

## Course Syllabus

EWRT 1A-65Z “Composition and Reading” (CRN 27282)

### Fall 2023

**Class Meets:** Online (via Canvas)

- The week’s lessons for EWRT 1A will be posted in “Modules” on Wednesdays by 10:00 p.m., with exception.
- The work for that week must be completed by 10 p.m. the following Wednesday.

**Instructor:** Dr. Alexis Cattivera ([cattiveraalexis@fhda.edu](mailto:cattiveraalexis@fhda.edu))

**Online office hours** (via Canvas Messages): Tuesdays 9:00-10:00 and by appointment

**English Performance Success (EPS) Counselors:** Monica Ganesh, Felisa Vilaubi, Christian Rodriguez ([English Performance Success \(deanza.edu\)](https://deanza.edu/english-performance-success))

**Course Description:** This course is an introduction to university level reading and writing, with an emphasis on analysis. We will closely examine a variety of texts (personal, popular, literary, professional, and academic) from culturally diverse traditions; practice common rhetorical strategies used in academic writing; engage in a multi-step writing process, with particular attention to planning and revision; and compose clear, well-organized, and well-developed essays, with varying purposes and differing audiences, from personal to academic; and generate ideas and topics for essays.

**Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):** Practice writing as a multi-step process including planning and revising with attention to varying purposes, audiences, and rhetorical strategies; read and analyze rhetorically and culturally diverse narrative and expository texts from a variety of perspectives.

### Course Objectives:

- A. Analyze college level texts and discourse that are culturally and rhetorically diverse.
- B. Compose essays drawn from personal experience and assigned texts.
- C. Utilize MLA guidelines to format essays, cite sources, and compile a works cited page.

- D. Create syntactically varied sentences that are free of mechanical errors.
- E. Distinguish, compare, and evaluate the multiplicity and ambiguity of perspectives

**Required Materials** (available through our [De Anza College Campus Store Bookstore \(bkstr.com\)](#) or sites such as Amazon):

- *Perfect English Grammar: The Indispensable Guide to Excellent Writing and Speaking* (Grant Barrett)
- *Perfect English Grammar Workbook: Simple Rules and Quizzes to Master Today's English* (Lisa McLendon)
- *The Bean Trees* (Barbara Kingsolver)
- Various readings (TBA), which will be posted on Canvas

**Accessing the course:** Our class will be conducted through our Canvas course page. On Wednesdays by 10:00 p.m., I will post the materials—the class lesson, discussion board(s), assignments, quizzes, etc.— for the upcoming week under “**Modules.**” Please complete each component in the order it is placed in the weekly module: from top to bottom. You must complete these components by the following Wednesday at 10:00 p.m. of that week or late penalties apply (see below). *If the scheduling poses a challenge to you during a certain week or two* (let’s say you had to work overtime one week or you had essays due the same week for three classes), please communicate with me. I am willing to adjust a few due dates here and there if you communicate a reasonable request.

**Communicating with me:** I will hold scheduled online office hours once a week (see above for hours). During this time, you can send me any questions you have through Canvas messages (click on the “Inbox” and create a new message at the top) and you will receive an almost immediate response from me. You are, of course, welcome to send me questions outside of these office hours, but my responses will not be immediate. On weekdays, I will respond to your questions within 24 hours. On weekends, I will respond to your questions within 48 hours. If you don’t hear from me within those timeframes and your message requires a response, please resend your message. You can also send me an email (see above for my address). If you prefer, we can arrange a phone call to chat about the class as well. I will also use “**Announcements**” on Canvas to send general class

announcements, adjustments to the schedule, etc., so always read those announcements when they are posted.

If you want to set up an appointment for office hours outside of my scheduled time, please just send me a message, and I'm happy to do that.

**Participation:** Regular weekly participation in this course is *mandatory*: you must submit course assignments, engage in discussion groups, follow along with the course material provided, and write all five essays. Students are also required to engage with each other and me in an appropriate, respectful, and positive manner.

**How to turn in assignments:** Assignments—whether they are quizzes or reading guides or essays—must be uploaded to Canvas by their due dates. Formal essays need to follow MLA formatting standards (see below).

