

## **EWRT 30 -- Introduction to Creative Writing**

De Anza College

Fall Quarter 2023

*This course meets online via the Canvas platform and on campus on Wednesdays from 11:30 to 1:20*

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: Alex Giardino

Email: [giardinoalex@fhda.edu](mailto:giardinoalex@fhda.edu)

Office hours: Mondays online from 11:30-12:20 (*please email to book private Zoom meetings*)  
and by appt. before class on Wednesdays

**NOTE:** email is the only way to contact me directly. I reply to emails within 48 hours during the regular school week. I don't reply to emails between Friday 5 pm until Monday 9 am.

### **IMPORTANT ADMINISTRATIVE STUFF**

1. To be eligible for this course, you must be eligible for EWRT1A.
2. You must have regular, reliable access to the Internet to use the course's Canvas page.

**This course is designed to share a passion for creative writing and a willingness to take creative risks. I encourage active experimentation in your writing; I expect you to challenge yourself. This is a class to develop your own voice, not to fulfill someone's expectations of what you should sound like.**

### **COURSE OVERVIEW**

**REQUIRED TEXTS:** You are required to read from the list posted on Canvas (top module):

10 poems of your choosing

1 creative nonfiction full-length book of your own choosing

1 novel of your own choosing

## **COURSE GOALS**

Our primary goal is to challenge you as a writer, to help you discover and foster your creative voice through writing poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction. I intend to empower writers to speak from their knowledge, and to honor their influences, their imagination, and their intellectual curiosity.

## **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- Demonstrate a personal creative process in multiple literary genres.
- Identify and apply major technical and stylistic elements of imaginative writing.
- Evaluate one's peers' and one's own imaginative writing.

## **WEEKLY ROUTINE**

- Every Monday, the instructor posts the weekly assignments and materials on the Canvas page. Students are responsible for doing all coursework for the week by the following SUNDAY at 11:59 pm.
- NOTE: **the final portfolio and reading journal are due on Friday, Dec. 15, at midnight.**

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

- You will be expected to do any of the following, as indicated for the week:
  1. read instructor lecture notes and materials as posted;
  2. watch videos related to course materials as posted;
  3. listen to audio recordings related to course materials as posted; and
  4. complete all posted assignments due that week by the deadline (these assignments may be reading quizzes, reader responses, wiki posts, weekly forum participation, video conferences, and so forth).

## **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS**

You are encouraged to use this course as a platform to write new poems, creative nonfiction, and fiction as well as work continue to work on material in progress.

## **THE ASSIGNMENTS**

### **Weeks 1-2-3: POETRY**

The assignment for poetry is to complete three TYPED poems for the instructor to review. Due on Sunday, Oct 15.

### **Weeks 4-5-6-7: FICTION**

The assignment for fiction is to complete 250-750 words of TYPED material for the instructor to review. This can be a short story, a scene from a longer work, an incomplete piece, or even an outline. Due on Sunday, Nov 12.

### **Weeks 8-9-10: CREATIVE NONFICTION**

The assignment for creative nonfiction is 250-750 words of TYPED material for the instructor to review. This can be a complete essay, article, an incomplete piece, an excerpt of a longer work in progress, even an outline. Due on Sunday, Dec 3.

### **Week 11: REVISION WEEK**

## **THE PORTFOLIO**

Please attach your entire portfolio here. **Your portfolio can contain any of following elements**, as you see fit to represent your creativity experience and journey this quarter. You do not need to have all of these pieces in a portfolio. This is your creation.

1. poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction you wrote this quarter
2. an artist's statement that explores and declares your vision and goals in your work
3. a reflection that shares who were you when you first began writing, who mentored you along your journey, who failed you, criticized you, belittled the art as a waste of time, and who inspired you to write regardless

The portfolio can be any length. The instructor will read it without a "red pen." This is really for you to document your own experiences.

## **GRADE BREAKDOWN**

Fifteen Talks worth 10 points each	150
Ten weekly free-writes worth 5 points each	50
Original Fiction submission of up to 750 words	50
Original Poetry submission of 3 poems	50
Original Creative nonfiction of up to 750 words	50
Reading Journal	100
Final Portfolio	100

**total: 550 points**

### **Final Grade Scale**

A+ 100-98%    A 97.4-94%    A- 93.4-90%

B+ 89-88%    B 87.4-84%    B- 83.4-80%

C+ 79-78%    C 77.4-74%

I round up from .5

### **COURSE POLICIES**

#### **GRADING POLICIES**

You earn full points by submitting your original work. The instructor does not grade your work based on "quality." Each assignment is either full points or a zero for nonsubmission of work. The term "final grade" really means: "commitment to your creative power." Because it takes commitment—not borne out of fear, but out of accountability—you are committing to your own creativity by completing this class.

#### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

On a weekly basis, the instructor will check on your "Activity Report" status in Canvas. If you are not reading the lectures, watching videos, and participating in all the weekly course activities, your activity report will show that, and the instructor will contact you about your performance in class. If you do not fully participate in all the course activities for more than one week, you will

be dropped from the course, unless you can provide the instructor with an acceptable excuse, as your lack of participation is similar to a classroom absence.

## **PLAGIARISM & CHEATING**

Plagiarism means copying someone else's work and presenting it as your own, without giving credit to the person who wrote and thought of the idea. Do not plagiarize, or you will be penalized. What will happen anytime you plagiarize or cheat:

1. You will receive an F on the assignment without the option to redo it for a new grade.
2. The instructor will ask to meet with you to discuss issue.
3. Your name will be given to the Dean of Students.

## **UNDOCUMENTED STUDENT RIGHTS**

Education is a basic human right. I believe that all people, regardless of their immigration status have the right to achieve their academic goals. If you have questions about how your immigration status may affect your academic opportunities, please talk to me. I may be able to help.

## **DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS)**

De Anza College views disability as an important aspect of diversity, and is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. Disability Support Services (DSS) is the campus office that collaborates with students who have disabilities to provide and/or arrange 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, please contact DSS to arrange a confidential discussion regarding equitable access and reasonable accommodations.

If you are registered with DSS and have accommodations set by a DSS counselor, please be sure that your instructor has 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 at the Testing Center.

- **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.
- [Contact the DSS](#) if you cannot find or utilize your [MyPortal](#) Clockwork Portal.

DSS strives to provide accommodations in a reasonable and timely manner, some accommodations may take additional time to arrange. We encourage you to work with DSS and your faculty as early in the quarter as possible so that we may ensure that your learning experience is accessible and successful.

DSS Location: RSS Building, Suite 141

Phone: 408-864-8753

On the web: <http://www.deanza.edu/DSS/>

Email: [DSS@deanza.edu](mailto:DSS@deanza.edu)

For all De Anza student services, please go to:

[deanza.edu/services](http://deanza.edu/services)

*De Anza College is committed to equal opportunity in education.*