**EWRT211: What is a good society, and how do we get there?**

Instructor: Sherwin Mendoza, mendozasherwin@deanza.edu

Room L46 12:30 – 1:20 Monday - Friday

Office Hours and Location: Mondays 11:00 – 12:00 and by appointment, Multicultural Center (IIS Division main office)

Course Web Site: http://www.deanza.edu/faculty/mendozasherwin/ewrt211fall2013

Course Blog (Journals): http://ewrt211fall2013.blogspot.com/

In this class we will develop answers to the question posed in the title of the course: What is a good society, and how do we get there? The writing assignments will require you to engage with the society in which you live and the problems that that society faces. I want you to develop a sense for how writing can be an important step in solving problems and making your societies better.

**Course Texts**

All course texts will be free and available online. You will choose one or more problems that are most urgent for you, and your readings will primarily be geared towards the specific problems you have selected.

**Assignments**

At the end of the quarter you will submit to the English Department a portfolio consisting of three items: a reflective essay, an analytical essay, and an in-class essay. I and two other faculty members from the English Department will then evaluate your portfolio to determine whether you are ready to take EWRT1A.

Throughout the quarter I will assign to you reading assignments and journals. Hopefully you will be able to build your assignments into an outstanding analytical essay.

**Course Policies**

Attendance is mandatory. All class time counts and attendance every day is required. Please contact me before class if you are unable to attend, and we will set up a way for you to make up the missed class time. Please respect my time and the time of your classmates by coming to class on time. Please turn in assignments on time to make it easier for me to track the progress of everyone in the class.

This course will abide by the college-wide policies of De Anza College with respect to academic conduct (honesty, respect for diversity, etc.).

**Course Schedule**

**Unit I: What is a good society?**

September 23-September 27

**Unit II: How do we make our lives and our societies better?**

September 30-October 4

Essay 1 due: Solving a problem

October 7-October 11

Essay 2 due: A solution that requires a social change

**Unit III: How can information technology improve our societies? What are the limits of information technology?**

October 14-October 18

October 21-October 25

October 28-November 1

Analytical Essay 1 due

**Unit IV: Is travel a solution? How should people who travel, migrate, and immigrate relate to locals? How should locals relate to travelers, migrants, and immigrants?**

November 4-November 8

November 12-November 15

Monday, November 11: Veterans’ Day

November 18-November 22

Analytical Essay 2 due

**Unit V: Reflective Essay, Finalizing Portfolios**

November 25-November 27

Thursday-Sunday, November 28-December 1: Thanksgiving

December 2-December 6

Reflective Essay due

December 9

Final Exam: Wednesday, December 11, 11:30-1:30