

EWRT1A/LART 250: Composition and Reading (Section 9Q)

Spring 2025

MW 12:30 PM to 2:20 PM

Room: L46

Instructor: Sergio Rizzo

Email Address: rizzosergio@fhda.edu

Online Office Hour: Th 12:30-1:30 PM and by appointment

In-person office hour: Wednesday, 11:15-12:15 PM in Room L47 (The Language and Communication Village)

Mode of Instruction:

Instruction will be a combination of in-person lecture held on campus during scheduled class hours (**MW 12:30 PM-2:20 PM**) in room **L46** and the asynchronous platform **CANVAS**. I will have a weekly in-person office hour on **Wednesday** from **11:15-12:15 PM** and a weekly online office hour through **ZOOM** (**Th 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM**). I will also be contacting students through email, and students may contact me at Canvas Inbox or rizzosergio@fhda.edu. I will respond to an email in 24-48 hours.

Course Materials:

All course readings and other materials will be made available in the weekly course modules in Canvas.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- 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.
- Demonstrate the reading and writing process and metacognitive awareness in a combined reading and writing portfolio of the student's strongest work.

Course Description:

This course takes a cultural studies approach towards composition. In particular, the reading and writing you do for the course will analyze various popular media—primarily, but not limited to—photography, advertising, and film. A guiding premise of the course is that by studying the

visual composition of such texts students can better understand the process of written composition. To aid and develop your analysis of these texts, various critics writing on the media, advertising, and popular culture will be consulted and discussed.

EWRT 1A REQUIREMENTS

Papers (approximately 80%):

There will be five papers relating to two distinct units: 1) media and personal identity; 2) media as spectacle. The papers account for **80%** of your EWRT 1A grade and are weighted as follows: Personal Media Paper (in-class and at-home drafts = **40 %**); Media as Spectacle Paper (in-class and at-home drafts = **40%**). **ALL PAPER ASSIGNMENTS AND DRAFTS MUST BE COMPLETED IN ORDER TO PASS THE CLASS.** For all paper assignments students will be expected to consult and incorporate critical sources. **TWO** of these papers will be done in class and **AT LEAST** two will be done at home.

Late Papers:

THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UPS FOR IN-CLASS ESSAYS.

Papers written out of class with any designated in-class drafts or pre-writing exercises are due on the days indicated in the course modules. Late at-home papers will be accepted, but points may be deducted for each class day missed before the paper is turned in.

ALL FOUR OF THE PAPERS MUST BE COMPLETED TO PASS THE COURSE.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism occurs when a student uses another's work, ideas, or words and misrepresents them as one's own. Inadvertent misuse of sources is enough to fail a student's work. Knowingly misrepresenting another's work as one's own may fail the student from the course. It is each student's responsibility to avoid plagiarizing.

Canvas Quizzes (approximately 10%):

There will be quizzes on readings and other texts (photographs, ads, film scenes, etc.) in the weekly modules on Canvas. To get full credit the quiz must be finished by its due date. Incomplete or late quizzes will be accepted but may receive only partial credit.

Customized Support Activities (approximately 10%):


This class has partnered with the Writing and Reading Center to offer Customized Support Activities (CSA) to help you this quarter. You need to complete **at least three activities** during the quarter to receive full credit (an "A") for this portion of your coursework.


Here are some of the ways to fulfill the SSC requirement and some useful links to SSC resources:


Please [click to Join SSC Resources Canvas](#) This is a great source for reminders about tutoring and workshops and links to De Anza-specific curated resources for many subjects.


Student Success Center peer tutors can relate and are ready to help! Go to the [SSC homepage](#) and click on the yellow links for on-campus schedules and Zoom links.

 **Tutoring:** Drop-in or sign up for weekly sessions. Come with assignments or questions, or just stop by to check it out.

 **Workshops:** Skills Workshops on a variety of topics—managing stress, anti-procrastination, study tips and tricks, finding resources and community at De Anza and much more!

 **Group tutoring and group study:** Connect with classmates and others learning the same material. Most people learn better with others...give it a try!

 **Support for online learning:** Speak with a friendly peer tutor or SSC staff member about motivation and organization strategies to stay on track with less stress.

 **Need after-hours or weekend tutoring?** See the [Online Tutoring](#) page for information about **NetTutor** (accessible via Canvas).

LART250 REQUIREMENTS (P/NP)

In-class workshops and writing exercises (50%):

This course requires your active participation and will frequently function by work shopping or group exercises. There will be regular quizzes and writing exercises to be completed in class. The paper assignments and Canvas quizzes draw heavily upon these in-class activities which are designed to help raise the scores you get on quizzes and papers

Portfolio and Reflective Essay (50%):

If you complete all of your work and have a passing grade in the course (C or above) at the end of the quarter, you will have the opportunity to submit a portfolio to the English Department. This portfolio will affect your final grade in this course.

The English Department expects that your portfolio should

- demonstrate your best work in the class. Consider carefully which essays and assignments you will choose to include.
- represent the work of a student who is passing EWRT 1A. If you are not passing the class, you cannot submit a portfolio.
- NOT contain any plagiarism. Plagiarized work cannot pass the portfolio process.

This means that your final grade in this course depends on two processes:

1. If you complete all of your work in the class and have a passing grade, you will submit a portfolio of selected writing for review by members of the English Department at the end of the quarter. If these readers agree that your portfolio demonstrates the appropriate skills for a student who has completed this quarter of EWRT 1A, you will pass the class. If your portfolio does not demonstrate the appropriate skills, you will not pass the class.
2. If the English Department determines that you should pass, your actual final letter grade (A, B, or C) will be determined by the percentage of points you earned throughout the quarter. For example, if your percentage on your assignments throughout the quarter in this class is 89% **and you pass the portfolio process**, you will receive a B+ in the class. However, if you do not pass the portfolio process, you still cannot pass the class.

In order to pass this class with a good grade, you should

- • complete all of your work and **score as many points as possible** during the quarter.
- • revise and polish selected essays in order to **assemble a strong portfolio** at the end of the quarter.

My grades on your essays should be a signal of whether you are likely to pass the portfolio process, so you will definitely have multiple warnings if you are in danger. However, you should keep in mind that—ultimately—you will not be able to “make up” for failing essays by earning lots of participation points or homework points. Those points will not affect the assessment of your portfolio, even if they affect your grade.