# Course Information Sheet

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| **EWRT 1A**  **First-year Composition**  **Instructor:** Becky Roberts | **Office**: F11-E **Phone**: (408) 864-5764  **Hours**: M,T,W,TH 12:30-1:20  **Email:** robertsbecky@fhda.edu  **Website**: http://faculty.deanza.fhda.edu/robertsbecky |

***Course Topic: Happiness and the Good Life***

**Course Description:**

What is happiness and how do we find it? Most of us will ask ourselves this question at some point in our lives—as we try to find our life direction as young people, or later, if happiness eludes us even in comfortable circumstances. The definition of happiness is also one of the core debates of philosophy and psychology. This course draws on that tradition, using your writing to explore approaches to this question in psychological research, philosophy, literature and your own life. I hope you will grow as a writer and discover your own intellectual and personal insights about the question of happiness.

**Goals:**

English 1A is a transfer level course in reading and composition, which prepares students to analyze texts and to write college-level papers. In particular, you will learn to:

* Read analytically
* Generate ideas, arguments and support for your essays
* Organize, focus, and develop ideas from your experience and published sources
* Develop style and grace in your prose
* Practice writing as a multi-step process, with particular attention to planning and revision

**Required Materials:** Available at De Anza bookstore

Roberts, Becky. *Course Reader*

Seligman, Martin. *Authentic Happiness*

Ishiguro, Kazuo. *Never Let Me Go*

An English handbook such as *Easy Writer* by Andrea Lunsford. Any recent handbook will do.

**Course Requirements:**

* Keep up with reading as indicated in course schedule
* Bring course texts and writing supplies to class every day
* Be in class and participate fully in class discussions and activities
* Write five papers, four of which will include published sources
* Bring four complete (or nearly complete) rough drafts to class for workshop
* Write journals on the course reading

### Participation: Silence and Stow All Electronic Devices

Class discussion gives you the opportunity to check your understanding, develop your ideas, and expand your perspectives by listening to others. It allows you to explain your ideas to potential readers, developing and refining material for your essays in the process. Active, self-initiated contribution to discussion is very important to your success in the class. If you are a quiet student, I ask you to break out of your safety zone and become more engaged. Likewise, those who always talk in discussion need to be aware of making room for others. I will also work toward making the class the best possible learning environment by honoring De Anza’s mutual respect policy.

**Attendance:** This class is based on practice and participation, not memorization of facts. Therefore, you must be here and working in order to do well. Late arrivals (more than 5 minutes late) and early departures will count as half of an absence. If you miss more than 3 meetings or the equivalent you will lose 20% of your participation points. If you miss more than 4 meetings or the equivalent before the drop deadline, you will be dropped from the course. If your absences total 5 or more after the drop deadline, you will receive a grade, but it will reflect at least 40% penalty in participation. If you must miss class, get copies of assignments from classmates and contact me via email to let me know what’s going on.

**Late work:** Essays and homework are due at the beginning of class on the due date; anything turned in later in the day is late. Essays will be accepted up to a week late with 10% point deduction (a letter grade) whether they are 3 hours late or a week late, so if your paper is late, take the time to make it your best work. I do not accept essays that are more than a week late. Journals are checked daily and late journals are not accepted after the collection date (see assignment). Quizzes and essay process work are never accepted late.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism and cheating include copying someone else’s test or homework, lifting sentences from someone else without quoting (whether the source is published or not) and any small or large act of academic forgery in the work that you submit as your own effort in this class. The penalty is, at minimum, a “0” on that assignment, and an “F” for the course is likely. In addition, I must report the incident to the dean of students, who may expel habitual cheaters.

**Grading:**

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| 3 Revised Essays with rough drafts and outline (110 each)  In-class essay  Final Exam  Quizzes (20 each; one “forgiven”)  2 Evaluation Dialogues  Journals  Participation  Total possible points | 330  80  80  80  40  100  90  800 | A = Above 93% A- 90-92%, B+ 87-89%, B 83-86%, B- 80-82%, C + 77-79% C 70-76% D 60-69%  F Below 60%  Of total points |

Student Resources: I enjoy helping students, so please visit my office hours or email me. However, I must limit my email responses to one paragraph of your essay, so if you want help with your whole paper, you need to come to my office. De Anza also offers FREE, drop in tutoring in English at the Writing and Reading Center in ATC 309. For hours and information go to their website: <http://www.deanza.edu/studentsuccess/wrc/> If you need help with academic planning or personal issues, make an appointment at the counseling office: 408.864.5400. For help with Financial Aid, visit The Financial Aid Office, housed in the Baldwin Winery building (North of the cafeteria). Their website is: <http://www.deanza.edu/financialaid/>. You can apply online for a BOG fee waiver and other financial aid.

**Equal Opportunity:**

Access to education is a basic 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 put you in touch with helpful resources. If you need 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.

***Welcome to the class!***