

# Critical Read, Writing, and Thinking Syllabus

## “Stolen Moments with Art”

### General Class Information:

**Instructor:** Jamie Joseph (josephjamie@fhda.edu)

**My Office Hours:** Thursdays from 10:30-1pm via Zoom

I'll also be on campus on Tuesdays if you want to meet in person. My office is F11J. You can find me there from 10-10:30am, 12:15-12:45pm, and by appointment.

**Mandatory Class Time:** Tuesdays from 10:30-12:20 in AT103

### Student Learning Outcomes:

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

### Course Description:

English 2 is a transfer-level course that applies critical thinking skills to reading and writing, with particular focus on argument and issue-oriented readings.

### Required Texts:

You will choose ONE of the following books to read for this class:

1. [\*The Art Thief: A True Story of Love, Crime, and a Dangerous Obsession\* by Michael Finkel](#)

2. [\*All the Beauty in the World: The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Me\* by Patrick Bringley](#)
3. [\*Your Brain on Art: How the Arts Transform Us\* by Susan Magsamen and Ivy Ross](#)

You must select and obtain one of these three books by the end of week 2. You can purchase it from the De Anza Bookstore, on your own, or borrow from any local libraries. Please also obtain any kind of creative journal to take notes and draw in. Access to a computer for activities, readings, and assignments on Canvas is necessary. If you do not have access to a computer at home, please make use of one of the many computer labs on campus. Checking email daily is required.

## Course Requirements:

- Participation in class discussions and regular attendance in face-to-face class
- Completion of readings and assignments
- Weekly informal shared writing on class topics
- A progression of five formal writing assignments:
  - Visual Analysis Essay (this paper is an integrated assignment with Arts 1A)
  - Inquiry Proposal
  - Annotated Bibliography
  - Research Essay (this paper is an integrated assignment with Arts 1A)
  - Final Reflection
- Quizzes, presentations, and in-class assignments, such as annotation and journals
- Use of your own creative journal for brainstorming, drawings, and collages.

## Participation and Attendance:

Attendance in class and consistent class participation in-person and online are extremely important to your success in this course.

Participation includes doing all work asked of you in the weekly modules, maintaining a positive learning environment for your classmates and contributing to class discussions. Participation and respect for one another go hand in hand. Please respect each other and help create a safe space for classroom discussions even if you have opposing ideas.

## Reading:

English 2 is critical reading, writing and thinking. We'll be reading challenging, college-level works (measured by vocabulary, complexity of ideas, and stylistic sophistication) that reflect and examine cultural, ethnic, gender/sexual, socioeconomic, and other forms of diversity. Since this class is paired with Visual Arts, we'll examine images and read texts closely with a critical eye. Reading is a fundamental skill in college, and I'm happy to teach you several strategies and techniques for reading texts more deeply, effectively and competently.

## Weekly Writing Discussions:

Our weekly informal Canvas discussions and peer responses are my ultimate multi-tasking creation. They allow you to practice, practice, practice writing, specifically analysis. They show me that you've read the texts and have thought about them carefully. They reflect the social nature of real-world writing (think blogs, tweets, etc.) and allow you to hone that skill as you listen and respond thoughtfully to one another.

## Quizzes:

Be prepared for "pop up" reading and vocabulary quizzes to check for comprehension and critical thinking. My philosophy about quizzes is that they help the learner assess their own knowledge. They are not meant to be punitive but fun exercises that you can try yourself when you want to test your own knowledge of a subject.

## Creative Journal:

Your creative journal is a place for you to brainstorm, freewrite, and respond to classroom discussion questions, prompts and other critical thinking questions. You are free to write or draw in your journal. Never underestimate the power of a journal to spark ideas and to break down the barriers of writer's block. You'll make a presentation of this Creative Journal for the class to see at the end of the quarter.

## Essay Preparation:

Essay writing in this course involves process: prewriting, drafting, revising and editing. All the steps of the writing process, such as brainstorming, journaling, freewriting, ideation, drafting, visiting me and/or the WRC, peer editing and revising will be taken into consideration in the grading of each assignment. Because we will engage in process step by step, we'll try to avoid procrastination.

## Essays:

The bulk of your grade in this class will come from my assessment of your formal essays. In EWRT2, students are required to write 6,000 words. We will achieve this through five major writing assignments: Visual Analysis, Inquiry Proposal, Annotated Bibliography, Research Argument, and Final Reflection. All formal writing must be revised and edited (with peers and tutors), and we will use Turnitin (a plagiarism checker) for each essay.

## Presentations:

We will periodically have mini (group and individual) class presentations that are informal but educational on our class theme. I will add mini presentations to help the class engage in the material with the understanding that teaching something to others is the best way to know the material yourself.

## Grading:

Formal Essay Assignments will be worth roughly 70% of your final grade. Homework, Quizzes, and Participation will be worth 30% of your final grade. Your grade for this class can easily be found on Canvas throughout the quarter. Note: only you and I can view your grade.

Final grades will be based on the following breakdown:

A+=4.0, A=4.0, A-=3.7, B+=3.3, B=3.0, B-=2.7, C+=2.3, C=2.0, C-=1.7, D+=1.3, D=1.0, D-=0.7, F=0.0

A=93-100, A-=90-93, B+=87-89, B=83-87, B-=80-82, C+=77-79, C=73-77, C-=70-72, D+=67-69, D=63-66, D-=60-62, F=0-59

## Important Course Policies:

### Policy on Late Papers and Homework:

I know that life happens, so I will accept late homework (discussions/informal writing) 24 hours past the due date without penalty. After 24, I will reduce your grade by a whole letter grade (i.e. an A becomes a B). Assignments that are more than a week late will be

given a C as the highest possible score. If you require an extension for a formal essay, you must tell me well ahead of time that you need one.

