

# EWRT 2 Course Syllabus



*“When you know how to think, it empowers you far beyond those who know only what to think.” -- Neil DeGrasse Tyson, astrophysicist*

## Welcome to EWRT 2!

Fall 2024 / Instructor Carrie Hechtman

EWRT 2	Class Time: Tues 8:30-10:20 a.m.	Location: Room S49
EWRT 2	Class Time: 2.5 hours Asynchronous	Location: Online in Canvas

## Course Description

This course allows students to develop critical thinking skills and the ability to apply these skills to reading and writing. Students will practice analytical and argumentative academic essays based on the reading of complex texts, and the use of outside research leading to analysis, comparison and synthesis, and a documented research paper.

This hybrid course will meet in person on Tuesdays in Room S49. The rest of the course will be accessible on Canvas. With only one face-to-face class each week, in-class time will be extremely important. You will also be expected to do a significant amount of work for this class on your own—with support available from the instructor and the many resources at De Anza.

## 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.

# Communication in This Course



## How to Reach Me

### Carrie Hechtman - Office Hours:

- Tuesdays 10:30-11:30 in room L47 – [Language and Communication Village](#)
- Or by appointment on Zoom (see Zoom link in the left column of our Canvas page)

### Email:

- Email me through the Inbox in Canvas (preferred) or at [hechtmancarrie@fhda.edu](mailto:hechtmancarrie@fhda.edu)
- I'm happy to answer questions. I will generally respond to emails within 24 hours (except on Saturdays).

## Other Ways We Will Communicate:

### Collaborative Learning

In this course, we will incorporate strategies that allow all of us to learn from each other. Studies such as [this one in the Harvard Gazette](#) indicate that **active learning** is a highly effective approach. We'll use **small group activities and partner work in class, as well as online interaction** such as collaborative annotation, discussion posts, and peer feedback to form a central bond in our approach to active learning. Please work with me to make sure that **each person's ideas and contributions will be valued and respected**. Together we can build a supportive community of writers!

### Announcements, Comments, Feedback from Instructor

- Outside of class, I will communicate with you by sending regular announcements and reminders.
- You may also get a message from me in Canvas or email if I see late or missing assignments.
- I will offer occasional comments in your Canvas assignments as I read through them, and
- I'll provide feedback on your essay rough drafts to help guide your revision.

### Individual Office Hours Meeting (required)

I invite you to come see me *at least once* to discuss your progress in the course and your writing projects. Please make an appointment anytime *before the end of Week 7*. Meeting with me once is a mandatory requirement to pass the class, but I encourage you to come more often than that!

## Required Course Materials

**Class readings will be posted on Canvas** or handed out, so no textbook purchases will be required. You may want a notebook for freewriting and note-taking by hand.



**Reliable computer** – Always use a computer when turning in assignments on Canvas. Some Canvas features are not easily visible on the cell phone app. If you need to check out a laptop, see Lendable Technology and Tech Support at the Library: <https://libguides.fhda.edu/DATech>

### Required online resources:

- Please sign up for a free subscription to the **New York Times** through the library - <https://libguides.fhda.edu/newyorktimesaccess>
- You will need a Perusall account for collaborative annotations. The cost is \$15. **The code for our class in Perusall is: HECHTMAN-7Y6J6**

## Important De Anza College Deadlines

- October 6 - Last day to [add 12-week classes](#)
- October 6 - Last day to [drop classes](#) without a W
- November 11 - Veterans Day holiday – no classes; offices closed
- November 15 - Last day to [drop classes](#) with a W
- Nov 28-Dec 1 - Thanksgiving holiday – no classes; offices closed
- December 9-13 - [Final exams](#)

## My Teaching Philosophy & Values



Our best learning occurs when we are actively trying new things or solving problems. Experimenting and making mistakes are part of how we grow, and regular practice is more valuable than trying to turn in something perfect.

