**EWRT1A-14**

**Fall 2015**

**Community Health**

Instructor: Sherwin Mendoza, mendozasherwin@deanza.edu

Room MLC260, 8:30-9:20 Monday-Friday

Office Hours and Location: Mondays 11:00-12:00 and by appointment, MCC-14

Course Web Site: http://www.deanza.edu/faculty/mendozasherwin/ewrt1af15/

Course Blog (Journals): http://ewrt1af2015.blogspot.com/

In this class we will focus on the topic of community health. We will discuss health in a broad sense, in terms of not just the physical health of individuals but also in terms of social factors that affect the health of individuals such as income and racial inequities. In many cases access to things that are necessary for health, such as education, a safe environment, and adequate transportation, are unequally distributed among all members of a community. As a guide for this topic we will use the text *The Landscape of Opportunity*. The emphasis of our discussion will be on current inequity and ways to create more equity in our communities.

You will write three essays, a personal narrative during the first part of the quarter and two long essays in the middle and the end. In the first short essay you will write about your own experience diagnosing a problem and applying a solution.

Your second essay will be a research-based argumentative essay in which you will propose a change to a current law, policy, or rule that affects community health in Santa Clara County. To prepare you for this essay you will present research as a group about a specific aspect of community health and you will create a write-up of your own research. In your essay you will address a proposal to improve community health to people who have power over a government, institution, or organization that can change the law, policy, or rule.

Your third essay will be one in which you will analyze a YouTube video. The interpretation itself will not necessarily be tied to the topic of community health.

**Class Policies**

Attendance is mandatory. All class time counts and attendance every day is required unless I tell you otherwise. Please contact me before class if you are unable to attend, and we will set up a way for you to make up the missed class time. Please respect my time and the time of your classmates by coming to class on time. Please turn in assignments on time to make it easier for me to track the progress of everyone in the class.

This course will abide by the college-wide policies of De Anza College with respect to academic conduct (honesty, respect for diversity, etc.).

**Working Groups**

The most difficult assignment in this class is the research-based argumentative essay. You will form groups that will present to the class a specific topic or issue related to community health. Your research should be shared, but all of you will write your own summing up of your research and your own research-based argumentative essay. Your argumentative essay will build on research that you and your group members will conduct for your group presentation.

**Grammar Workshops**

We will devote the bulk of the class time to organizing your writing and developing your ideas in writing. If you need help with grammar I will ask you to attend grammar workshops that I will conduct outside of class with small groups of your classmates in which you will edit portions of your essays for grammar and mechanics.

**Appointments**

I will ask you to meet with me individually to discuss your writing. I will hold appointments in MCC-14.

**Writing Process**

One of the main things you should develop for this class is a writing process for producing academic essays. You will substantially develop your ideas before you begin writing the actual text of your essays. For each of your major essays I expect you to formulate and submit a thesis statement and an outline for feedback before you begin to work on a first draft. Note that, based on your research, your thesis statement is likely to change. Although it might not always be necessary, you should be prepared to completely rewrite your essay between the first draft and the final draft.

**Class Schedule**

Week of September 21

Diagnostic, personal narrative

Week of September 28

Personal narrative

*Landscape of Opportunity*

Week of October 5

*Landscape of Opportunity*

Select a topic

Week of October 12

Initial Research

Week of October 19

Group Presentation

Short Writing Assignment

Works Cited, Citations

Week of October 26

Argumentative Essay: Formulate research question, do additional research

Week of November 2

Argumentative Essay: Outline, first draft

Week of November 9

Holiday November 9

Argumentative Essay: Final draft

Week of November 16

Analytical Essay: Formulate research question

Week of November 23

Holiday November 26-29

Analytical Essay: Outline, first draft

Week of November 30

Analytical Essay: Final draft

Revise Essays

Final Exam Tuesday, December 8, 7:00-9:00

**Grades**

10% Final Exam

10% Journals

10% Personal Narrative

10% Group Presentation and Short Writing Assignment

30% Research-based Argumentative Essay

30% Analytical Essay

I will evaluate your essays according to the essay grading rubric for EWRT1A at De Anza College. For your essays you will receive letter grades for each major part of the rubric: ideas and development, organization, and language use. Your overall grade for each essay will be an average of the three letter grades.

If you do the final exam, the journals, the personal narrative, and the group presentation and short writing assignment satisfactorily then an average of an A- on the two major essays will result in you receiving an A in the course. You will have the opportunity to revise the two major essays several times, and your grade for each essay will be the grade for the final draft.