### **Policy on Extra Credit:**

Because I am very generous with offering lots of informal points (completed work gets full credit on homework), and because I allow for late work (see above), I do not offer any extra credit.

### **Plagiarism and Academic Integrity:**

Academic integrity means being honest and open about the work you do for school. It means standing behind your own work and giving credit to the proper people when you borrow work from other sources. Academic dishonesty, also known as plagiarism, is when you use another person's words without giving that person credit. Remember that plagiarism is a punishable offense and can result in serious disciplinary action. Your submitted essays will run through a plagiarism checker, so please be mindful of giving credit and quoting properly.

Some of you may be aware of AI Chatbots that are able to compose essays. Taking phrases, sentences, or ideas from a chatbot, while not a person, is still plagiarism. I also want to caution you of the limitations of AI chatbots. If a chatbot were taking this course and completing the assignments, they would get a D. The sentences are clean, but the ideas are overly general and lack any critical thinking or development. For that reason alone, it's unwise to pass off Chatbot writing as your own.

If you are having trouble developing your own words or ideas, or you find it difficult to correctly give credit to your sources, you can always ask for help.

### **Tips for Success:**

- Attend class on Tuesdays even when you are not in the mood. Seeing each other may even boost your mood!
- Come prepared and ready to learn and engage. Of course, you are allowed one grumpy day per quarter.
- Come to virtual office hours and ask for help! That's my job.
- Please let me know if you need any accommodations!
- Careful to turn in your assignments on time. I have to take off points for late assignments to be fair to all students who turn their work on time.

### **Tutoring and Academic Support:**

Need help with reading or writing? De Anza College has many resources, both online and on campus, to help you be successful in your college classes. If you have any questions about them, please feel free to ask me!

**WRC (Writing and Reading Center)** <https://www.deanza.edu/studentsuccess/wrc/>

Located in ATC 309. Contact Director Diana Alves de Lima at (408) 864-8485 or [alvesdelimadiana@fhda.edu](mailto:alvesdelimadiana@fhda.edu) for more information.

The WRC offers drop-in and weekly tutoring to help your writing and reading needs. Need help with an essay? Confused about an assignment? Go see them! Many of the tutors are former students who have experience with the assignments. (P.S. it's free!)

**SmartThinking** <https://www.deanza.edu/studentsuccess/onlinetutoring/>

Online tutoring available through MyPortal. Unable to come to campus? Then, online tutoring is for you! SmartThinking offers trained tutors that can help you with your writing and reading. 5 free hours per quarter.

## Tech Support and Canvas Help:

For technology support you can visit the [Online Education Center](#)

Located in MLC 210; Contact them at: (408) 864-8969 or email them: [onlineeducation@deanza.edu](mailto:onlineeducation@deanza.edu)

Need help with Canvas? Please contact the [helpdesk](#) to submit a request.

## Disability Services:

If you have any disability that might affect how you participate in the course, please let me know right away. I am committed to creating an inclusive, equitable classroom. Please know that I am not only a teacher in the classroom, I am also a student, and I am happy to learn from you and your diverse learning style.

### Disability Support Services:

<https://www.deanza.edu/library/index.html>

Located in RSS 141 (near the bookstore). Contact them at (408) 864-8753.

DSS supports students with disabilities reach their “personal, vocational, and educational goals.” Please let me know if you need any assistance contacting DSS.

## Library:

[De Anza's Library](#) is a great place to find books, articles, and films. You'll also find computer labs for your use, and wonderful study rooms.

Library: 9:00 am - 7:00 pm, Monday through Thursday.

Lab: 9:00 am - 7:00 pm, Monday through Thursday.

- Contact the Circulation Desk at (408) 864-8761
- Contact the Reference Desk at (408) 864-8479
- Contact the Library West Computer Lab at (408) 864-8850

## Technology Resources:

Looking for a place with wifi to study? Need help with research? Need to borrow a laptop? The De Anza College Library has you covered! In addition to providing a quiet place to study, library offers the following services:

- WIFI
- Borrow a laptop
- Computer Lab
- Assistive Technology Workstations for students with disabilities.

## Counseling:

De Anza College's Counselors and Academic Advisors are here to help you on your academic journey! Contact them to set up an Ed Plan or for other help with your classes.

- Meet with a [General Counselor](#) to help you map out your learning path
- You can also meet with a [Language Arts Counselor](#)

Located in RSS 201; Contact (408) 864-5400 for more information.

## Inclusivity Policy for This Class:

This is an inclusive learning space. Students of all backgrounds are welcome. In this class we will be reading and writing about ideas related to culture and identity. We will share our views on current topics using argumentative writing. My expectations for you is that you will join me in making our class a safe and supportive space where we can express

different viewpoints and experiences with mutual respect for the varied diversity, identity, and thoughts we bring to this class.

## De Anza Resource for Inclusivity:

The [Office of Equity, Social Justice, and Multicultural Education](#) are core elements of the De Anza College Mission Statement. We have many great programs on campus to accomplish these goals. Contact the Equity Office for more information!

Located in MLC 250; Contact Adriana Garcia at (408) 864-5636

## Basic Needs:

If you are struggling to provide basic needs like food, housing, or childcare, De Anza can help.

Please visit De Anza's website for [Resources for Basic Needs](#).

On this site, you'll find help and resources for:

- Food Assistance
- Housing Resources
- Mental Health Resources
- Transportation Resources
- Resources for Students who are Parents