



**EWRT 1A  
Reading and  
Composition  
(Section 39Y)**

Spring 2023

EWRT 1A 39Y

Class Time: MW 11:30-12:20

Location: L73A

+ 3 asynchronous hours

Instructor: Kristin Agius (pronounced “age-us” but you can call me Kristin 😊)

Email: [agiuskristin@fhda.edu](mailto:agiuskristin@fhda.edu) and [kristin4reading@gmail.com](mailto:kristin4reading@gmail.com)

Office: Zoom Link is located at the top of the first module on our Canvas page

Office Hours: M 10:30-11:30 in L73A and by appointment on zoom

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- EWRT 1A: Practice writing as a multi-step process including planning and revising with attention to varying purposes, audiences, and rhetorical strategies.
- EWRT 1A: Read and analyze rhetorically and culturally diverse narrative and expository texts from a variety of perspectives.

**WELCOME!**

What does it mean to be a writer? This course is all about YOU and your relationship to language, reading, writing, education, and the world. How have you become the kind of writer and student you are? What strategies, habits and beliefs about writing have you learned and how well do these serve your goals as a writer, student, citizen, and aspiring professional? How might you write more effectively – with more joy, and more satisfying results?

These questions will guide us on our journey in this class. I am also here to collaborate with you and help you all reach your goals. Think of me as your language coach. I’m here to help and support you, and I am so excited and honored to be able to read your work and see how you grow. I also anticipate learning a lot from the diverse perspectives and unique cultures you bring into the classroom. Your fellow classmates are also here to help, support, and learn from you, which also means that we are counting on you to engage in the class and be an active part of our community. You will get out of this class what you put into it!

**WHAT MATERIALS WILL I NEED?**

1. Eli Review online subscription (see Canvas for more details).
2. Ross Gay, *The Book of Delights* (available for free as a pdf on Perusall)
3. Access to a computer with wifi to access Eli Review, our Canvas class site, class readings online (in Perusall), and attend online zoom conferences

### WHAT WILL WE DO IN THIS CLASS? WHAT WILL I LEARN IN THIS CLASS?

I believe that reading and writing can enrich our lives and help us to work toward self-knowledge and self-advocacy, social justice, love, and joy. This class will help you to identify not just your college and career goals, but your personal life goals and prepare you to navigate the challenges of our day and use your perspective (your voice) to change hearts and minds.

To get us started on this life-long journey, we will practice the transformative art of reading and writing to help us investigate **the power of language** and how it can both shape and reflect who we are. We will read articles from a variety of perspectives that will help us to think about things (in this class, about identity, writing, education, social justice) in new ways and re-see the world around us. We'll also practice the habits of mind that will help us think critically about how we use language to achieve our goals in different situations.

Undertaking this work isn't easy (but it is rewarding!), so we will be practicing the art of composition by following a strategic routine of assignments. Writers don't write great essays in one night the day before they're due, but by doing a little bit each day. So, we will follow a similar practice routine of reading, discussion, writing, reviewing, and reflecting every week.

- Due Sun 11:45pm—Annotations in Perusall AND Eli Writing
- Monday In Class—Discuss Readings and Review Criteria
- Due Tuesday 11:45pm—Eli Reviews
- Wednesday In Class—Debrief Review and identify revision priorities
- Due Thursday 11:45pm—Eli Revision Plan
- Due Fridays 11:45pm—Declaration Quiz on Canvas

You will be drafting and revising every week. This weekly practice will help you compose the projects listed below.

**Personal Essay:** How does language shape and reflect who we are? You will explore your relationship with language, through readings and activities about the relationship between language and identity. We'll read several examples of personal essays written from different cultural perspectives and then you will be invited to write your own.

**Two Analytical Essays:** You will read several articles about the relationship between language and power and language and education. You'll write analytical essays analyzing how the readings make you understand your experiences or knowledge in a new way.

