

# Course Syllabus

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## EWRT2: Critical Reading, Writing and Research (Section 17Y)

Spring 2023

Room L35

Instructor: Sergio Rizzo

email address: [rizzosergio@fhda.edu](mailto:rizzosergio@fhda.edu)

Online Office Hours: MW 12-1:00 p.m. and by appointment

### Mode of Instruction:

The course will be taught in-person Tuesday and Thursday from 1:30 to 2:20 p.m. in Room L35 at the DeAnza campus. The course will also use the online platform **CANVAS** and office hours (MW 12-1:00 pm) will be via **Zoom**. I will be contacting students through email, and students may contact me at [rizzosergio@fhda.edu](mailto:rizzosergio@fhda.edu). I will respond to an email in 24-48 hours.

### Required Text:

Walker, Alice. *The Color Purple*. NY: Harcourt, Inc., 1982.

### Recommended:

- *Do The Right Thing*. Dir. Spike Lee. Universal Studios. 1999. DVD.
- *The Color Purple*. Dir. Steven Spielberg. Amblin Entertainment. 1985.
- *The Crying Game*. Dir. Neil Jordan. Palace Pictures. 1992.

Certain paper topics and the final exam will be based on specific films (e.g. *Do the Right Thing*, *The Color Purple* and *The Crying Game*). For a nominal fee, these and other films the course uses can be accessed through Amazon or other streaming movie web sites.

### Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate analytical skills in the reading of literary (and non-literary) texts linked by common theme or issue
2. Demonstrate analytical, organizational, verbal, and research skills in writing
3. Evaluate multiple sources and integrate them in an analytical research paper

## Course Description:

Using themes drawn from African American literature, film and comedy, this course teaches students advanced reading, writing, and research skills. The reading and writing you do for the course will lead to a major research project requiring the documenting, evaluating, summarizing, and synthesizing of various critical sources for an analytical paper.

## Papers (80%)

There will be a summary and four critical research papers weighted as follows:

- Summary Paper (20%)
- Slavery and White Supremacy Papers 1 and 2 (30%)
- Race and Intertextuality Papers 1 and 2 (30%)

ALL PAPER ASSIGNMENTS AND DRAFTS MUST BE COMPLETED IN ORDER TO PASS THE CLASS. The research papers must use critical sources that you will document with the MLA method of in-text citation and a Works Cited page.

## Submitting Papers:

All papers should be submitted to me in a format that allows me to comment on the papers: **e.g. Google Docs or Microsoft Word**. Some writing assignments will be submitted to Turnitin.

## Late Papers:

Papers are due on the days indicated in the weekly modules on Canvas. Late papers will be accepted, but will be graded down 1/3 of a letter grade if late on the day they are due and 1/3 for each class day they are late after the initial due date. So, for example, a paper that earned a B but was turned in the class day after it was due would be marked down to a B-, two class days late would drop it to a C+, and so on.

## Plagiarism:

Plagiarism occurs when a student uses another's work, ideas, or words and misrepresents them as one's own. Inadvertent misuse of sources is enough to fail a student's work. Knowingly misrepresenting another's work as one's own may fail the student from the course. It is each student's responsibility to avoid plagiarizing.

## Quizzes/Workshops (10%)

This course will have weekly quizzes or writing exercises based on the relevant readings and movies or movie scenes in the weekly modules. For full credit, quizzes and exercises should be done by their due dates in the modules. The average of your grades on the quizzes and exercises will be worth **10%** of your course grade.

### Final Exam (10%)

There will be a final exam, worth **10%** of your grade. The final will be a 750-word essay on *The Color Purple*. YOU MUST TAKE THE FINAL TO PASS THE COURSE. Without a DOCUMENTED excuse, a missed final exam cannot be made up.