Our classroom culture will center on open-minded inquiry, in which we help and respect each other without judgment. I hope we will forge our class of distinct individuals into a community of learners where you feel comfortable pushing yourself to practice new skills. Your abilities will increase as you talk through your ideas, actively listen to others' thoughts, support your classmates and feel supported by them. As we encourage and challenge each other, let's remember to practice kindness towards ourselves and our classmates.

Each individual in this class matters, and I am committed to respecting and affirming your unique identities. If you would like to be addressed by a name or gender pronoun not apparent on the class roster, please advise me. It's important to me that you feel seen as a learner. Communication is a key factor that allows me to support you, so please let me know how I can help to make this quarter a valuable experience.

## Grading Approach & Policies

I encourage you to try new things this quarter as you continue to develop new skills. To help minimize concerns about how your writing is graded, **your labor in this class will earn you an A or B, if you submit completed work on time with thoughtful effort.** This type of grading is called labor-based grading or contract grading.

In this class, almost every assignment will earn you 10 points if you meet the requirements. Final essay projects for each unit will consist of 4-5 assignments (rough draft, peer feedback, revision plan, revision, reflection), each of which is worth 10 points, so they will carry more weight.

You will earn fewer points if work is late (7-8 points), only partially complete (5 points, with the option to resubmit for additional points) or missing (0 points). **See Grading Contract for more details.**

I'm hoping this relieves the stress of worrying about what the instructor wants, freeing you to approach our work with curiosity and open-mindedness. Note that being consistent is more important than being perfect. If you show up regularly and do the work, not only will you earn a high grade, you will also be a stronger writer and student by the end of the quarter.

## Tips for Success

Labor-based contract grading rewards you for your effort, not for how well you guess how a given instructor defines an A, B, etc. You determine your grade by attending class and handing in thoughtful, complete assignments on time.



### Students earn an A in this class by demonstrating the following habits of success:

- **Attend class regularly and on time**, not missing or being late for more than 1 class.
- **Stay on top of weekly assignments.** Submit thoughtful, completed homework and essay drafts **on time** and with required word count.
- **Communicate** with me as soon as possible if you must miss a class or assignment. Ideally this would be **before** the missed class or work.
- Engage and participate during class by adding to small group discussions, **appropriately using technology**, actively listening, etc.
- Provide timely **peer feedback**, **significantly revise** between essay drafts, check for **correct citations**.
- **Demonstrate active reading and critical thinking in all work:**
  - Annotate readings thoughtfully and thoroughly.
  - Incorporate both your personal views and external sources into your writing.
  - Write in your own voice (not using AI, etc. to write your assignments).
  - Notice/describe connections between readings, lessons, ideas, or sources.
  - Share your insights in class and online through annotations, feedback, and small group discussions--and encourage your classmates as they share, too!

### Attendance

Since we only meet in person once a week, in-class time will be extremely important for your learning. You are allowed a maximum of 2 absences (excused or unexcused) from our face-to-face meetings. Further absences may cause you to be dropped from the course. Each instance of tardiness (15 minutes or more) or leaving early counts as 1/3 of an absence. Missing class during the first week may result in being dropped.

### Participation and Engagement

Our learning as a class builds on you being **present and prepared** for class. Not only will this be good for you, since you will understand the class work better, but you are an essential part of our classroom community. We need your ideas, enthusiasm, insights, and curiosity. Attendance and real engagement in our work is a major part of how you will become a more confident and successful student.

I encourage you to find an authentic path for your participation — whether it's sharing ideas in big class discussions or in our smaller group work or in our much-valued peer reviews. We support you!

## Overview of Assignments



### Unit 1 - Using Your Voice for Change - Persuasive Writing & California Propositions

- Weekly reading and annotation
- Necessary practice - Discussion posts (with peer responses) or reading responses
- Other assignments - video responses, research, slides
- Op-ed writing process - rough draft, peer feedback & revision plan
- Op-ed essay revised draft and unit reflection

### Unit 2 - Following Your Curiosity - Researching a Topic of Your Choice

- Weekly reading and annotation
- Research activities & topic proposal
- Annotated bibliography
- Necessary practice - Discussion posts (with peer responses)
- Research essay writing process - rough draft, peer feedback & revision plan
- Research essay revised draft and unit reflection

See Canvas for details about assignments and due dates.

