

(Office Hours: Wednesday 12:00PM-1:00PM (on Zoom) and Thurs 11:30AM to 12:30AM (in Baldwin Winery))

Syllabus for EWRT D002.08Z 13Q: Critical Reading, Writing, and Thinking

(5 units): CRN#: 24606

Instructor: Charles Gray

Instruction: M and W 1:30-2:20 PM on Zoom

Instruction dates: 09/26/'22-12/16/'22

Office: Baldwin Winery

email: charlesleonardgray@gmail.com

Office Hours: (Wednesday 12:00PM-1:00PM (on Zoom) and Thurs 11:30AM to 12:30AM (in Baldwin Winery))

Important Dates:

Last Day for Adds	October 08, 2022
Census Date	October 10, 2022
Last Day for Drops w/ Refund	October 09, 2022
Last Day for Drops w/o W	October 09, 2022
Last Day for Drops	November 18, 2022

Course Description

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, 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

- 1) Plato, *Five Dialogues* (ISBN: 0-87220-633-5)
- 2) Russell, *The Problems of Philosophy* (978-0-87220-098-2)

We will be working with these texts right away, so please acquire them ASAP.

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.

How the grades work:

The grade in this course will consist of *four* 100-point essays and *five* 20-point responses. The 100-point essays are detailed on the Canvas website, and the 20-point responses will arise out of class reading and discussion and will be described in detail as they become due. I will average the grades of the four major essays and the five short responses to get a percentage. That percentage will be the main criterion for the final grade, but I may adjust it one half grade for

non-objective factors such as participation on discussion boards or patterns of improvement. Here are the approximate values: 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+

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) Turn in all assignments on time! Two late assignments may limit you to a B or lower for the course grade. The Canvas time stamp will be the ultimate arbiter of lateness.
- 3) 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.
- 4) No incomplete grades will be awarded.

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).