

EWRT2-62Z

Fall 2024

Yeganeh Modirzadeh

De Anza College

Welcome to the Fall quarter!

This is an asynchronous section of EWRT2 with no mandatory Zoom meeting. I, however, will hold weekly Zoom office hours which I strongly encourage you to attend for your questions/concerns. Below are important policies and guidelines to which you need to adhere in order to complete this course successfully.

Contact

1. Contact information: Email at modirzadehyeganeh@fhda.edu and/or via Canvas Inbox feature.
2. Office hours: Thursdays 10:30-11:30 in L47.

Course Structure

1. **Course Load:** This is a 5-unit course that is designed to foster and advance critical thinking skills through reading and writing complex texts as well as viewing films. Expect to spend 10-15 hours weekly to effectively complete the assignments of this course!
2. **Textbook:** No textbook is required for purchase. All required course material will be available to you via Canvas. A free PDF link to [The Thinker's Guide to Fallacies, 8th Edition](#) is provided in Canvas.
3. **NYT:** You will need a subscription to the *New York Times*. You can access the newspaper via [De Anza College's free subscription offer](#).
4. **Collaboration:** Even though this is an asynchronous course, you will have several opportunities to work in Canvas groups. Forums as well as peer-editing will be set up as group assignments. You also can communicate with one another via Canvas' Inbox feature.
5. **Course Navigation:** Always refer to weekly modules to see assignments, lessons, resources, etc..
6. **Minimum Requirements to Pass:** All essays and all parts of the research paper must be submitted for you to be eligible to pass this course. Failure to submit any of the essays or parts of the research paper will result in being dropped (before the withdrawal deadline) or an F (after the withdrawal deadline).

Student Learning Outcome

- 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 Policies

Participation: Please participate in all collaborative and individual assignments in Canvas. Complete all weekly reading assignments, and turn in your work on time. Students with no or low activity on Canvas (remember you need to be active on Canvas for at least 10 hours a week) for more than one week will be required to meet with me to avoid getting dropped from the course.

If you do not log onto Canvas during the first week, you may be dropped from the course. Always communicate with your instructors before you miss an assignment and/or attendance. **Submission Method:** All work must be submitted on-time in the course management system, Canvas. Please do not attach your work in email after an assignment link has closed; it will not be graded!

Late Assignment: Most assignments, but not all (quizzes may not be made up after they close), may be submitted up to 48 hours late with 10% reduction in point value. Late is considered any submission after the due date. **Absolutely no submission will be accepted after the 48-hour grace period.**

Authenticity and Integrity: All writings will be submitted via Turnitin.com. A similarity and AI detection of up to 24% may receive a warning and the essay may need to be rewritten. Any essay with similarity and/or AI detection above 25% will receive a grade of zero! The detection does not include the works cited page. Please read [De Anza College's Academic Integrity disclosure](#) for further understanding of this contract.

Assignments

1. **Research paper Proposal (10 points)**

- You will come up with 10 questions about the topic of the course, "The Psychology and Politics of Happiness in the U.S.A.". These questions can be as direct as "Why is the U.S. falling in the world happiness rank?" to "How is happiness portrayed in social media"? Ultimately, you will narrow down each question to achieve a focus that fits into a short research paper (6-8 pages). Finding the focus for your research paper requires effective critical thinking, reading, and research.

2. **Research paper Working Thesis (10 points)**

- You may revise and resubmit the working thesis in a period of 2 weeks for as many times as needed to receive a perfect score. I provide feedback each time to help you improve your working thesis.

3. **Essay 1: A Position Paper based on your research paper's working thesis. (50 points)**

4. **Essay 2: Midterm- A Critical Thinking Exercise (50 points)**

- This assignment is based on your critical reading of assigned texts and recognizing logical fallacies in them through critical thinking. You will apply your understanding of logical fallacies as explained in your textbook, *The Thinker's Guide to Fallacies*, 8th

4. **Research Paper Working Outline (10 points)**

- The working outline includes the research paper's thesis, its supporting arguments and the main supporting evidence all listed and formatted in MLA and according to the Sample Outline in Canvas.

5. **Research Paper Annotated Bibliography (10 points)**

- Annotated Bibliography is an annotated list of sources **used in** your essay as supporting evidence. Any source not used in your essay must be removed from the bibliography. This assignment is explained in detail in Canvas.

6. **Essay 3: Research Paper Rough Draft Essay (20 points)**

- The Rough Draft is submitted in Week 10. This draft of the research paper will receive peer and tutor reviews to help you with the revision and proofreading step of the writing process when finalizing the research paper.

7. **Essay 4: Research Paper Final Draft Essay (100 points)**

- The final draft is due at the end of Week 11.
- 8. **Response to Reading Assignments and Quizzes (50-75 points)**
 - You will complete short-essay and/or multiple choice questions in response to reading and viewing of the course material.
- 9. **Weekly Forum Participation (50 points)**
 - Forum participation need to be in-depth and thorough to receive full credit. You must post first before you can see your peers' posts. **Be sure to reply to at least 2 peers' posts to receive full credit.** Each post must have a minimum of 100 words in length and discuss the topic in depth and breadth. Discussion forums are not about giving thumbs up and likes to your peers, but engage in meaningful conversations with them about the forum topic. Forum discussions are a vital part of our course and require time and diligence.
- 10. **Extra Credit Assignment (10 points possible)**
 - The extra credit assignment, worth 10 points, is open to students who have no more than one missing assignment.

De Anza Resources

1. [Writing and Reading Center](#) (In-person and Zoom tutoring)
2. [NetTutor](#) (Another Online Tutoring Service Via Canvas)
3. [Canvas Help \(24/7\)](#)
4. [Financial Aid Office](#)
5. [Mental Health and Wellness Center](#)
6. [Food Pantry and CalFresh](#)

Grading Criteria: A score of 70 percent and above count as passing, but anything less does not. All essays must state a clear thesis followed by several well-composed body paragraphs supporting the thesis with sufficient evidence and examples from the readings and from outside the readings. Essays must be edited and proofread before they are submitted.

Please note: I do not round up grades.

Your Essay score	Letter Grade
97-100	A+
94-96	A
90-93	A-
87-89	B+
84-86	B
80-83	B-
76-79	C+
70-75	C
67-69	D+
64-66	D
60-63	D-
59 and below	F

(C- is not an active grade at De Anza College.) This is our contract. Please review it thoroughly, and let me know if you have any questions/concerns about this syllabus. I look forward to working together to make this course a successful academic experience!

