learning disabilities, psychological or other medical conditions, you should discuss this with me within the first two weeks of school. I am happy to work with you to meet your needs.