**Late work, etc.:**

If you turn in an essay late, two points are deducted for every day it is late. You must turn in all five essays for 1A as well as the portfolio or you will earn an F in the course. I do not accept late essays after fourteen days from their original due dates. If you turn in small assignments up to two days late, you will receive half credit; if you turn in a small assignment three or more days late, you will earn zero credit for that assignment. *If there are unique circumstances preventing you from turning in an assignment on time, please speak to me, preferably before the due date, and we will try to work something out. It is always better to communicate with me rather than giving up—again, remember I want you to succeed!*

**Rewrites:** You may rewrite an untimed essay in 1A if you score below 80 points on it, as long as you did not fail the essay because you plagiarized and you submitted the essay by its due date. For me to accept a rewrite, you must have turned in your original final essay on time and turn in your rewrite within one week of receiving your original essay grade. You must change every item on your essay that I commented on to truly revise your essay. I will average the scores of your rewrite and original graded essay to determine your new grade.

**Required Paper Formatting:** All writing assignments must be typed using standard

MLA format: 1” margins, titled, 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, black ink, no title page, heading in upper left corner (your full name, your instructor’s name, the name of the course, the due date of the assignment), last name and page number in upper right corner, and carefully edited for grammar and spelling mistakes. If you use any source to write your paper, you must also include a works cited page as well as properly cite all sources within your essay.

**Student Success Center (SCC):** De Anza’s Student Success Center is open and offers FREE Zoom and in-person tutoring and workshops. Please visit their page to see all that the SCC offers, in-person and remotely: [Student Success Center \(deanza.edu\)](http://deanza.edu).

**Checking your grades:** Your ongoing grades for assignments will be posted on Canvas. Make sure you are given the correct score and that I see and grade any late work you may have turned in (sometimes late assignments can be overlooked and I don’t want that to happen, so send me a friendly reminder!).

**Grading comments:** I usually comment on your work—on the actual assignment as well as in the comment section of your individual, submitted assignment—beyond just giving you a grade, especially on major assignments. Please read my comments so that you can apply what I say to your future work and let me know if you ever have questions about my comments.

**Grading breakdown for EWRT 1A (a letter graded course):**

- Paper 1: 10%
  - Paper 1 outline: 2%
- Paper 2: 12%
- Paper 3: 15%
  - Draft workshop for paper 3: 2%
- Paper 4: 15%
  - Outline for Paper 4: 2%
- Paper 5: 17%
- Draft workshop for paper 5: 2%
- Small assignments: 13% (quizzes, assignments, discussion boards, etc.)

- Participation: 10% (You must fully and regularly (at least weekly) engage with the course on Canvas by completing quizzes, assignments, discussion boards, essays etc. in a timely manner as well as have a positive attitude during that engagement to earn full participation in the course.)

**A=** 94-100%

**B=** 84-85%

**C=** 70-75%

**A-=** 90-93%

**B-=** 80-83%

**D=** 60-69%

**B+=** 86-89%

**C+=** 76-79%

**F=** 59% and below

**Portfolio Process:** Your final grade in EWRT 1A depends on two processes:

1. If you complete all your above-mentioned work in the class with a passing grade (70% or higher), you will submit a portfolio of selected writing for review by members of the English Department at the end of the quarter. If these readers agree that your portfolio demonstrates the appropriate skills for a student who has completed this quarter of EWRT 1A, you will pass the class. If your portfolio does not demonstrate the appropriate skills, you will not pass the class.
2. If the English Department determines that you should pass, your actual final letter grade (A, B, or C) will be determined by the percentage of points you earned throughout the quarter. For example, if your percentage on your assignments throughout the quarter in this class is 89% and you pass the portfolio process, you will receive a B+ in the class. However, if you do not pass the portfolio process, you still cannot pass the class.

This system means that, in order to pass this class with a good grade, you should

- Complete all of your work and score as many points as possible during the quarter.
- Revise and polish selected essays in order to assemble a strong portfolio at the end of the quarter.

My grades on your essays should be a signal of whether you are likely to pass the portfolio process, so you will have multiple warnings if you are in danger. However, you should keep in mind that—ultimately—you will not be able to “make up” for failing essays by earning lots of participation points or homework

points. Those points will not affect the assessment of your portfolio, even if they affect your grade.

**Disabled Support Program and Services:** The Disabled Support Programs and Services (DSPS) at De Anza College is designed to help students with disabilities to achieve success by providing specialized assessment instructional programs and support services. Please contact the DSPS office through its webpage to arrange a confidential discussion regarding equitable access and reasonable accommodations if you have, or think you have, a disability in any area such as mental health, attention, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical (<http://deanza.edu/dsps/>).

