SJSU SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Humanities and the Arts · English & Comparative Literature

Critical Thinking and Writing Section 14

ENGL 2

Spring 2023   3 Unit(s)   01/25/2023 to 05/15/2023   Modified 01/23/2023

👤 Contact Information

Instructor: Sara Cook

Email: Sara.Cook@sjsu.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays + Thursdays, 10:30am - 11:00am (and by appointment)

Zoom link for office hours (https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/86388836303?pwd=d3NTaTZrZWVOTFFqaVowaEdJdHhXdz09)

🖥 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

▤ 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).

▂▃▅ 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 Materials

- *Everything's an Argument*, **6th edition** by Lunsford and Ruszkiewicz (free PDF, on homepage of Canvas course)
- Other readings will be posted on Canvas throughout the semester. You will be responsible for reading and annotating them; notice of any additions will be sent via the announcements on Canvas.

☰ Course Requirements and Assignments

Important Information Specific to this Section of English 2:

Course Description:

This semester we will bolster our critical reading, writing, and thinking skills with an epistolary theme. The word epistolary derives from the Latin *epistole*, meaning a letter, and refers to something associated with letters or letter writing. In this course we will read and analyze letters on a variety of topics, and our major writing assignments will be authentic letters that we will send out into the real world (real writing!). In addition, we will have pen-pals: throughout the semester we will exchange letters with a 5th grade class at Washington Elementary School in San Jose. Through this sometimes intimate and sometimes public form of communication, we will ask, argue, and advocate as citizens of a democracy.

Course Policies:

- Reading: Class activities and discussions are based on the reading. It is pertinent that you have the reading completed on the corresponding date on the schedule -- I cannot emphasize the importance of this enough. I expect you to read slowly, attentively, and to annotate your texts.
- Peer Review Workshops: Peer workshops are a chance for you to test drive your writing and are very important to the writing process. You must attend! If you choose not to attend a peer review workshop, you will forfeit one letter grade on the assignment.
- Participation: This is a seminar course and therefore oral participation is necessary: your thoughts and questions are important to our communal growth as thinkers and writers.
- Final Exam: The final exam for this course is Wednesday, May 17th, from 7:15am - 9:30am. On this morning, our 5th grade writing partners will be taking a field trip to SJSU to meet us and see the campus. **This meeting is your final exam and it is mandatory. If you do not attend, you will fail this class.**
- AI: You are not permitted to submit work that has been created by artificial intelligence, such as ChatGPT. While AI has many great uses, you are in this class (and college) to become a better writer and thinker, and you cannot do that without practice.

In this class I expect you to:

1. Commit yourself. Academic work is what you make of it.
2. Come to class on time. Tardiness is disruptive and disrespectful.
3. If you are not using your cell phone for a class activity, it should be silenced and **stowed, out of reach**.
4. Engage yourself in our class. If you are doing anything other than being present in our class work, I will ask you to leave our meeting.
5. Take responsibility for your actions, positive and negative. Remember teachers do not "give" grades, you earn them.
6. Communicate with me. I am here to help you, but I have no way of knowing if you are unclear about an assignment or otherwise need help unless you tell me. If you have questions about the work, speak up in class, come to see me in my office, or send an email.

My Professional Policies

1. I do not accept late work.
2. I do not accept work via email (unless I specifically request it).
3. In class work cannot be made-up.
4. I reserve the right to publish your work to the class as part of our workshop activities.
5. Please come to my office hours for any help you want; that is what I am here for. Office hours are held over Zoom (link under contact information at the top of the syllabus).

✔ Grading Information

Criteria

Essays in this class will be graded according to the following criteria:

A = Excellent. This essay is organized and well constructed. It demonstrates a clear understanding of the topic and has a focused thesis. Ideas are clearly presented and supported with specific details. Paragraphs are fully developed and flow easily from one to the next. The language is varied, lively and syntactically complex. This paper is virtually free of mechanical errors and is a pleasure to read.

B = Very good. This essay shows an understanding of the prompt, but is less precise and original than the "A" paper. This paper exhibits clear ideas and supports them with examples, but may lack sentence variety and a consistent, smooth flow. This paper may contain minor grammatical and/or mechanical errors, however it does exhibit overall confidence.

C = Average. This essay discusses the prompt, but in a superficial or overly generalized way. The paragraphs show a lack of firm control of the ideas and neglect to provide sufficient support and detail. Word choice and syntax is unvaried and simplistic and mechanical errors may be frequent enough to distract the reader.

D = Poor. This essay makes an attempt to discuss the prompt, but is poorly organized, vague, and lacks appropriate and/or adequate examples. The paper exhibits a weak control of ideas and syntax and is full of mechanical and grammatical errors.

F = Unacceptable. This essay does not adequately fulfill any of the requirements of the assignment. It fails to address the prompt or misrepresents it significantly. It lacks coherence, clarity and development. This essay does not demonstrate a competent understanding of grammar and mechanics.

Breakdown

Grading: A-F. 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.**

Grade Calculation:

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

Assignment	Word Count	% of Grade
Assignment 1	1200	15%
Assignment 2	1200+	20%
Assignment 3	1600+	25%
Homework + other work	2500	20%
Participation	n/a	10%
Portfolio	600	5%
Final Exam (mandatory)	n/a	5%

🏛 University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9 (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 Syllabus Information web page (https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

📅 Course Schedule

See Course Schedule on homepage of this Canvas course