## You Have Many Ways to Get Support

If you are struggling in this class, **please reach out!**

- Visit me during my office hours or email me for help using Canvas Inbox.
- Ask for an extension on an assignment, so I can give you additional feedback.
- Sign up for an academic tutor or workshop through the [Student Success Center](#).
- See the list of additional resources below.



## De Anza College Resources Are Here for You!

[De Anza College Toolkit](#): log-ins and links to many informational pages about De Anza

[Guide to Student Services](#): links to the many De Anza student services and events

[Student Success Center](#): academic support, tutoring and workshops

Lendable Technology and Tech Support at the Library: <https://libguides.fhda.edu/DATech>

[Student Resource Hub](#): tips for online learning, Canvas Help

[Resources for Basic Needs](#): mental health, food, transportation, housing, and more

[Mental Health & Wellness Center](#): <https://www.deanza.edu/mhwc/>

[Disability Support Programs & Services](#): <https://www.deanza.edu/dsps/>

[Support for Undocumented Students - HEFAS](#): <https://www.deanza.edu/hefas/>

[Academic Counseling](#): <https://www.deanza.edu/counseling/>

[Financial Aid](#): <http://www.deanza.edu/financialaid/>

# Academic Integrity and Avoiding Plagiarism

## De Anza's Policies on Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is representing the work of someone else as your own. This may include

- Incorporating the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs or parts of another person's writings without giving appropriate credit, and representing the product as one's own.
- Representing another's artistic or scholarly works such as musical compositions, computer programs, photographs, paintings, drawings or sculptures as your own
- Submitting a paper purchased from a research or term paper service, including the internet
- Undocumented use of internet sources

For more on De Anza's policies, see the link below:

[https://www.deanza.edu/policies/academic\\_integrity.html](https://www.deanza.edu/policies/academic_integrity.html)

## A Note About AI

You will not be able to fulfill the requirements for this course if you rely on ChatGPT or similar AI platforms to do your writing. This is because our assignments will require you to connect the ideas of others to your own thoughts, values, and perspectives. Most assignments will also ask you to incorporate quotes from our readings and add your own analysis to the quote or to provide specific examples.

AI is unreliable when it comes to incorporating quotes or examples. It certainly can't provide your unique voice or ideas on an issue. But these are the very things that make writing interesting to readers—specific examples and unique viewpoints. Even as AI becomes more sophisticated, our human experience written onto the page or screen will continue to provide the most satisfying reading experience. I would also point out that putting effort into researching and developing your writing can lead to unexpected discoveries, and feelings of pride and satisfaction for the writer.

Yes, there are acceptable ways to use AI such as getting started with some brainstorming or simple outlines. If you do find a reason to incorporate AI in the essays you submit, you must follow these guidelines for citing sources: **MLA on How to Cite AI** <https://style.mla.org/citing-generative-ai/>

## Mutual Respect Policy



De Anza College has a Mutual Respect Policy defined on in the following way:

The Board of Trustees of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District is deeply committed to the premise that on college campuses full participation in the educational process must be in an environment that is free from harassment based on race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, marital status, sex, age, sexual orientation or gender identity. At the same time the Board is, as always, committed to protecting freedom of speech to guarantee the free exchange of ideas. Nowhere is this protection of greater importance than on our college campuses, where the free exchange of ideas fosters knowledge, individual growth, and tolerance for new and different ideas. However, speech or expression used as a weapon to harass specific victims is not to be tolerated and is to be condemned.

Read more details on [De Anza's Mutual Respect link](#).

## Student Rights and Responsibilities

The De Anza College website has clear explanations of [Student Rights and Responsibilities](#) and clear guidelines on reporting any complaints or concerns or finding any help with complex issues on the [Student Complaints and Concerns](#) page.

