

Critical Thinking and Writing Section 11

ENGL 2

Fall 2023 3 Unit(s) 08/21/2023 to 12/06/2023 Modified 08/17/2023

Course Description and Requisites

English 2 is a course that focuses on the relationship between language and logic in composing arguments. Students learn various methods of effective reasoning and appropriate rhetorical strategies to help them invent, demonstrate, and express arguments clearly, logically, and persuasively.

GE Area(s): A3. Critical Thinking and Writing

Prerequisite(s): Completion of GE Areas A1 and A2 each with grades of C- or better.

Note(s): ENGL 2 is not open to students who successfully completed ENGL 1B.

Letter Graded

* Classroom Protocols

ENGL 2

This course is open to all students needing to fulfill GE Area A3 (Critical Thinking). It is not open to students who have successfully completed ENGL 1B.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1A or Stretch English (with a grade of C- or better)

Course Content

Diversity: SJSU studies include an emphasis on diversity. You will engage in integrated reading, Writing, and oral assignments to construct your own arguments on complex issues (such as diversity and ethnicity, class and social equality) that generate meaningful public debate. Readings for the course will include writers of different ethnicities, genders, and socio-economic classes.

Writing: You will write a series of essays informed by research and articulating fully developed arguments about complex issues. Assignments emphasize those skills and activities in writing and thinking that produce the persuasive argument and the critical essay, each of which demands analysis, interpretation, and evaluation. Writing assignments give you repeated practice in prewriting, organizing, writing, revising, and editing. This class requires a minimum of 6000 words, at least 4000 of which must be in revised final draft form.

Logic: You will learn methods of argument analysis, both rhetorical and logical, that will allow you to identify logical structures (such as warrants, evidence, qualification, rebuttal; enthymemes and syllogisms) and distinguish common logical fallacies.

Reading: In addition to being writing intensive, ENGL 2 is also a reading course. You will read a variety of critical and argumentative texts to help develop your skills for understanding the logical structure of argumentative writing.

Oral: You will be presenting your arguments orally to class both as an individual and as part of a group.

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas Learning Management System course login website. You're responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU to learn of any updates. For help with using Canvas see Canvas Student Resources page.

Time Commitment

Success in ENGL 2 is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Final Examination or Evaluation

In ENGL 2, our learning culminates in a digital Reflection and Portfolio Assignment. In this assignment, we will gather samples of our writing that demonstrate our learning; we will write a reflection essay that explains what we have learned, how we learned it, and how we will use it in future learning; and we will submit our portfolio for consideration to other people in the first-year writing program. This is our chance to identify and articulate what we've learned and what we'll take forward with us into future learning/writing experiences.

Program Policies

First-Year Writing policies are listed at the following website: <https://www.sjsu.edu/english/frosh/program-policies.php> (<https://www.sjsu.edu/english/frosh/program-policies.php>).

Program Information

Welcome to this General Education course.

SJSU's General Education Program establishes a strong foundation of versatile skills, fosters curiosity about the world, promotes ethical judgment, and prepares students to engage and contribute responsibly and cooperatively in a multicultural, information-rich society. General education classes integrate areas of study and encourage progressively more complex and creative analysis, expression, and problem solving.

The General Education Program has three goals:

Goal 1: To develop students' core competencies for academic, personal, creative, and professional pursuits.

Goal 2: To enact the university's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and justice by ensuring that students have the knowledge and skills to serve and contribute to the well-being of local and global communities and the environment.

Goal 3: To offer students integrated, multidisciplinary, and innovative study in which they pose challenging questions, address complex issues, and develop cooperative and creative responses.

More information about the General Education Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) can be found on the [GE website](https://sjsu.edu/general-education/ge-requirements/overview/learning-outcomes.php) (<https://sjsu.edu/general-education/ge-requirements/overview/learning-outcomes.php>).

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

GE Area A3: Critical Thinking and Writing

Area A3 courses develop students' understanding of the relationship of language to logic. By engaging students in complex issues requiring critical thinking and effective argumentation, A3 courses develop students' abilities to research and analyze important topics and to construct their own arguments on issues that generate meaningful public debate and deliberation. Courses include explicit instruction and practice in inductive and deductive reasoning as well as identification of formal and informal fallacies of language and thought. Completion of Area A2 (Written Communication I) with a minimum grade of C- is a prerequisite for enrollment in Area A3. Completion of Area A3 with a grade of C- or better is a CSU graduation requirement.

