

San José State University
Department of English & Comparative Literature
ENGL 1A: First-Year Writing, Section 47, Fall 2015

Course and Contact Information

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Office Hours:	TR 10:30-11:30AM and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	TR 9:00-10:15AM
Classroom:	SH 238
Prerequisites:	English Placement Test
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	GE Area A2 Written Communication

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, and assignment instructions can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. You are responsible for checking the messaging system through MySJSU to learn of any updates.

ENGL 1A Course Description

English 1A is an introductory writing course that will help students understand the writing process and the goals, dynamics, and genres of written communication. Through interpretation and analysis of texts, students will develop clear thinking and effective writing that give form and coherence to complex ideas. Students will practice these skills by writing for various audiences and rhetorical situations.

ENGL 1A Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to

1. communicate meaning clearly and effectively;
2. identify focus, tailored to a particular audience and purpose;
3. perform effectively the essential steps of the writing process (prewriting, organizing, composing, revising, and editing);
4. explain, analyze, develop, and criticize ideas effectively;
5. use within an essay supporting material drawn from primary and secondary sources, including appropriate citations;
6. organize individual paragraphs and entire essays;
7. construct sentences with accuracy, variety, and clarity;

8. use appropriate diction and tone;
9. control conventions of written English (e.g., punctuation, spelling, reference, agreement).

GE Area A2 Course Description

ENGL 1A fulfills the written communication general education requirement. Courses in GE Area A2 cultivate an understanding of the writing process and the goals, dynamics, and genres of written communication, with special attention to the nature of writing in the university. Students will develop college-level reading abilities, rhetorical sophistication, and writing styles that give form and coherence to complex ideas and feelings. A passing grade of C or better signifies that the student is a capable college-level writer and reader of English.

GE A2 Learning Outcomes (GELO)

In addition to the learning objectives stated above, ENGL 1A also measures the learning goals of GE Area A2. Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to

1. demonstrate the ability to read actively and rhetorically;
2. demonstrate the ability to perform the essential steps in the writing process (prewriting, organizing, composing, revising, and editing) and demonstrate an awareness of said performance;
3. articulate an awareness of and write according to the rhetorical features of texts, such as purpose, audience, context, and rhetorical appeals;
4. demonstrate the ability to integrate their ideas and those of others by explaining, analyzing, developing, and criticizing ideas effectively in several genres;
5. demonstrate college-level language use, clarity, and grammatical proficiency in writing.

ENGL 1A Course Content

Diversity: SJSU studies include an emphasis on diversity. Students will engage in integrated reading and writing assignments to construct their own arguments on complex issues that generate meaningful public debate. Readings for the course will include writers of different genders and from different socio-economic classes.

Writing: Writing assignments shall give students repeated practice in all phases of the writing process: prewriting, organizing, writing, revising, and editing. This class requires a minimum of 8000 words, at least 4000 of which must be in revised final draft form. Because in-class writing is valued and students should be able to perform well in timed writing situations, at least two essays shall be written in class. In addition, ENGL 1A classes require multiple out-of-class essays. Students must bring lined paper and pens to every class.

Reading: Most readings will require written responses. Assigned readings are mandatory and essential for participation in the class discussions. They are carefully selected examples of the studied types of writing you are going to work on during the semester. You must provide adequate Reading Responses (RR), which meet GELO 2-5 and are part of your final grade. **Your written response must be between 300-400 words and must be typed in Times New Roman, 12 point font, double-spaced.** You must submit it by the due date to receive full credit in the form required by the instructor and be ready to use it in a class discussion. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to submit your response on or before the due date to receive full participation credit. Late responses will lose one point per day.

Final Experience: Per Academic Senate policy S06-4, all classes require a final exam experience (see www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S06-4.pdf). The final exam schedule is online: <http://info.sjsu.edu/web->

dbgen/narr/static/schedules/final-exam-schedule-fall.html. We are required on a scheduled day during final exam week. The final exam will be in a form of individual presentations. Specific instructions will be given towards the end of the semester. The presentation is part of your final grade.

