Spring 2025 EWRT1A
More Human than AI?

Instructor	Chesa Caparas (she/her and they/them pronouns)
Email	caparasfrancesca@fhda.edu and Canvas messenger
Office Hours	<u>Tuesdays</u> 1-3:15pm, online via Zoom, link in Canvas <u>Wednesdays</u> 11am-12:20pm, in person in F2-1b
When you can expect to hear from me	<u>**Beginning of each week**</u>: Welcome announcement <u>**End of each week**</u>: Recap announcement <u>**Assignment feedback**</u>: please allow up to 2 weeks for assignments to be graded **NOTE**: Be sure you turn on Canvas notifications so that you don't miss any important messages or updates from me.

Course Description

This course will focus on reading, writing, and thinking critically about emerging AI technologies. Why? Because AI in various forms is infused in almost everything we do in modern life, from Netflix and YouTube recommendations to the oft-maligned generative AI of ChatGPT. If you use Google maps to get to campus, you're using AI. If you use facial recognition to unlock your phone, you're using AI. Regardless of whether AI is allowed at your job or in your other classes, most, if not all of us, are using AI on a daily basis. However, we don't always have the opportunity to discuss how AI technologies are impacting our lives. I hope to provide those opportunities in this class.

Student Learning Objectives (from the Active Course Outline)
EWRT1A
- 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.

Class Requirements
- Internet access is required.
    - This is an online asynchronous course. We will not have any required meetings; all work will take place online asynchronously via Canvas.
- Required text: *Unmasking AI: My Mission to Protect What Is Human in a World of Machines* by Joy Buolamwini
- All other required readings, videos, and other materials will be posted on Canvas.

Grading Policy

This course will use contract grading, which means you will not receive a letter grade or points for individual assignments. Instead, for each assignment, we will work together to establish a set of expectations and learning outcomes, and you will be evaluated on whether you meet, exceed, or don't meet the expectations. The goal is to focus on the learning process rather than the grade or the points. Therefore, you will regularly write self-reflections about your learning process which will be used to determine your final grade.

Grading Scale

A = Consistently *exceeds* expectations
B = Consistently meets expectations
C = Meets some expectations but often falls below expectations
D = Consistently falls below expectations
F = Little or no work done

Late Work

I do accept late work though any work submitted after the initial due date will not "exceed expectations." Furthermore, assignments will close on Canvas one week after the due date and no late work will be accepted after that time. This ensures that I can give timely feedback and that you are able to follow a structured learning process, not just trying to complete all the work at the end of the term.

Class Etiquette

Please do your part to keep this classroom and our Canvas site safe spaces. You should feel free to share your ideas and express yourself but you should also be aware and respectful that others might have a different opinion than you do. Everybody in this class has a right to be heard. Be mindful that each person brings a different perspective based on her/his/their own experience. If you wish to disagree with a specific argument or claim, you must do so intelligently and respectfully.

When you are asked to respond to your peers' work, be thoughtful and constructive in your feedback. Remember that our ultimate goal is to learn from each other.

Academic Integrity and My AI Policy

Please see De Anza College's Academic Integrity Policy:
https://www.deanza.edu/policies/academic_integrity.html

AI tools are allowed for this course with specific restrictions. For the purposes of this class, AI tools include, but are not limited to, generative AI tools like ChatGPT, Gemini, and Claude. AI *also includes* translation tools like Google Translate and writing assistants like Grammarly. If you use ANY of these tools, **you must disclose that you are using them and appropriately cite them at all times**. I aim to teach you how to use these tools effectively, but that means you be honest about when you are using them. For this EWRT1A class you should use MLA format for citing generative AI.

The first instance of *unauthorized* AI use will require a consultation with the professor and a complete rewrite of the assignment. The second instance of unauthorized AI use will result in a 0 for the assignment. The third instance will result in a failing grade for the class and a Maxient report to the college.

IMPORTANT NOTE: these tools often generate false or misleading information. A large part of this class involves developing the critical thinking skills to approach all information with a healthy amount of skepticism and solid fact-checking skills. Therefore, please be aware that you are expected to cross-reference information generated by AI tools with other vetted sources.