If you are already registered with DSPS and have accommodations set by a DSPS counselor, please be sure that I have received your accommodation letter from Clockwork early in the quarter to review how the accommodations will be applied in the course. Students who need accommodated test proctoring must meet appointment booking deadlines:

- Exams must be booked at least five (5) business days in advance of the instructor approved exam date/time.
- Finals exams must be scheduled seven (7) business days/weekdays in advance of the instructor approved exam date/time.
- Failure to meet appointment booking deadlines will result in the forfeit of testing accommodations and you will be required to take your exam in class.

Please let me know if you require any accommodations as soon as possible and always *let me know if and how I can make online assignments and material more accessible for you*. I want to help you succeed!

**De Anza College Mental Health Statement:** Life at college can get very complicated. You may sometimes feel overwhelmed or lost. You may experience stress, anxiety or depression, or struggle with relationship difficulties. Psychological Services helps students cope with difficult emotions and life stressors. Psychological Services is staffed by experienced, professional psychologists and counselors, who are attuned to the needs of college students. The services are FREE and completely confidential. Find out more at [Psychological Services \(deanza.edu\)](http://deanza.edu/psychological-services) or by calling 408-864-8868.

**Academic dishonesty aka plagiarism:** Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to in-class cheating, plagiarism, knowingly assisting another student in cheating or plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to college staff, faculty, administrators, or other officials.

Plagiarism means passing off someone else's work and ideas as your own, whether this is copying from a published source, downloading papers from the Internet, or purchasing papers from any source. Plagiarism also occurs when someone else writes any part of your paper for you. **DO NOT PLAGIARIZE. Consequences of plagiarism will include an automatic zero on the first assignment that is plagiarized. If you plagiarize more than once, you will be dropped from the course (if the plagiarism occurs within the drop period) or be given in F in the course (if the plagiarism occurs after the drop period) and the department dean will be notified and you will be referred to the Vice President of Student Services for disciplinary action.** If you're unsure about the boundaries of plagiarism and your own work, talk to me before you turn in your work, and we'll address the issue together. All of your essays will be submitted to Turnitin, a plagiarism detection site. You may also refer to "Academic Dishonesty" in the Student Handbook: ([https://www.deanza.edu/policies/academic\\_integrity.html](https://www.deanza.edu/policies/academic_integrity.html)).

A simple way to avoid plagiarizing—and jeopardizing your standing in the class—is by citing every source you use to write or come up with ideas for your paper. *Without exception, if you read anything as you prepare and write a paper, you must then include a properly formatted works cited page and acknowledge the sources for your ideas in your properly formatted in-text citations.* If you need help understanding what a works cited page and/or in-text citations are, ask me.

**General course schedule (subject to change):**

\*Please note our more detailed schedule will be on our Canvas page, under each weekly module.

**Week 1 (9/25):**

Introduce ourselves, read syllabus, get textbooks, syllabus quiz, student questionnaire, paper #1 prewriting

**Week 2 (10/2):**

Explain essay #1, (re)watch the film on which you will be writing your first essay, rough outline for essay #1, grammar

\*October 7<sup>th</sup> is the last day to add classes.

\* October 8<sup>th</sup> is the last day to add classes without a “W.”

Week 3 (10/9):

PIE paragraphs, revise essay #1 and submit final draft, close reading and annotation

Week 4 (10/16):

Begin reading *The Bean Trees* (chapters 1-3), reading guide (including vocabulary), prep for essay #2, write timed essay #2

Week 5 (10/23):

Cultural codes, grammar, continue reading *The Bean Trees* (chapters 4-6)

Week 6 (10/30):

Continue reading *The Bean Trees* (chapters 7-9), draft workshop for paper #3

Week 7 (11/6):

Continue reading *The Bean Trees* (chapters 10-13), grammar, reading guide, submit final draft of paper #3

\*November 10<sup>th</sup> is the Veterans Day holiday: there are no classes or office hours, and campus is closed.

Week 8 (11/13):

Finish reading *The Bean Trees* (chapters 14-17), explain essay #4, and work on outline for paper #4

\* November 17<sup>th</sup> is the last day to drop classes with a “W.”

Week 9 (11/20):

Submit final draft of essay #4, concluding paragraphs, grammar

\*November 23<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> is the Thanksgiving holiday: there are no classes or office hours, and campus is closed.

Week 10 (11/27):

Explain final portfolio and begin work on portfolio, grammar

\*Please note, no assignments—including late papers— other than the portfolio will be accepted after this week.

Week 11 (12/5):

Draft workshop for paper #5 and submit final portfolio by stated deadline (see Canvas). You cannot submit this essay late or you will fail the course (this is considered your final exam).

Week 12 (12/12-12/15):

Finals week—no class. Have an awesome winter break!