

EWRT 2: Critical Reading, Writing and Thinking (Fall 2024)

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Class Format: Asynchronous/No zooming

Office Hours: M-Friday by zoom appointment. You can request an Office Hour anytime during the week, and I will work with your schedule.

The Meaning of Place(s) and Social Responsibility in Contemporary Young Adult Literature and Society

Prerequisite: A passing grade in EWRT 1A, 1AH, or LART 250/EWRT 1A.

Course Description: From the official Course Outline: This course allows students to develop critical thinking skills and the ability to apply these skills to reading and writing. Students will practice analytical and argumentative academic essays based on the reading of complex texts, and the use of outside research leading to analysis, comparison and synthesis, and a documented research paper.

Purpose and Objectives: In EWRT 2 we will focus on development of analytical, integrative skills in reading and writing; academic (interpretive, analytical, argumentative) writing based largely on reading of literary/imaginative texts linked by a common theme or issue; and outside research leading to analysis, comparison, and synthesis in a documented research paper. During the term, we will study elements of argument and persuasion necessary to write critical, research-oriented essays while paying close attention to rhetorical concepts of audience and authorial voice. Throughout the quarter, students will be conducting searches (through our library and through on-line catalogues) to collect factual and critical materials as well as learning the MLA style of quoting and documentation.

Course Content: We will analyze multiple genre works centering on our course theme of “The Meaning of Place(s) and Social Responsibility in Contemporary Young Adult Literature and Society”: including essay, memoir, graphic fiction, shorter and fuller length novels that broadly center on themes of the meaning of place(s) and social responsibility across the identity contexts of race, class, ethnicity, genders, and sexuality, etc. We will also be viewing companion films and short videos to supplement our study of the literary texts. Each of our primary texts is in the broader Young Adult genre of literature as a way to center your own responses as young adults in society. As above, you also will be researching and writing a Research Project about a current issue in society that you want to explore.

Student Learning Outcome Statements (SLOs):

*Apply critical thinking skills to writing and complex readings.

*Demonstrate academic (analytical, argumentative) writing based on reading of complex texts.

*Demonstrate analysis, comparison, synthesis, and documentation of independent research.

Method: This advanced transfer level course is designed to foster a deepening of intellectual development and writing sophistication begun in English 1A. Students will be writing as much and as often as possible, both in and out of class, while exploring a variety of research methods. In addition, there will be frequent reading assignments where students will be developing critical thinking and reading skills. Our ongoing study will involve the serious consideration of expository, autobiographical, fictional, and visual representations. Throughout the course readings, we will underscore social and historical themes of courage, community, activism, and positive change.

Weekly Modules on Canvas: Each week will have a combination of **ASSIGNMENTS, READINGS,** and a class **DISCUSSION FORUM** question(s). There will also be "**lecture**" materials, in **PAGEs** in the Modules, that you are meant to read over to guide you through the assignments. **You submit your essay assignments directly to Canvas.**

Assignments: Students will be responsible for completing the following assignments: **writing two shorter essays; writing a lengthy, Research-based Project; and completing a comprehensive Final Exam** on our major texts that we will be reading. Class participation will also center on your participation in our weekly **Discussion Forums.**

A.I.: Artificial Intelligence Sources:

As will all of our essays for our class, please do not use A.I. to generate content and/or to write any of your essays – including your Research Project. That is considered plagiarism and will receive a Failing Grade for a given assignment and possibly for the course. As I will encourage throughout our class, our essays are for you to explore and develop your own voice, your own ideas, and your own writing at increasing levels of sophistication. I will give specific guidance for each essay assignment and about the research for the Research Project.

Turning in Assignments: Formal assignments will usually be due on the following Mondays at 2:00 p.m. (rather than Sunday nights at midnight to give you a bit more time). Each weekly Module will open to students every Monday by 2:00 p.m., and you will receive weekly email reminder letters from me by that time as well. Hopefully, this will give you flexibility throughout the quarter. You comment in the Discussion Forum sections during the week. The Syllabus and Course Calendar for the entire quarter are in the first Canvas Module, so you can see when the books are due to be read and when major assignments are so you can plan ahead for the quarter if that is helpful for you.

Grading: Since EWRT 2 is a composition and introductory literature course, the majority of the weight of grading will be assigned to written work. Students will receive letter grades according to the A-F plus or minus system. Overall, students will be evaluated in the following areas:

Essay #1 (Place Narrative)	= 15%
Essay #2 (Oral History/Research)	= 20%
Research Project/Cont. Social Issues	= 25%
Final Exam (Comprehensive Final Essay)	= 20%
Class Participation	= 20%

Class Participation: Please keep up with reading the 4 books and posting a thoughtful comment for each weekly Discussion Forum; those are the primary ongoing assignments to establish your Class Participation in the course.

Policies: Late papers will be downgraded 1/3 of a letter grade for each late day. In order to pass this course, *all* required work must be completed. **If any student plagiarizes on an essay or an exam**, then that student will receive a failing grade for the course and be subject to further disciplining by the college.

Office Hours: I will be writing a weekly letter to the class every Monday to stay in regular communication since this class is asynchronous with no zooming. For Office Hours, they are by appointment, so email me and we can arrange a zoom time that fits with your schedule. For questions and comments, please email me directly rather than through Canvas, so I will see your emails faster.

Required Texts:

Breaking Through – Francisco Jiménez
After the Shot Drops – Randy Ribay
Speak: The Graphic Novel – Laura Halse Anderson
The Hate U Give – Angie Thomas

You can order the books through the De Anza College bookstore, or you can find PDF versions on line. We will also be watching related films and videos to support the reading and writing process throughout the quarter.

Films: *McFarland, USA*
Speak
The Hate You Give

Videos: There will be short videos listed on our calendar, and posted within Canvas, as supplemental material to our ongoing readings.

Abilities Accommodations and Resources: Please email me with any accommodations needs; I am here to assist you at any time. Disability Support Services can be contacted directly at dss@deanza.edu and (408) 864-8753. Ongoing zoom appointments are available.

Resources Outside the Classroom: Students can still access the Writing and Reading Center for tutorial help via Zoom. The **Student Success Center** offers free tutoring for most De Anza classes in English, Math, and other subjects. See <http://www.deanza.edu/studentsuccess> for details and their ongoing workshop schedule.

Writing and Reading Center (WRC) supports De Anza College's mission by fostering dynamic, diverse, empowering experiences that cultivate and celebrate learning through writing and reading. The WRC offers several services to help you succeed, offering: 30-minute zoom drop-in individual tutoring for writing and reading; hour-long weekly individual tutoring.

College Resources: Please continue to look at the De Anza College webpage to see ongoing resources for students including our Food Pantry: <https://www.deanza.edu/resources/index.html> and Mental Health and Wellness Center <https://www.deanza.edu/mhwc/>.

Class Reminder: Please note that students, faculty, and staff are still continuing to get sick via covid. We will work together on our major assignments and communicate via Canvas and email knowing that there may still ongoing challenges that we will address together as the quarter progresses.

The De Anza College Library: The librarians are still available to assist you in-person and over email with your research needs for the Research Project. They can help you find and evaluate sources as you gather materials for your research project via zoom appointment and/or in person.