

EWRT 2: Critical Reading, Writing, Thinking

Instructor: Diané Furlan

Ways to Connect with Me:

- Office location and hours: Zoom Wednesday 11:00-12:00 pm
- E-mail: Furlandiane@fhda.edu
- Canvas in box

Ways You Will Hear from Me

- Announcements every Sunday night or Monday Morning with updates and a reminder to open the Weekly Readings/Videos page which detail expectations and activities for the week
- Comments on regular assignments if a particular issue comes up or you have a question.
- In addition to general comments, I will write annotations on your essays and drafts. (Be sure to have ad blockers turned off to read these.)
- Please be sure to have set your notifications for this course, so you don't miss out on an important message

Course Description and Objectives

The goal of this course is an intensive application of critical thinking skills to reading and writing. Deconstructing and interpreting rhetorical modes, in this class you will:

- read critically
- distinguish between perception and inference, between "literal" reading and interpretation
- analyze relationships
- apply principles of logic
- recognize, compare, and evaluate alternative points of view, values, and meanings
- write critically
- practice the multi-step process of writing--discovery, planning, drafting, revising
- articulate analyses and interpretations
- integrate multiple sources in a documented, analytical research paper

Student Learning Outcome Statements (SLO)

- 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.
- Articulate analyses and interpretations.

Required Texts and Materials

- Maasik, Sonia and Jack Solomon. *Signs of Life in the USA*. 10th ed.
- Wallace-Wells, David. *The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming*
- On-line material linked in Canvas

Course Requirements

Classroom Expectations

This class is listed as a lecture class, but it is mostly a doing class, with a great deal of small group discussion, on-line writing, and student-directed study. This means, among other things, that some of the responsibility you're used to teachers assuming will instead fall on your shoulders. To reflect the importance of this aspect of the course I will expect you to

- attend conferences if requested;
- actively participate in exercises and discussion on-line;
- check current Module for upcoming assignments and expectations;
- do all the assigned readings, writings, journals and exercises;
- produce multiple drafts of each assigned essay.

Written Work

Writing assignments are due on specific due dates. A complete essay must be a "good-faith" draft, a draft which is of the specified length and demonstrates effort. The grades for late papers will reflect their lateness in a lower score. For each day your paper is late, your grade will be lowered 5%. If you miss a peer review session or come to a peer review session unprepared you will receive a lower score (up to 5% lower) on your essay. Easter egg: if you wish to receive one extra credit point send me a photo (via my fhda email) of a screenshot of a snake wearing a hat or a photo of your pet. All work must be in twelve-point Times New Roman font and in the assigned MLA format or APA format. Please include a header with your last name and page numbers. However, emergencies do occur, so you may email me before the due date for an extension on either essay 1 or essay 2.

Grades

Course grade breakdown:

- Journal 10% (100 points)
- Exercises and Quizzes 10% (100 points)
- Writing Assignments/Essays:
 - Essay 1 10% (100 points)
 - Essay 2 15% (150 points)
 - Research Paper 25% (250 points)
- Discussion 10% (100 points)
- Final 10% (100 points)
- Research Notes 10% (100 points)

Course Policies

Attendance

You chose to take this course and so you are ultimately responsible for your participation. If you fall behind, it is your responsibility to catch up on missed work. If you stop participating in class, it is your responsibility to drop the class. Students who discontinue the class without dropping may receive a failing grade in the class. Absences of more than one week's assignments and discussions are excessive.

Plagiarism

Using the ideas or writing of another as one's own is not tolerated and may result in failure in the course. Please see me if you have any questions about plagiarism.

Need Special Accommodations? Send me the appropriate form ahead of time, discuss this with me and your needs will be met.

Student Success Center Free online and on-campus tutoring and workshops: <http://www.deanza.edu/studentsuccess> [Links to an external site.](#)

Introduce yourself to me via module one assignment after reading this. Let me know how long you have been at De Anza, what your major is, and what your goals with writing are.