

(Office Hours: TTH 11:15-12:15 in Baldwin Winery)

## **Syllabus for EWRT D002.21Y: Critical Reading, Writing, and Thinking**

(5 units): CRN#: 34615

**Instructor:** Charles Gray

**Instruction:** L36 1:30-2:20 PM

**Instruction dates:** 01/09/23-03/31/23

**Office:** Baldwin Winery

**email:** charlesleonardgray@gmail.com

**Office Hours:** TTh 11:15-12:15 in Baldwin Winery

### **Important Dates:**

Last Day for Adds 01/21/23

Census Date 01/23/23

Last Day for Drops w/  
Refund 01/22/23

Last Day for Drops w/o W 01/22/23

Last Day for Drops 03/03/23

### **Course Description (time requirements)**

- This is a 5-unit EWRT class.
- A conventional 5-unit course would entail 60 in-class hours and 120 out-of-class hours
- I reckon that students taking the course in this format must engage with course materials 12-15 hours per week to keep up with the required course work. That amounts to nearly two hours per day.

## **Course Description (content)**

In this course we will be developing our skills in critical thinking, reading, and writing. To me that means learning how to identify truths (or untruths) that are expressed to us in texts and other media as well as refining our skills in writing such truths as we can discover.

In pursuing of these goals we will be reading and writing about works by Plato, Bertrand Russell, Rene Descartes and others who have contributed mightily over the centuries to the pursuit and expression of such truths as are available to us. We will also be reading narratives by Jorge Luis Borges and others featuring philosophical content in operation in worlds recognizably similar to our own.

My aim is to help you develop a powerful vocabulary for conceptual analysis that will contribute to improved critical reading and writing skills that will serve you well in all of your other academic endeavors.

## **Required Texts and Materials**

All of the texts we will be working with together will be on our Canvas website or online.

The Plato and Descartes texts we are using are English translations of Ancient Greek and French respectively. These works are very famous, and many translations exist for them. You are welcome to study with translations in whatever language you wish, but all references in your assignments must be to English translations.

I will be using the following translations in my lesson preparations. They are not available online as far as I know, but they can be purchased very inexpensively, and I recommend that you do so:

Plato, *Theaetetus*. Translated by M.J. Levitt (0-87220-158-9)

Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*. Translated by Donald A. Cress (0'87220-420-0)

Additionally, you will need one or more blank bound composition books 9.75" X 7.50" for journal writing and blank sheets of 8.5 X 11 lined paper and pen for in-class writing assignments.

It is highly recommended that you bring an online devise such as a laptop or smart phone to class sessions for research purposes.

## **SLO's**

EWRT2\_SLO\_1 Apply critical thinking skills to writing and complex readings.

EWRT2\_SLO\_2 Demonstrate academic (analytical, argumentative) writing based on reading of complex texts.

EWRT2\_SLO\_3 Demonstrate analysis, comparison, synthesis, and documentation of independent research.

## **Course Grade**

The grade in this course will be a letter grade with +/- . That grade will be mostly determined by a percentage of the total course points earned by the student. The percentage will be converted to a letter grade as seen on the course syllabus.

The course points will be awarded according to the information on this document rather than the descriptions appearing on the course syllabus handed out on the first day. An updated course syllabus with updated grading procedures can be found on the class Canvas website.

### **The updated grading is as follows:**

1) Learning journal entries for class sessions: **40 %**

- Each entry will be worth 15 points. There are twenty-two class sessions scheduled, but the number of entries may differ from that number, as classes may be cancelled or not counted for unforeseen reasons, so the exact number of points may vary.

2) Learning journal entries for out-of-class study sessions: **20%**

- Each entry will be worth 15 points. Two study session reports are required per week, but the number of entries may differ from that number for unforeseen reasons, so the exact number of points may vary.

3) In addition to the considerable writing required on the entries described above, each

student will produce two detailed projects (essay or multimedia) chosen from a list of possibilities. Detailed descriptions of the project process will be found on the Canvas website for the course. Each of the two projects will be **20%** of the course total.

Detailed descriptions of the requirements for journal entries and projects will be on the Canvas website for the course.

These assignments will be worth some number of points (research papers will be 100 points, and other assignments will be worth other point totals. The number of points earned on these assignments will be divided by the total number of points possible to yield a percentage. That percentage will earn a letter grade as follows: 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+

**Late Work:** I have very little patience for late work, so please do not waste your time emailing me and asking for extensions or other special consideration. The second late assignment (and all subsequent late assignments) will be penalized 10 %, and no assignments will be accepted after seven days from the original due date. There are no exceptions to these conditions, so please plan accordingly.

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

- 1) All course work must be turned in to the Canvas website unless I have okayed an alternative arrangement in writing (via email or Canvas messaging); **there are no exceptions to this.**
- 2) There are no extra credit assignments though I may add small assignments (such as quizzes or in-class writing) to the course point total in the course of the semester.
- 3) No incomplete grades will be awarded.
- 4) Anyone wishing to record classroom sessions **MUST** get my permission before class **EACH TIME**. I usually have no objections to recording, but I insist on being consulted

beforehand.

## **Academic Integrity Policy**

(From the student handbook) As a student at De Anza, you join a community of scholars who are committed to excellence in the teaching and learning process. We assume that all students will pursue their studies with integrity and honesty; however, all students should know that incidents of academic dishonesty are taken very seriously. When students are caught cheating or plagiarizing, a process is begun which may result in severe consequences. It is vitally important to your academic success that you know what constitutes academic dishonesty.

It is the student's responsibility to know what constitutes academic dishonesty. Interpretations of academic dishonesty may differ among individuals and groups. However, it is expected that De Anza students will refrain from the behavior outlined. If you are unclear about a specific situation, you should speak to your instructor.

Particular to this course is that any assignments containing plagiarized material will be graded "1," and that will seriously jeopardize your chances of getting a satisfactory grade for the course.

## **Help for Students**

Need help? Student Success Center peer tutors can relate and are ready to help! Go to the [SSC homepage](#) and click on the yellow links for on-campus schedules and Zoom links.

- Individual Weekly or Drop-in Tutoring: Come with assignments or questions, or just drop by to see how tutoring works.
- Workshops, group tutoring and group study: Most people learn better with others...give it a try!
- Support for online learning: Speak with a friendly peer tutor or SSC staff member about motivation and organization strategies for online classes. We get it and are going through the same things, so let's support each other!
- Need after-hours or weekend tutoring? See the [Online Tutoring](#) page for information about NetTutor (via Canvas) or Smarthinking (via MyPortal).