**EWRT 2, Critical Reading, Writing, and Thinking (Online)**

Ken Weisner/De Anza—Spring, 2015

EWRT 2.69Z— CRN #43682

Course Website: [https://catalyst.deanza.edu](%22)

Faculty e-mail: [weisnerken@fhda.edu](mailto:weisnerken@fhda.edu)

Website: <http://www.deanza.fhda.edu/faculty/weisner>

Instructor's Office: Forum 2C (Telephone: 864-5797)

Office hours: Monday & Wednesday, 12:30-1:30 & Tuesday, by appointment.

English 2 (Critical Reading, Writing and Thinking) is a transfer-level course in which students engage the critical thinking discourse by reading texts, discussion issues, and writing papers as critical thinkers. This online version of EWRT 2 requires no face-to-face meetings. All coursework will be done online using De Anza's course management software, Catalyst. Students will need access to the internet and an email account. Though not required, a high-speed internet connection is suggested.

**Course Description:** In this course we engage and practice the art of critical thinking as college readers and writers of both personal and academic essays, including research. This course is further designed to challenge you to write organized, well-developed essays with a minimum number of errors—in short, to write college-level prose. To this end, we will address the writing process (pre-writing, writing and revising) as well as (when necessary) questions of sentence structure and error identification.

**Required Texts:** Diestler, Sherry, ed. Becoming a Critical Thinker: A User Friendly Manual. SIXTH EDITION. Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey

Kidder, Tracy. Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer,

a Man Who Would Cure the World. Random House, 2004.

**Optional Text:** Lunsford, Andrea. EasyWriter, 4th Edition. Bedford St. Martins, Boston. 2010.

All texts are available at the [De Anza College Bookstore](http://books.fhda.edu/fhda/). The texts are also available for purchase at online chains [Amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com/) and [Barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com/) at reduced rates.

**Course Goals:**

English 2 is a transfer level course that applies critical thinking skills to reading and writing, with particular attention to argument and issue-oriented literature. You will:

1. Analyze and confront personal as well as cultural values and assumptions.

2. Gain competence as critical thinker within established discourse.

3. Recognize and evaluate alternative points of view and meanings.

4. Summarize, synthesize, analyze, and interpret ideas and texts, including literary texts.

5. Formulate arguments.

6. Debate issues.

7. Apply principles of argumentation and logic.

8. Practice writing as a recursive process of discovery, planning, drafting, revising.

9. Compose approximately 15,000 words of writing to be evaluated.

10. Weigh credibility of information sources and integrate

outside sources into papers appropriately and responsibly.

**Course Requirements**:

This class will require at least 12,000 words of graded writing including homework responses, three formal essays and drafts, as well as online forum discussion assignments. All coursework will be submitted through the course management software (or on rare occasion by email). Each assignment is described in detail on our class web site.

* Essays and Drafts: The graded essays counting for the bulk of your course grade will be formal writing assignments graded numerically according to clear criteria. Some of the essays will involve peer editing, first drafts reviewed and critiqued through online discussion groups.
* Online discussion assignments: web discussion boards (forums) are set up to facilitate informal writing assignments consisting of posting responses to discussion questions and topics and responding to a classmate's post.
* Daily (homework) writing assignments: You will be expected to log in to your class web site on a regular basis to access course materials, complete and submit assignments, and participate in formal and informal discussion forums. There will be writing assignments most days Monday through Thursday, some with due dates on the weekend as well—consisting of writing prompts about the reading. They are designed to highlight key information and ensure that the texts are being read, and as pre-writing activities for your essays. \*\*Note that the daily writing assignments are only open for a limited time, usually around 72 hours, and cannot be made up.
* To pass this course, you will want to complete all essay and homework assignments. Late essays will be penalized in points.
* Instances of plagiarism will not be tolerated. You will fail the paper and potentially the course if you plagiarize ideas or parts of a paper. Throughout the quarter we will work on integrating and citing outside sources.

**Grading:**  Three 4-5 page (1,000-1,250 word) formal essays & peer reviewed drafts 40%  Up to 20 2-page (500 word) homework responses and short quizzes 40%  Up to a dozen online forum discussion assignments 20%  **Grading Scale by %:** A=92+; A-=90-91; B+=88-89; B=82-87; B-=80-81; C+=78-79; C=70-77; D=60-69; F=below 60

**A Suggested Routine for doing the coursework:**

* + Log in to the class web site on a regular basis.
  + Check the schedule of reading and writing assignments in the weekly lessons.
  + Read the weekly lessons and access course materials (if necessary).
  + Participate in class discussion by posting responses to discussion assignments in the discussion forums.
  + Complete and submit daily writing assignments.
  + Ask questions about course materials and assignments in the appropriate discussion forums. Please note the particular areas for posting general questions about the course and specific questions about the readings and assignments. Asking questions is an important part of this class for it initiates the feedback process that is crucial to online instruction.
  + If you do not understand something, *do not hesitate to contact your instructor* in the Messages section or by e-mail. For those questions whose responses you think will benefit others in the class, please post in the appropriate discussion forum.