**Analytical/Persuasive Essay:** You will read Ross Gay's *The Book of Delights* and analyze how effectively his language and writing choices achieve his purpose with his audience. Ultimately you will make an argument about the value of the book.

Final Portfolio and Reflective Essay: You will write a reflective essay during our final exam looking back on your learning in the course and select pieces or projects from the term that reflect your learning to present in a portfolio that you can share with others.

### WHAT DOES SUCCESS IN THIS CLASS LOOK LIKE?

What does it mean to be a writer? People often assume that writers are able to write a perfect essay in the first draft. But is this how the art of writing well happens? Successful writers actually engage in daily practice and revision. They make mistakes and fail. But--and this is their secret--they never give up. In other words, they engage in the writing process. They take risks and learn new things that inspire them to revise their work so that they can reach their audience and achieve their goals. Engaging in and practicing this process is just as important as what you write and turn in as a “final” draft.

Since the process is an important part of writing success, I invite you to join me in an experiment in un-grading. Rather than worrying about what the teacher is looking for, I believe students learn best when they engage in the process, see mistakes as opportunities to learn, and receive and act on feedback. Rather than receive a grade on your assignments, you will receive plenty of **feedback** on your progress from both your peers and me. Our work with Eli Review will help me coach you on how to give helpful feedback and reflect on and use feedback to improve your writing and make it more powerful.

**UNGRADING.** And since I must give you a grade at the end of the term, all grades for the class will be determined by **completion** of the work and **self-assessment** of your engagement in the process.

**Completion:** Everyone can improve by practicing consistently and at the right level of challenge. To help you measure the amount of practice you are doing every week, you will earn points every week from completing Perusall Annotations (10 points per Annotation Assignment) and Eli tasks (10 points per cycle). If your work for the assignment/week is partially complete (under the word count, severely late, or does not meet other requirements), you will receive 5 points for the task. If you do not attempt the assignment, you will earn 0 points.

**Self Assessment:** You will record your work and learning by completing a **declaration quiz** every week. The quiz is a series of short answer questions about how you engaged in the class that week and also a brief reflection of what you learned. You will earn points for answering the questions thoughtfully.


You can always come talk with me about making up lost points by either redoing/completing assignments or doing something else that we agree on that will help you get enough practice that week. There will be opportunities to earn extra credit points.

Finally, since points sometimes don't capture the full picture of a person's learning and work, I reserve the right to change grades as appropriate. At the end of the term, I will be asking you to write a brief reflection explaining what the Canvas grade does or doesn't reflect about your work in the class and what grade you've earned overall. You will have the opportunity to fill in the gaps of the points. Your final grade for the class is determined by three things: completion points you earn for practicing consistently and at the right intensity, your responses in the declaration quizzes, and your final reflection on what grade you have earned.

