Critical Thinking and Writing Section 83
ENGL 2

Fall 2024   3 Unit(s)   08/21/2024 to 12/09/2024   Modified 08/13/2024

👤 Contact Information

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Office hour: Friday, 9-9:30 and by appointment

💻 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 Area A2 with a grade of "C-" or better.

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

Letter Graded

✳ Classroom Protocols

ENGL 2

ENGL 2 is an online course that is run asynchronously, which means we do not have a specified day / time where we meet as a class. Instead, you will be working independently at your own pace. All assignments will be posted and submitted on our course Canvas site. Asynchronous classes do not provide as much support as in-person ones do. You must be comfortable and confident with your writing background to enjoy this kind of online instruction.

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. You're also responsible for regularly checking your email and the messaging system through Canvas to learn of any updates or information from me. For help with using Canvas see Canvas Student Resources page.

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).

📊 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

There is no required text for the course. All readings are available on Canvas, online, or through the MLK Library database.

- Wiens, Kyle. "Why I Won't Hire People Who Use Poor Grammar. Here's Why." (Canvas and online)
- Wiens video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2NFvCpIMjvo (time stamp: 28.45 mins)
- Hoover, Brad. "Good Grammar Should Be Everyone's Business." (Canvas and online)
- Scaros, Cecila. "Good Grammar in Business Communications." (online) https://cecilescaros.com/good-grammar-in-business-communications/ OR,
- https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/importance-good-grammar-business-communications-cecile-scaros

📋 Course Requirements and Assignments

The course writing assignments (see below) will give you repeated practice in all phases of the writing process: prewriting, organizing, writing, revising, and editing. You will receive frequent evaluations of your writing from me. Evaluative comments will be substantive, addressing both the logic of the argument and the quality and form of the writing. Comments will encourage and acknowledge success as well as note problems and suggest ways to improve.

Assignment	Grade Percentage
Rogerian argument	35
Style revision	45

Informal writing / style exercises	20

✔ Grading Information

Lateness: I do not accept late informal writing / style exercises. However, I will accept late essays with a **10 point reduction**. To account for illnesses and other emergencies, you have one late pass that you can apply to any final **major essay**. A late pass will allow you to submit the work (without penalty) up to two days after the due date. Computer / internet problems are not an acceptable excuse for submitting work late.

Extra Credit: There are no opportunities for extra credit in the course.

Grading scale: Grades are automatically calculated on Canvas, using the following scale:

A (100-94%), **A-** (93-90%), **B+** (89-87%), **B** (86-84%), **B-** (83-80%), **C+** (79-77%), **C** (76-74%), **C-** (73-70%), **D+** (69-67%), **D** (66-60%), **F** (59% and 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.

📅 Course Schedule

Weekly Syllabus

The following schedule outlines what will be covered each week and the formal writing projects that are due. Due dates and assignments are subject to change with advance notice.

Week	Date	Topics & Videos	Assignments / writing projects

1	8/21-8/25	Course overview Watch: • Course welcome • Canvas / syllabus overview	
2	8/26-9/1	Grammar in the workplace	Rd: Wiens, Scaros, Hoover Article annotations (8/29)
3	9/2-9/8	Rogerian argument Watch: • on a Rogerian rhetoric • on writing a Rogerian argument • Smartless podcast on Rogers	Rogerian argument draft (9/5)
4-5	9/9-9/22	Revising rhetorically Watch: • on rhetorical style • on sentence variation	Rogerian argument final (9/19)
6	9/23-9/29	Middle Style Watch: • on sentence readability • on compiling the style analysis sheet	Style analysis sheet (9/26)
7	9/30-10/6	Middle Style Watch: on rhetorical sentences	Crafting rhetorical sentences (10/3)
8	10/7-10/13	Middle Style Watch: • on verb choice • on punctuation	Using active verbs and rhetorical punctuation (10/10)

9	10/14-10/20	Grand & Plain style Watch: • on rhetorical figures • on plain style	Crafting rhetorical figures (10/17)
10-11	10/21-11/3	Revising stylistically Watch: Style revision assignment instructions	Rogerian style revision draft (10/31)
12-13	11/4-11/17	Revising rhetorically	Rogerian style revision final (11/14)
14-16	11/18-12/8	portfolio assessment	Reflection essay (12/2)