De Anza College – Spring 2018

EWRT 02-62 – Critical Reading, Writing, Thinking

Classroom G9, TTh 6:30-8:45 p.m.

Instructor: Kimberly Braasch

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Office Hours: TTH in classroom, 8:45-9:15

Course Description:

This transfer-level course is designed to challenge your perspective on "self" and "society" by drawing upon texts that question what forms an individual and what shapes his or her interactions with the community in which he or she lives, be it local, national, or global. Course materials will be drawn from philosophy, political theory, social criticism, literature, broadcast/print media, and music.

Student Learning Outcomes:

* Apply critical thinking skills to writing and complex readings.
* Demonstrate academic (analytical, argumentative) writing based on reading of complex texts.
* Demonstrate analysis, comparison, synthesis, and documentation of independent research.

Course Texts:

* *Course Reader* (collection of material only available at the De Anza Bookstore)
* Any supplemental readings will be provided by the instructor

Course Requirements:

Students will compose short writing assignments, three formal essays, and a research paper with documented sources, as well as offer individual oral reports and small group presentations. Some prewriting, composing, and revising of essays may be done in class. Collaborative sessions, quizzes, and writing workshops will also be part of the course.

Grades Breakdown:

* 1. Three formal essays 45%
  2. Research paper 20%
  3. Lyrics presentation 10%
  4. Participation (in-class work, homework, quizzes, discussions) 25%

Grading Scale: A+=98-100; A=93-97; A-=90-92; B+=87-89; B=83-86; B-=80-82; C+=77-79; C=70-76; D+=67-69; D=60-66; F=59 and below

Attendance:

Regular class attendance is essential and rewarded. Students may be excused from four classes without affecting their grade, not counting the impact of missed lectures, quizzes, in-class writing, and paper deadlines due to absences. **Over four absences may result in the student being dropped from the class**. Trade contact info with classmates to obtain notes for missed sessions.

Participation:

Complete the assigned reading and be prepared to discuss the material before each class. Quizzes and in-class work count toward your participation grade and may not be made up due to absences, which is why ongoing attendance is crucial. Note-taking is recommended during class. Electronic devices may not be used during class except for photographing projected instructor notes,

Late or Missed Deadlines:

All assigned work is due on the specified dates. In case of an emergency, notify me before a due date so we can discuss other arrangements. Unauthorized late papers will lose points and may not be accepted after seven days. Not submitting an essay significantly lowers one’s class grade and may prevent the student from passing the course.

Cheating/Plagiarism:

Cheating includes any attempt to defraud, deceive, or mislead an instructor in arriving at an honest grade assessment. Plagiarism is a form of cheating that occurs when students present as their own the ideas, language, or work of others. The consequences of cheating are heavy, as detailed in the student handbook. In critically thinking this over, one should deduce that honesty is a better policy.

Academic Support:

De Anza offers a variety of free support services. Check out the helpful people at the Writing & Reading Center (AT 309), General Subject Tutoring (AT 305), and Academic Skills Center (AT 302). Also consider live-chat tutoring available via the Smarthinking link on MyPortal, from which you can ask specific questions or receive feedback on your submitted essay. If you are having difficulties with the course, don’t hesitate to set up a conference with me during office hours.

Course Calendar:

The instructor reserves the right to amend or augment this schedule as the quarter progresses. All selected text to be read before class with the exception of material notated with (CR); in those cases, bring the specified material to class for reading and discussion

Last day to drop w/o a recorded grade – April 22 Last day to drop with a “W” – June 1

04/10 Welcome and course orientation; Steps for Critical Reading (CR)

04/12 Plato’s “The Allegory of the Cave”; introduction to Stoicism

04/17 Seneca, *On the Shortness of Life*; Marcus Aurelius, *Meditations* (excerpts); rhetoric workshop

04/19 Christine de Pisan, from *The Book of the City of Ladies*

04/24 Jean Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract* (Book One, Chapters 1-6); Deductive and Inductive Logic (CR); Selected Poetry from the 1800s (CR); figurative language workshop

04/26 Martin Luther King, “Letter from a Birmingham Jail”; NO TIME FOR Bloom’s Taxonomy (CR); MOVED TO 5/8

05/01 Steven Pinker, “The Moral Instinct”; essay #1 format & integrating quotes workshop

05/03 David Wallace, “This is Truth”; thesis and multiple source quotations due for essay #1

05/08 Essay #1 due; Logical Fallacies (CR) AND BLOOM

05/10 Clotaire Rapaille, from *The Culture Code*, pp. 1- top 8; image and icon workshop

05/15 Rapaille, *The Culture Code*, pp. 8- top 35

05/17 Rapaille, *The Culture Code*, pp. 35-47; analysis/argumentation workshop essay #2

05/22 Essay #2 (in-class midterm); bring Rapaille text and large blue book

05/24 Jhumpa Lahiri, “When Mr. Pirzada Came to Dine”; Literary Devices (CR)

05/29 Tim O’Brien, “Speaking of Courage”; Sherman Alexie, “What You Pawn I Will Redeem”

05/31 Jhumpa Lahiri, “Mrs. Sen’s”; literary critique workshop for essay #3

06/05 Manuel Munoz, “The Happiest Girl in the World”; Shaila Abdullah, “Forever Dusk”

06/07 Research paper format workshop; library orientation and computer lab sessions

06/12 Essay #3 due; summarizing/paraphrasing/quoting workshop

06/14 Bring in hard-copy research paper article; citing sources workshop

06/19 Research paper workshop; in-class consultations

06/21 Research paper workshop; in-class consultations

06/28 Research paper due in-class