## Basically, you will earn an A grade in the class if you:

1. 🍎 **ATTEND ALL CLASSES:** Attend all classes, engage actively during every session, and participate in group work satisfactorily. Be on time for class consistently, and absent very rarely. If you miss a class for health reasons, be in contact with your classmates and instructor to discuss how to stay on track.
2. 🍏 **TURN IN ALL ASSIGNMENTS ON TIME:** Complete every Canvas and Eli Review task *in the manner and spirit in which it was assigned*, and turn all work in on time. Push yourself to provide your group mates to become better writers throughout the term by providing thoughtful written feedback (meeting the word count and comment # requirements). Taking their work seriously enough to think hard about how it can be improved is crucial for your success and theirs, in this course.
3. 💡 **REFLECT** on the feedback provided by your instructor and your peers to improve your writing. You do not have to make every change suggested by your readers, of course, as readers will sometimes disagree. But you must take all feedback seriously, and your **revision plans** should show evidence of your careful consideration of your readers' suggestions. Even if you have not received thorough feedback during the review, complete a **revision plan** by reflecting on the feedback you gave, what you learned during the class debrief discussion, and thinking about how you can apply it to your reading and writing.
4. 📅 **ATTEND CONFERENCES:** Attend all scheduled conferences with me and come prepared to use the conference time productively by completing your revision plans. If I indicate my feedback that I would like you to schedule an appointment to talk with me, do so within the week.
5. 💡 **REVISE** your practice writing thoughtfully with attention to the criteria for each assignment. Revision means substantially clarifying your ideas, re-organizing your argument, rethinking your claims, strengthening your evidence, deepening your research and making new connections, adjusting your style, and/or reimagining your relationship with your audience. You may not use ChatGPT generated text unrevised as your final draft for any assignment.
6. ✨ **PROOFREAD DRAFTS** (even first drafts) to eliminate distracting surface errors and typos. Revised drafts do not have to be perfect, but you should learn any grammar rules that consistently cause you trouble, by talking with a classmate, using a handbook, working with a tutor, and/or meeting with me.
7. 🙅 **AVOID PLAGIARISM** by (a) taking careful notes to help you distinguish between your own ideas and language and those you have borrowed from sources, (b) attempting to cite all sources correctly even in first drafts, (c) mastering citation conventions and citing all sources correctly in all final drafts, and (d) never attempting to disguise another's work as your own, never purchasing essays online, and never engaging in any other act of academic dishonesty, including re-submitting work you've previously submitted. If you collaborate with others, including using a language generative AI app like Chat GPT, you must do so with authorization in the spirit of the assignment and you must declare what tools you used, or help you received, along with your work. New ideas only come about because we are all constantly borrowing ideas and sharing our work with others; be generous about attributing and citing those whose work has influenced your own. For more information on plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty, please visit: <http://conduct.sfsu.edu/plagiarism>



8.  **SUBMIT** all Eli assignments and the final Portfolio, with all outlined requirements completed, by the due dates. If you submit a portfolio that does not meet the minimum requirements, you will receive a NC for EWRT 1A and need to retake the class.

→You will earn a B or C if you lose points for not attending class, not turning in complete work, not submitting work in a timely manner, and not reflecting thoughtfully. There will be opportunities to earn extra credit to raise a lowered grade up one full grade.

→You must attempt all Eli Writing, Review and Revision Assignments, and submit a final portfolio with all outlined requirements to pass the class. You will not be able to skip any Eli Tasks and still pass the class.

### What if I'm unsure about my grade or not on track to get the grade I want?

You can keep track of your assignment completion in the canvas gradebook, but I invite you to make an appointment or drop in to office hours to discuss your grade at any point in the semester. I will also be keeping track of your engagement in Perusall, Eli Review, Canvas and during class. I will reach out to you if it looks like you are falling behind to offer help and support.

### RESOURCES

I care about your success in this class and your well-being as a whole person. If something outside of class gets in the way of you participating to the best of your ability, there are numerous resources at De Anza that you can take advantage of to get the support you need to be successful and take care of yourself. While this class will be challenging, it is just as important to me that you take care of yourself and foster a sense of well-being. My goal is to help you with this as much as I can. If you fall behind, you can meet with me and make a plea to renegotiate the grade agreement. I am here to help you find the resources or help you need to be successful in the class. Here are some important resources to know about:

### DISABILITY ACCESS

Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor. Disability Support Services (DSS) is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. The DSS is located in the Student and Community Services Building and can be reached by telephone (voice 408-864-8753 or TTY 408-864-8748) or by email: [dss@deanza.edu/dss](mailto:dss@deanza.edu/dss).

### STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER

Need help with this course? Want more personal connections this quarter? Student Success Center tutors and workshops are ready for you! Watch the [SSC Welcome Video](#) to learn more.

- **Tutoring:** Go to <http://deanza.edu/studentsuccess> and click to join a Zoom tutoring room during open hours.
- **Workshops:** Attend a [Skills Workshop](#), a [content-specific math/science workshop](#), an [Accounting chapter review workshop](#), or a [Listening and Speaking workshop](#).

- **Resources:** Join the [SSC Resources Canvas site](#) to see content and learning skills links.
- **After-hours or weekend tutoring:** See the [Online Tutoring](#) page for information about NetTutor (via Canvas) or Smarthinking (via MyPortal).

