

**De Anza College**  
**EWRT2 – Critical Thinking**  
**IMPACT**

<b>Instructor:</b> Christine Chai	<b>Office hours (Zoom + F2F):</b> M 12:30p-2:30p (Zoom) W 2:20p-3:20p (after class) and by appointment
<b>Email address:</b> Canvas Inbox	
<b>Class Meetings:</b> W 12:30-2:20p (In-Person MLC 105)	

*\*\* If you are a student with a disability and would like to discuss special accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible.*

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A basic goal of EWRT 2 is to help you write well. What this entails is thinking well. Thus, another goal of this course is to improve your thinking skills mostly by encouraging you to think critically about your own ideas, beliefs, and assumptions as they compare with those of different writers and by working on reading skills. “Reading” not only means reading printed material, although that is the primary focus of this course, but also reading social situations, movies, people, advertisements, music, and so forth. A further objective of this course is to enable you to perform research effectively, evaluate data, and present your findings in an academic and professional form.

**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.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

- Course readings – links available on Canvas.
- Access to streaming videos/films (e.g., Hulu, Netflix, Amazon Prime video, YouTube, etc.) – there may be a small rental fee required if you don’t already subscribe to these networks.

**COURSE REGULATIONS**

**Dropping:** Please consult your portal to see the last day to drop the class. Withdrawal from class before the deadline is the responsibility of you, the student. Do not depend on the instructor to drop you. The instructor also has the option to drop you from the class if you have missed more than four class periods.

**Censorship policy:** This is an adult level course; materials/discussion addressing adult themes will not be censored.

**Cheating, Plagiarism, and Dishonest Behavior:** Plagiarism constitutes taking someone else’s ideas as your own even if you do not use the exact same wording. Anytime you use someone else’s ideas or words, you need to provide the necessary references and citations. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to) having somebody else write your essays for you or using an essay from any informational source (such as the Internet, a book, a magazine, a newspaper, and so forth). If a student is caught plagiarizing, penalties can range from the student receiving a zero on the assignment to reporting the incident to administration (which may

eventually result in a dismissal from the course and/or from the school). Students are expected to adhere to De Anza's Students' Rights and Responsibilities policies as well.

**Tutoring/Community Liaison:** We are so lucky to continue to have our IMPACT tutor and community liaison again this quarter.

De Anza's Tutorial center is also offering online tutoring. For more information, you can visit their website at <http://www.deanza.edu/studentsuccess>.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**CLASS MEETINGS:** Every Wednesday we will meet in person from 12:30 – 2:20 p.m. These are REQUIRED meetings so that we can try to build some community and have live discussions. You may miss three meetings for the quarter. After the three, you will lose participation points. If you arrive late to a meeting by more than 10 minutes, you will also lose participation points.

**FORMAL PAPERS:** There will be 4 academic papers, one of which will be a research paper. Each paper will be a minimum of 4 pages. All formal essays/papers must be submitted to Canvas by the assigned due dates and times. Canvas automatically submits all papers to Turnitin.com, which gives students the opportunity to see the level of originality in their ideas and writing. Each paper's grade will decline by 0.25% for each day late with a maximum of 30% penalty. **Late papers will not be accepted after one week.**

**RESEARCH PROJECT:** The research paper will consist of 6-7 pages and will include an annotated bibliography. More information will be provided.

**TUTORING:** Students are encouraged to attend tutoring sessions for extra credit points.

**READING/LECTURE QUIZZES:** Brief quizzes will cover recent lectures or readings.

**JOURNAL ASSIGNMENTS:** Additional writing and grammar work this quarter will be based on responding to personal journaling prompts that may/may not relate to the course content.

**CLASS DISCUSSIONS:** To continue to build upon our community and engage in intellectual, academic dialogue, you will be required to post regularly to the discussions as part of your "attendance" and participation. Discussion posts will close **48 hours** after the due date. **You may not make-up any discussions once they close.** Your two lowest discussion scores will be dropped (so if you miss any, they will be counted as your lowest scores. If you miss more than two, it will start affecting your grade).

I will not grade you on your grammar for these posts; instead, the point is to brainstorm ideas and have a dialogue with fellow students. Pay attention to word minimum counts when noted. So that students feel free to discuss with each other rather than talking directly to me in their posts, I will not be responding. I will, however, be reading all of them, and only respond to an individual as I see fit. For discussion posts involving students' thesis statements and outlines, **I will respond to each student who posts on time.**

For each discussion, ALL students will need to write an original post and will also need to respond to two other students. Your original posts need to be at least 120 words, and your responses need to be 80 words or more.

If a post already has three responses, do not respond to it. Pick another post to respond to. If you are the fourth or subsequent person to respond, **you will not earn credit for your response**. The reason is to make sure that every post gets a response, not just the first few people who posted.

**FINAL EXAM:** There will be no final exam. Instead, we will meet for a final community sharing and celebration.

**LATE WORK:** **Most assignments will close 48 hours after the due date. Paper assignments will close 1 week after the due date.** If you submit your assignment late, you will earn a .25% deduction per DAY it is late. After the assignment closes, you will NOT be able to make up the work.

**POSSIBLE GRADING DISTRIBUTION: 1000 points total**

ASSIGNMENT	POINTS
Three 3-4 page papers (150 pts. each)	450
Research Project:	
• Paper	150
• Annotated Bibliography	25
Discussion Posts: (10 pts. each)	100
• Original posts (6 pts. each)	
• Response posts (4 pts. each)	
Journal Assignments (10 pts. each)	100
Reading/Lecture Reflection Quizzes (25 pts each)	75
Participation (includes attendance both in-class and on Canvas)	100

