

# COURSE SYLLABUS

## General Class Information

**Instructor:** Jamie Joseph ([josephjamie@fhda.edu](mailto:josephjamie@fhda.edu))

**My Office Hours:** Wednesdays from 10-12pm via Zoom, and Thursdays 9:30-1:30am in person in my office (F11J).

**Mandatory Class Time:** Thursdays from 11:30-1:20 in L66

**Canvas Due Dates:** Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday by 11:59pm

## Student Learning Outcomes

1. Apply critical thinking skills to writing and complex readings and images.
2. Demonstrate academic (analytical, argumentative) writing based on reading complex texts and analyzing images.
3. Demonstrate analysis, comparison, synthesis, and documentation of independent research.

## Course Description

English 2 is a transfer-level course that applies critical thinking skills to reading and writing, with particular focus on argument and issue-oriented literature.

## Required Texts

- [\*Think Again: The Power of Knowing What you Don't Know\*](#) [Links to an external site.](#) by Adam Grant

## Course Requirements

- Participation in discussion posts
- Completion of readings and assignments
- Weekly informal shared writing on class topics
- A progression of five formal writing assignments:
  - Personal Narrative
  - Rhetorical Analysis
  - Annotated Bibliography
  - Research Essay
  - Final Reflection

- Quizzes on the Readings

## Participation and Attendance

Attendance and consistent participation in our Canvas course are extremely important to your success in this course.

Participation includes doing all work asked of you in the weekly modules, maintaining a positive learning environment for your classmates and contributing to class discussions. Participation and respect for one another go hand in hand. Please respect each other and help create a safe space for discussions even if you have opposing ideas.

## Reading

English 2 is critical reading, writing and thinking. We'll be reading challenging, college-level works (measured by vocabulary, complexity of ideas, and stylistic sophistication) that reflect and examine cultural, ethnic, gender/sexual, socioeconomic, and other forms of diversity. Reading is a fundamental skill in college, and I'm happy to teach you several strategies and techniques for reading texts more deeply, effectively and competently.

## Weekly Writing Discussions

Our weekly informal Canvas discussions and peer responses are my ultimate multi-tasking creation. They allow you to practice, practice, practice writing, specifically analysis. They show me that you've read the texts and have thought about them carefully. They reflect the social nature of real-world writing (think blogs, tweets, etc.) and allow you to hone that skill as you listen and respond thoughtfully to one another.

## Quizzes

Be prepared for "pop up" reading and vocabulary quizzes to check for comprehension and critical thinking. My philosophy about quizzes is that they help the learner assess their own knowledge. They are not meant to be punitive but fun exercises that you can try yourself when you want to test your own knowledge of a subject.

## Essay Preparation

Essay writing in this course involves process: prewriting, drafting, revising and editing for a beautiful essay. All the steps of the writing process, such as brainstorming, journaling, freewriting, ideation, drafting, visiting me and/or the WRC, peer editing and revising will be taken into consideration in the grading of each assignment. Because we will engage in process step by step, we'll try to avoid procrastination.

## Essays

The bulk of your grade in this class will come from my assessment of your formal essays. In EWRT2, students are required to write 6,000 words. We will achieve this through five major writing assignments: Re-Think Essay, Inquiry Proposal, Annotated Bibliography, Research Argument, and Final Reflection. All formal writing must be revised and edited (with peers and tutors), and we will use Turnitin (a plagiarism checker) for each essay.

The use of AI will ONLY be allowed for brainstorming, researching, and editing. Students who overuse AI (as indicated by Turnitin), will be asked to re-write, perhaps in person during office hours. Please trust YOUR voice and ideas.

## Grading

Formal Essay Assignments will be worth roughly 70% of your final grade. Homework, Quizzes, and Participation will be worth 30% of your final grade. Your grade for this class can easily be found on Canvas throughout the quarter. Note: only you and I can view your grade.

Final grades will be based on the following breakdown:

A+=4.0, A=4.0, A-=3.7, B+=3.3, B=3.0, B-=2.7, C+=2.3, C=2.0, C-=1.7, D+=1.3, D=1.0, D-=0.7, F=0.0

A=93-100, A-=90-93, B+=87-89, B=83-87, B-=80-82, C+=77-79, C=73-77, C-=70-72, D+=67-69, D=63-66, D-=60-62, F=0-59

## Important Course Policies

### *Policy on Late Papers and Homework:*

I know that life happens, so I will accept late homework (discussions/informal writing) 24 hours past the due date without penalty. After 24, I will reduce your grade by a whole letter grade (i.e. an A becomes a B). Assignments that are more than a week late will be given a C as the highest possible score. If you require an extension for a formal essay, you must tell me well ahead of time that you need one.

### *Policy on Extra Credit:*

Because I am very generous with offering lots of informal points (completed work gets full credit on homework), and because I allow for late work (see above), I do not offer any extra credit.

### *Plagiarism and Academic Integrity:*

Academic integrity means being honest and open about the work you do for school. It means standing behind your own work and giving credit to the proper people when you borrow work from other sources. Academic dishonesty, also known as plagiarism, is when you use another person's words without giving that person credit. Remember that plagiarism is a punishable offense and can result in serious disciplinary action. Your submitted essays will run through a plagiarism checker, so please be mindful of giving credit and quoting properly.

Some of you may be aware of AI Chatbots that are able to compose essays. Taking phrases, sentences, or ideas from a chatbot, while not a person, is still plagiarism. I also want to caution you of the limitations of AI chatbots. If a chatbot were taking this course and completing the assignments, they would get a D. The sentences are clean, but the ideas are overly general and lack any critical thinking or development. For that reason alone, it's unwise to pass off Chatbot writing as your own.

If you are having trouble developing your own words or ideas, or you find it difficult to correctly give credit to your sources, you can always ask for help.

## Tips for Success

- Attend class on Thursdays even when you are not in the mood. Seeing each other may even boost your mood!
- Come prepared and ready to learn and engage. Of course, you are allowed one grumpy day per quarter.
- Come to office hours and ask for help! That's my job.
- Please let me know if you need any accommodations!
- Careful to turn in your assignments on time. I have to take off points for late assignments to be fair to all students who turn their work on time.

For technology support you can visit the [Online Education Center](#)Links to an external site.

Located in MLC 210; Contact them at: (408) 864-8969 or email them:  
[onlineeducation@deanza.edu](mailto:onlineeducation@deanza.edu)

Need help with Canvas? Please contact the [helpdeskLinks to an external site.](#) to submit a request.