## OTHER HELPFUL RESOURCES

Here is the link to our college's online services page which is a great resource for our online Spring quarter. The other link lists all the services our campus offers. I recommend checking this out on your own to see what might be helpful during your time as a student here!

<https://www.deanza.edu/online-spring/>

<https://www.deanza.edu/services/>

## TENTATIVE CALENDAR OF ASSIGNMENTS

The following is a tentative schedule of small writing assignments, reading assignments and major portfolio project due dates, which is subject to change on a daily basis, so always listen in class and check Canvas for updates. All assigned readings are available on Perusall or on Canvas as links to an online article.

NOTE: *The Book of Delights* is a collection of essays that Ross Gay wrote day by day. His goal was to write one essay a day about something delightful. I recommend you read the book the same way. You will need to have it completed by 11/20. If you read 1-2 essays a day (they're really short!), you will reach this goal, but also experience the book in a way that will enhance your experience of it.

Week	Eli Assignments and Portfolio Projects	Assigned Texts (in Perusall)
Week 1 (9/26)	<u>Eli Cycle:</u> <a href="#">What does it take to build a helpful peer feedback culture in this course?</a>	The Syllabus  Ann Lamott, "Shitty First Drafts"  Ross Gay, <i>The Book of Delights</i> (1-2 essays a day)
Week 2 (10/3)	<u>Eli Cycle:</u> How does language create and reflect who we are?	Tan, "Mother Tongue"  Anzaldua, "How to Tame a Wild Tongue"  Ross Gay, <i>The Book of Delights</i> (1-2 essays a day)
Week 3 (10/10)	<u>Eli Cycle:</u> How does language create and reflect who we are?	"On Unlearning"  Choose your own literacy narrative to read

		Ross Gay, <i>The Book of Delights</i> (1-2 essays a day)
Week 4 (10/17)	<u>Eli Cycle</u> : Revise Week 2 or 3	<p>“On Motivation”</p> <p>Ross Gay, <i>The Book of Delights</i> (1-2 essays a day)</p>
Week 5 (10/24)	<u>Eli Cycle</u> : What language should be taught in a Writing Class?	<p>June Jordan, “Nobody Mean More to Me Than You”</p> <p>Vershawn Young, “Should Writers Use They Own English”</p> <p>Ross Gay, <i>The Book of Delights</i> (1-2 essays a day)</p>
Week 6 (10/31)	<u>Eli Cycle</u> : Revise Week 5	<p>“On the Theater of the Mind”</p> <p>Ross Gay, <i>The Book of Delights</i> (1-2 essays a day)</p>
Week 7 (11/7)	<u>Eli Cycle</u> : How does the language of education affect our learning?	<p>Freire, “The ‘Banking’ Concept of Education”</p> <p>Ross Gay, <i>The Book of Delights</i> (1-2 essays a day)</p>
Week 8 (11/14)	<u>Eli Cycle</u> : How does the language of education affect our learning?	<p>Jean Anyon, “Social Class and the Hidden Curriculum of Work”</p> <p>Alfie Kohn, “The Case Against Grades”</p> <p>Ross Gay, <i>The Book of Delights</i> (1-2 essays a day)</p>
Week 9 (11/21)	<u>Eli Cycle</u> : revise Week 7 or 8	<p>“On The Three Most Important Words in the English Language”</p> <p>Ross Gay, <i>The Book of Delights</i> (1-2 essays a day)</p>
Fall Break		
Week 10 (11/28)	<u>Eli Cycle</u> : How does Ross Gay’s language and writing choices promote delight?	Ross Gay, <i>The Book of Delights</i> (all)

Week 11 (12/5)	<u>Eli Cycle</u> : revise Week 10	TBA
Week 12 (12/12)	Final Portfolio Due	
Finals Week	Final Exam: Final Declaration Quiz and Reflection on What you Learned	