GE Area A3 Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of an Area A3 course, students should be able to:

1. locate, interpret, evaluate, and synthesize evidence in a comprehensive way, including through library research; and integrate research findings into oral and written arguments through appropriate citation and quotation;
2. use a range of rhetorical and logical strategies to articulate and explain their positions on complex issues in dialogue with other points of view;
3. identify and critically evaluate the assumptions in and the contexts of arguments; and
4. use inductive and deductive logic to construct valid, evidence-supported arguments and draw valid conclusions.

Writing Practice: Students will write a minimum of 6000 words, at least 4000 of which must be in revised final draft form.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Attendance

Please attend all classes unless you are sick. I will give you an abundance of writing advice and help during class. I will break the assignments down and help you gather your ideas. Excessive absences will lead to failure in the course. We will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays for class and you will be required to complete work throughout the week and meet the due dates. I would suggest that you develop a schedule to regularly read and write for this class as well. I have listed all midweek assignments and expectations. Please see 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 ensure maximum benefits for all members of the class.

Class Participation

This is a discussion-based course, not a lecture-based one. This means participation is very important to the success of the class. We will complete daily work in class that goes toward your participation grade; you will not be able to complete these assignments if you do not come to class. I expect you to attend class daily and come on-time. However, during these times of Covid transmission, I will excuse your absence if you are sick or having symptoms. Please keep me informed.

Canvas and Electronic Devices

Most of our course materials will be posted on Canvas: syllabus, readings, Discussion prompts, Assignments Sheets and assignment drop boxes. You should check the Canvas site continually throughout the semester and you will want to use Canvas materials during class. However, please don't waste class time by texting, or being on social media. If you are on your phone during class, it must be used for class activities. I won't allow you make up class work, if you are present but doing other activities. Each in class assignment will be due by the end of class.

Late Policy

I will give you 1 late pass to be used at your discretion during the semester. A late pass means you are permitted to use it to turn in a late assignment without a grade deduction. You can use it up to 48 hours after the assignment due date. After that, I will deduct one whole letter grade for assignments that are turned in 24 hours late and 2 letter grades for assignments that are 48 hours late. Assignments that are turned in 48 hours beyond the due date will receive a 50% deduction. If you have a sickness or an emergency, please contact me immediately. On time Rough Draft submissions are vital to your growth as a writer and to the class goal of meeting the learning outcomes. A Rough Draft consists of a full draft that is within a hundred words of the required word count. I don't expect it to be your best work but more of a draft where you are testing ideas and organization patterns. I will expect you to show revision work which we will cover in class. Things to remember:

If a rough draft is submitted at the same time as the final copy, it will receive no points.

If a rough draft is submitted after the final copy, it will receive no points.

If a rough draft is precisely the same as the final copy, it will receive no points.

In other words, you do not get 25 points for just clicking "submit" again!

A rough draft submitted more than 48 hours late will receive 0 points and only partial points if it is submitted within the 48 hours after peer workshop.

✓ Grading Information

Grade Breakdown

Unless I make changes and announce otherwise, the overall breakdown of graded assignments and their corresponding values will be calculated as followed:

Assignment Point Values

Canvas In Class Process Assignments 300 (15x20 points each)

Rough Drafts 75 (3x25)

Response Essay 100

Analysis Compare and contrast Essay 125

Synthesis Inquiry Essay 100

Annotated Bibliography 100 (2X50)

Individual Remix Project Presentation 100

Reflective Letter 100

Total 1000

Percentages and Final Grades

A+ = 1000 to 970 points

A = 969 to 940 points

A- = 939 to 900 points

B+ = 899 to 870 points

B = 869 to 840 points

B - = 839 to 800 points

C+ = 799 to 770 points

C = 769 to 740 points

C- = 739 to 700 points

D+ = 699 to 670 points

D = 669 to 512 points

D- = 639 to 600 points

F = 599 points or lower

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.