Required Texts

Textbook

The Curious Writer, by Bruce Ballenger, Concise 4th ed. Pearson, ISBN: 978-0-205-87664-8
 All incoming SJSU students receive a free e-handbook: *The Everyday Writer*, by Andrea Lunsford.
 Other readings will be posted on Canvas.

ENGL 1A Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

[Insert descriptions of course requirements and assignments here (e.g., informal / formal writing assignments, multimodal / oral presentations, group projects, reading assignments, etc.) Indicate how each assignment is aligned with the GE A2 and ENGL 1A course learning outcomes.]

Assignment Word Count and Learning Goals

Assignment	Min. Word Count	GELO	CLO
In-class essays (2)	650 each	1-5	1-9
Out-of-class essays (3)	1250 each	1-5	1-9
Peer-reviews (3)	-	1-5	1-9
Informal Writing	300	1-5	1-4, 6-9
Reading Responses	300	1-5	1,2,4,7,8,9
Participation and quizzes	-	1-5	1,2,4,7,8,9
Final Exam Presentation	-	1-5	1-9

Grading Policy

A-F. This class must be passed with a C or better to move on to CORE GE Area A3 and to satisfy the prerequisite for English 1B. A passing grade in the course signifies that the student is a capable college-level writer and reader of English. **This course must be passed with a C or better as a CSU graduation requirement.**

Assignment	Word Count	Max/Total	Weight/Total
In-class essays (2)	650 each	100/200	10% / 20%
Out-of-class essays (3)	1250 each	200/600	20% / 60%
Informal Writing (5)	300	10/50	5%
Reading Responses (5)	300	10/50	5%
Participation, Presentations, Peer-reviews, Quizzes	-	50	5%
Final Exam	-	50	5%

Course grade maximum 1000 points=100%

Requirements for particular assignments will vary, but in all cases essay grades will reflect the paper's effectiveness, which are broken down into three major areas: content (this includes maturity and sophistication of thought), organization, and expression. All assignments, quizzes, and exams are graded on a traditional A-F scale. *Double the points for out-of-class essay grades, x10 for final course grade scale.*

A+ 100 – 97	B+ 89 – 87	C+ 79 – 77	D+ 69 – 67	F 59 – 0
A 96 – 93	B 86 – 83	C 76 – 73	D 66 – 63	
A- 92 – 90	B- 82 – 80	C- 72 – 70	D- 62 – 60	

The following are the criteria by which essays are typically evaluated in first-year writing courses:

An “A” essay is organized and well-developed, demonstrating a clear understanding and fulfillment of the assignment, written in a unique and compelling voice. It will show the student’s ability to use language effectively with a solid command of grammar, mechanics, and usage.

A “B” essay demonstrates competence in the same categories as an “A” essay, but it may show slight weakness in one of these areas. It will respond to the topic suitably and may contain some grammatical, mechanical or usage errors.

A “C” essay will complete the requirements of the assignment, but it will show weaknesses in fundamentals, such as development. It may show weakness in mastery of grammar, mechanics, usage, or voice.

A “D” essay will neglect to meet all the requirements of the assignment or may be superficial in its treatment of the topic. It may lack development or fail to stay on topic. It may contain grammatical, mechanical, and/or usage errors that interfere with reader comprehension.

An “F” essay does not fulfill the requirements of the assignment.

Classroom Protocol

University policy F69-24, “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.”

Late Policy: Walking in late is distracting to the instructor and the class. Please, respect yours and other people’s time and effort to start class on time. Late work will be accepted only at the discretion of the instructor and will be downgraded. For major assignments, student must email the instructor before the due date to explain the reason for late submission in order to get an extension in exceptional circumstances (up to 7days following the due date).

Missed Work: Missing required assignments will compromise a passing grade for the course. Emails about missed in-class work and/or homework will not be tolerated. *It is your responsibility to find out what material and assignments you missed and turn them in, if allowed, before the next class.* Students are encouraged to exchange information and communicate with their classmates, Canvas is a safe and efficient way to do so.

Electronic Devices: All electronic devices must be silent and kept in your bag during class unless stated otherwise.

University Policies

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU’s policies and

practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See [University Policy S90-5](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf>. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the [SJSU catalog](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html), at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html>. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf), <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”
 - It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor's process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
 - In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

Academic integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. [Presidential Directive 97-03](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/directive-97-03/) at

http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](#) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See [University Policy S14-7](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf>.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit [Peer Connections website](#) at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the [Writing Center website](#) at

<http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook.

SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit [Counseling Services website](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

Course Schedule for 47639 / English 1A-47, Fall 2015

CW-*The Curious Writer*, EW-*The Everyday Writer*, CF-Canvas Files

IW-*Informal Writing* (300 words min.), RR-*Reading Response* (300 words min.)

All IW, RR, and Out-of-class essays MUST be posted on Canvas before the beginning of class on the due date.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	R 8/20	Introductions, syllabus, course schedule. Academic Writing
1	T 8/25	Writing as Inquiry. CW1, <i>Ex.1.4 (hard copy) due.</i> (in CF). Quiz
2	R 8/27	CW1 (in CF)/ Describing
2	T 9/1	<i>IW1 (describing) due.</i> CW2 Reading as Inquiry. Quiz
3	R 9/3	<i>RR1 (hard copy with annotations and response) due.</i> CW2 / Defining
3	T 9/8	<i>IW2 (defining) due.</i> CW3 Personal Narrative/ Reflecting
4	R 9/10	<i>RR2 (on essay 1 or 2) due.</i> Narrating/ Profiling
4	T 9/15	<i>IW3 (profiling with photo) due.</i> Share Presentations (5)
5	R 9/17	CW3 pp84-101 Opening Up/ Sketching/ Outlining/ Developing
5	T 9/22	<i>Draft of Personal Narrative due.</i> Peer-review. EW Language pp244-283
6	R 9/24	Revision Workshop CW10/ EW Sentence Style pp287-314
6	T 9/29	Out-of-class essay #1 due. CW6 Writing an Argument. Arg.1/ Logical Fallacies
7	R 10/1	<i>RR3 (Counter Argument 2 hard copy) due.</i> CW6 Argument 2 Debate
7	T 10/6	CW8 Doing Research/ Bibliography. Quiz
8	R 10/8	CW8 / Brainstorming Topics/ Creating a Thesis
8	T 10/13	<i>RR 4 (Bibliography p272 and journal p287 for 1 source) due.</i> CW5 Proposal / Problem-Solution / Cause-Effect
9	R 10/15	In-class essay#1
9	T 10/20	Proposal PPT Group Presentations (5)
10	R 10/22	Sources / MLA. CW9 / EW 456-511. Quiz
10	T 10/27	<i>Draft of Argument with Works Cited due.</i> Peer-review. EW 397-454

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
11	R 10/29	Revision Workshop. CW10/ EW 316-396
11	T 11/3	Out-of-class essay #2 due. CW4 Evaluative Writing. Ads/ Trailers/ Reviews
12	R 11/5	<i>IW4 (movie evaluation hard copy) due.</i> Share Presentations (5)
12	T 11/10	CW7 Critical Analysis, “The Bluebird”, “Lullaby”
13	R 11/12	CW7 Textual vs Non-textual / Comparing and Contrasting
13	T 11/17	<i>RR 5 (to text in CF) due.</i> Critical Analysis Thesis/ IE Prep Workshop
14	R 11/19	In-class Essay #2
14	T 11/24	<i>IW5 (on visual) due.</i> Prompt study/ Sketching
15	T 12/1	<i>Draft of Critical Analysis Essay due.</i> Peer-review. Review EW 243-454
15	R 12/3	Revision Workshop. CW10/ EW 243-454
16	T 12/8	Out-of-class essay #3 due. Final Exam Presentation Guidelines
Final Exam	T 12/10	7:15-9:30 AM in SH 238 Final Exam

The schedule is subject to change with fair notice. Students will be notified in advance in class or via Canvas.

NOTES:

“Knowledge is of no value until you put it into practice.” - Anton Chekhov

“The important thing is not to stop questioning.” - Albert Einstein

"One of the problems we have as writers is we don't take ourselves seriously while writing; being serious is setting aside a time and saying if it comes, good; if it doesn't come, good, I'll just sit here."

- Maya Angelou

“Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind.” - Dr. Seuss

Helpful websites:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu>

<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar>

<http://www.chompchomp.com/menu.htm>