

## EWRT 1Az Syllabus

**Instructor:** Mr. Jonah Hoyle

**Websites:** Canvas (w/Turnitin) + noredink.com

**Online Office hours:** M-F 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

**Contact:** Use the "Inbox" feature on the left sidebar in Canvas to message me. As a backup, you can reach me via email: hoylejonah@fhda.edu (but please try the Canvas message system first).

### **Course Description + Objectives**

In this class you'll practice reading closely and actively, and you'll refine your ability to write effective and compelling analytical and persuasive essays. We'll cover the basics—how to craft a strong thesis statement and structure an argument—but the overall objective of this course is to deepen your understanding of writing as a process, and to ensure that, as a reader, writer, and critical thinker, you're equipped to move on to upper-level college English.

### **Student Learning Outcome Statements (SLO)**

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

### **Grading**

You can check your grade on individual assignments, as well as your overall course percentage, by clicking on the "Grades" tab in the Canvas sidebar. Here's how the points break down for this course:

Essay 1 = 50 points

Essay 2 = 50 points

Essay 3 = 100 points

Essay 4 = 10 points

Discussion forums: 35 points

Quizzes: 40 points

Essay Drafts and Peer Reviews: 30 points

NoRedInk: 6 points

At quarter's end your points earned divided by the total points in the course will be your overall course percentage, which converts to a letter grade like this:

A      100 %      to 94.5%

A-     < 94.5 %    to 89.5%

B+ < 89.5 % to 86.5%

B < 86.5 % to 83.5%

B- < 83.5 % to 79.5%

C+ < 79.5 % to 74.5%

C < 74.5 % to 69.5%

D+ < 69.5 % to 66.5%

D < 66.5 % to 63.5%

D- < 63.5 % to 59.5%

F < 59.5 % to 0.0%

### **Discussion Forums**

Our discussion forums will serve as a place for you to test out ideas and develop opinions as you work towards writing each essay. I encourage you to post freely and to try to stretch your ability to articulate complicated, perhaps even conflicting, ideas. See the page titled "Discussion Forum Grading Criteria" for details on how I'll grade forum posts that ask you to respond to required reading.

### **Late Work**

Forums close at 11:59 p.m. on Thursdays or Sundays. I'll generally accept late posts as long as they're thoughtful and show real engagement with the texts and with your classmates' posts. Quizzes close at 11:59 p.m. on Thursdays or Sundays. Peer Review will go for three days. You cannot make up peer review, and I cannot grant extensions. Turnitin's system doesn't offer that capability.

With major essays, you'll lose 10% if you miss the deadline (e.g. -5 on a 50 point essay) and then an additional 10% of the original assignment value for each day after that (e.g. -5 for one day, -10 after 24 hours, -15 after 48 hours, etc). The late penalty is assessed after your essay has been graded (e.g. if your essay is scored as a 44/50 but was submitted late, your score gets marked down to 39/50).

Read the "Start Here" page at the top of each module each week, and check it regularly, along with the Canvas course calendar, to avoid missing deadlines.

### **Extra Credit**

In the past, I haven't offered extra credit opportunities in this course because doing so often means students feel they can skip assignments and still get an A. I don't want to encourage that type of thinking, so extra credit is limited to one optional late-quarter discussion forum where you'll have the chance to earn extra points in a way that (I hope) meaningfully contributes to the

development of your essay and allows you to make up for any minor missteps you may have made throughout the quarter.

### **Dropping the Course**

De Anza rules stipulate that it is the student's responsibility to drop a course, so please use the portal to drop if you're no longer participating. **If you fail to log in to this course in Canvas during any seven consecutive days of the quarter I may drop you from the course.**

### **Plagiarism**

In its most basic form, plagiarism is copying text from a source without citing the source or putting the copied text in quotation marks. But there are other forms of plagiarism, including self-plagiarism (submitting work you've done for another class) and inadvertent plagiarism. If Turnitin catches you plagiarizing, you'll get a 0 on the assignment and I'll report you to [De Anza's Office of Academic Integrity](#).

**If you'd like additional help with your writing**, the [Student Success Center](#) offers a variety of support services, and De Anza also provides free access to [Smarthinking](#), an online tutoring service. You may also be eligible to work with a De Anza counselor who specializes in helping students succeed in writing courses by going here: [English Performance Success](#).

**If you're having technical issues related to Canvas** the first troubleshoot is simply to log out, wait a few minutes, and then log back in again. If the problem persists, contact tech support by going to the "Help" button on the far left sidebar in Canvas.

**Finally:** Although I don't assign group projects in this course, the level of discourse in the forums and the give/get of peer review depend very much on the commitment each of you brings to the class. You'll be graded individually on every assignment, but when it comes to determining your final grade, I factor in the extent to which you contributed to the overall success of the class. This whole enterprise is essentially a group project, in that sense, so let's work together to make life and learning a little less painful. If we do, we might even manage to have a bit of fun along the way.