

## Course Syllabus

EWRT 1A-14Q-and LART 250-14Q: "Composition and Reading" (CRN 36743 and 36744)

### Winter 2024

**Class Meets:** Online, asynchronously and synchronously (Mondays and Wednesdays 5:30-7:20 on Zoom via Canvas)

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

**Online office hours** (via Canvas Messages): Mondays and Wednesdays 10:00-11:00

**English Performance Success (EPS) Counselors:** Monica Ganesh, Felisa Vilaubi, Christian Rodriguez ([English Performance Success \(deanza.edu\)](http://deanza.edu))

**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.

\*Please note that you are taking this 1A class in tandem with LART 250. These two courses work together to provide more practice and support, so that you can become a highly skilled academic reader and writer. The two courses are graded separately, but the assignments are completely integrated. LART 250 is 3 units and is a pass/fail course and EWRT 1A is 5 units is a letter graded course. After this course you will increase your likelihood of success in EWRT 1B and EWRT 2 and hopefully all your other classes.

**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):

- *Rules for Writers*, 10<sup>th</sup> edition (Hacker and Sommer)
- *The Bean Trees* (Barbara Kingsolver)
- Various readings (TBA), which will be posted on Canvas

**Accessing the course:** Our class will be conducted online through our Canvas course page. By Tuesday and Thursday mornings (following our Zoom meetings), I will post most course materials—the class lesson, discussion board(s), assignments, quizzes, etc.—for the upcoming class meeting 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 Zoom meeting (each assignment’s due date will be specified) unless otherwise stated 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 online office hours twice a week (see above for hours). I am also happy to schedule appointments outside of these hours—just connect with me so we can set up an appointment. During online office hour times, 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.

**Participation:** Regular participation and attendance in this course is *mandatory*: you must attend every Zoom meeting for its full duration (M/W 5:30-7:20), submit all course assignments, engage in all discussion groups, follow along with all 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.

**Attendance:** You must attend every Zoom meeting for its full duration (~two hours) throughout the quarter. Each student is allowed two absences, whether excused or unexcused. Leaving a Zoom meeting more than 10 minutes early or arriving more than 10 minutes late or not replying when I call on you will be considered an absence. Each additional absence after the first two will result in the lowering of your participation grade by one letter grade (three class absences will result in, maximum, a “B” course participation grade; five will result in a “D” grade). It is up to you to watch the class Zoom recording on your own time if you miss class to catch up on class work/information.

#### **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 and LART 250 as well as the portfolio, or you will earn an F in the course. I do not accept late essays after ten 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 (highlight in your revision each change you make so that I can see the changes). I will average the scores of your rewrite and original graded essay to determine your new grade.

**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).

**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)’s *Customized Support Activities* (CSAs)**

This class has partnered with the Writing and Reading Center (WRC) to offer Customized Support Activities (CSA) to help you this quarter. Pick activities you think will help you most. Complete at least **three** Customized Support Activities by the due dates below. I hope you can try tutoring at least once, but feel free to mix and match.

Options include:

- *In-person tutoring sessions **Monday-Thursday 9:30-6:30 in ATC 309***
- *Zoom tutoring sessions--**Click to Join** during WRC [open hours](#)*
- *Zoom Skills workshops--**Click to Join** after checking [workshop schedule](#)*
- *Counseling appointments (**info about Counseling**)*
- *Writing, reading or grammar resources (DLAs) that you complete on your own time*

**Winter 2024 CSA due dates:**

- Complete Activity 1 by **Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>** (end of week 5)
- Complete Activity 2 by **Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>** (end of week 8)
- Complete Activity 3 by **Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>** (end of week 10)
- Complete Optional Activity 4 by **Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>** (end of week 11)

**Watch your email and accept your invitation to join the CSA Canvas site.** This is not a separate class—it's just a tool to keep track of your completed activities and a resource for links and explanations of all the activities.

**Get verification for CSA credit for tutoring, workshops, counseling sessions or do-on-your-own activities.**

You don't submit assignments yourself—When you see the friendly SSC staff or tutors, they will mark the activity as completed.

**At the end of the quarter** I will check your activities in the CSA Canvas site myself, or ask you to send me a pdf/screenshot/photo of your grade sheet. You may also include the CSA grade sheet in your final portfolio to show the extra effort you made.

*If you have questions or are not sure where to start, please ask me, or contact Victoria or Diana at the WRC at [kahlervictoria@fhda.edu](mailto:kahlervictoria@fhda.edu) or [alvesdelimadiana@fhda.edu](mailto:alvesdelimadiana@fhda.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 will 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 LART 250** (a pass/fail course—you must earn 70% out of 100% in LART 250 to earn a pass):

- Diagnostic essay (timed): 10%

- Rough draft of paper #3: 15%
- Rewrite of one previous essay for portfolio: 10%
- Assignments: 25% (quizzes, assignments, discussion boards, etc.)
- Grammar: 15%
- Customized Academic support: 15%
- 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 in order to earn full participation in the course.)

\*Please note that you will receive a score of at least 70% if you pass an assignment, but the actual percentage you receive (from 70-100%) depends on whether you turned the assignment in on time, followed directions, and put in a strong effort.

#### **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: 17%
  - Outline for Paper 4: 2%
- Paper 5: 17%
- 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 in order 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 of the 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 an B+ in the class. However, if you do not pass the portfolio process, you still cannot pass the class. If you fail EWRT, you will also fail LART.

This system means that, 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.*

**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://PsychologicalServices(deanza.edu)) 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 (1/8):**

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

#### **Week 2 (1/15):**

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

\*1/20 is the last day to add classes.

\* 1/21 is the last day to add classes without a “W.”

#### **Week 3 (1/22):**

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

#### **Week 4 (1/29):**

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

#### **Week 5 (2/5):**

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

#### **Week 6 (2/12):**

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

**Week 7 (2/19):**

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

**Week 8 (2/26):**

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

\* 3/1 is the last day to drop classes with a “W.”

**Week 9 (3/4):**

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

**Week 10 (3/11):**

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 Saturday.

**Week 11 (3/18):**

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

**Week 12 (3/25-3/29):**

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