

English 1A—Composition, Fall 2009

Instructor: Kelly Harrison
Section 27: T-Th 10:30-11:45
BBC 205
Section 48: T-Th 3:00-4:15
SH 241

Office: FO222
Office hours: T-Th 4:30-5:30 & by appointment
Email: kharriso@email.sjsu.edu
Course website: www.sjsu.edu/faculty/harrison

Required texts and materials

- Lynn Quitman Troyka and Douglass Hesse, *Simon & Schuster's Handbook for Writers*. 9e ISBN-13: 9780136028604
- Marjorie Mather, Brett McLenithan (eds), *Clear Writing: Readings in Expository Prose*, ISBN 978-1-55111-824-6 (\$39.95 online at www.broadviewpress.com)
- College-level dictionary
- 4-5 blue books and 2 yellow books for in-class and final essays
- Two-pocket folder (cardboard, Pee Chee type OK)

NO LAPTOP, NO CELLPHONE POLICY

You are expected to be present in both mind and body. You can't do that if you're checking Facebook or texting a friend. Therefore, you may *not* use laptops in the classroom. If you must take a call because of an emergency, leave the classroom. *Anyone using a phone during a quiz or in-class essay or during any other assignment will receive an F (0 points) for that assignment.*

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. Information on add/drops are available at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-324.html>. Information about late drop is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

English 1A Learning Objectives (G.E. Area A2):

LO 1: Students will write complete essays that demonstrate the ability to perform effectively the essential steps in the writing process (prewriting, organizing, composing, revising, and editing).

LO 2: Students will write complete essays that demonstrate the ability to express (explain, analyze, develop, and criticize) ideas effectively.

LO 3: Students will write complete essays that demonstrate the ability to use correct grammar (syntax, mechanics, and citation of sources) at a college level of sophistication.

LO 4: Students will write complete essays that demonstrate the ability to write for different audiences.

Content Objectives for GE Area A2

- Writing assignments will give students repeated practice in pre-writing, organizing, writing, revising, and editing.
- The number of writing assignments and their careful sequencing are as important as the total number of words written. Eight to ten essays totaling a minimum of 8000 words are required. This minimum requirement excludes the final exam, journal writing, quizzes, and other informal or brief assignments.
- Although the majority of papers will be written outside of class, at least three essays will be written in class.

- Students will receive frequent evaluations from the instructor. Evaluative comments must be substantive, addressing the quality and form of writing.
- Reading for the course will be extensive and intensive. It will include useful models of writing for academic, general, and special audiences.

Quizzes, class assignments, and homework

Throughout the semester, I will give pop-quizzes on the assigned reading and grammar assignments. **These quizzes will not be announced in advance and cannot be made up.** I will assign various responses to reading and other short writing assignments both in and out of class.

Essays and essay formats

There are 8 required essays—four in-class, four out-of-class—and *you must complete all 8 essays in order to pass the course.*

Expect to produce a *minimum* of 8,000 words during the semester. This is a writing course; expect to write every week!

- **Out-of-class essays:** These must be 4-5 pages long (at least 1000 words, aim for 1200-1500), typed, double-spaced, spell and grammar checked. Late assignments will be graded down one full letter grade for every day late. No assignments will be accepted if more than one week late.
- **In-class essays:** These must be done in a blue book, available for purchase in the Spartan Bookstore or Robert’s. Bring your dictionary and a blue or black pen. Don’t miss class on these days. **In-class essays cannot be made up unless you get *prior* permission from me, which I will give only in cases of serious emergency.**

Workshops

Workshops consist of commenting on and editing your classmates’ papers. You are expected to comment thoughtfully and accept criticism with aplomb. (Look it up!) Your rough draft must also be included with your final draft of the essay.

The Final

The **mandatory** final exam will be administered to all 1A students on **Saturday, 5 December at 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. Place TBD _____.**

The format is similar to an in-class essay except you will have 30 minutes (vs 15) for prewriting and 60 minutes for writing. The university requires that you use a yellow book for this exam. Bring your dictionary and blue or black pens. English Department policy requires the final exam be 20% of your course grade. You must pass the final to pass the course.

Grading

Out-of-Class Essays (4 essays @10% each)	40%
In-Class Essays (3+diagnostic @ 5% each)	15%
Quizzes, homework, workshops, class participation	25%
Final Exam	20%

Plagiarism

Plagiarism means passing off someone else’s work as your own, such as:

- using text from a book and not citing it as such
- using web page text directly in your papers without citing
- having someone else write all or part of your paper.

Any assignment containing plagiarized passages will receive a 0 grade automatically. We will discuss strategies on avoiding plagiarism, in class.

Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. All student work is subject to review at <http://www.turnitin.com> to identify possible sources of plagiarism. Students found guilty of academic dishonesty will be reported to the proper authorities and may result in a grade of NC. **TURNITIN.COM Class ID: 2759227 password: sjsu**

Grading Policy

In English Department Courses, instructors will comment on and grade the quality of student writing as well as the quality of ideas being conveyed. All student writing should be distinguished by correct grammar and punctuation, appropriate diction and syntax, and well-organized paragraphs.

The Department of English reaffirms its commitment to the differential grading scale as defined in the SJSU Catalog (“The Grading System”). Grades issued must represent a full range of student performance: A = excellent; B = above average; C = average; D = below average; F = failure.

Note: English 1A is an A/B/C/No Credit course, but individual essays will be graded on the A-F scale. Any student with a **final grade below a C will not receive credit for the course**. The C-grade does not exist in 1A.

Academic Standards for Assessment

The “A” essay will be well organized and well developed, demonstrating a clear understanding and fulfillment of the assignment. It will show the student’s ability to use language effectively and to construct sentences distinguished by syntactic complexity and variety. Such essays will be essentially free of grammatical, mechanical, and usage errors.

The “B” essay will demonstrate competence in the same categories as the “A” essay. The chief difference is that the “B” essay will show some slight weakness in one of those categories. It may slight one of the assigned tasks, show less facility of expression, or contain some minor grammatical, mechanical, or usage flaws.

The “C” essay will complete all tasks set by the assignment, but show weaknesses in fundamentals, usually development, with barely enough specific information to illustrate the experience or support generalizations. The sentence construction may be less mature, and the use of language less effective and correct than the “B” essay.

The “D” essay will neglect one of the assigned tasks and be noticeably superficial in its treatment of the assignment—that is, too simplistic or too short. The essay may reveal some problems in development, with insufficient specific information to illustrate the experience or support generalizations. It will contain grammatical, mechanical, and/or usage errors that are serious and/or frequent enough to interfere substantially with the writer’s ability to communicate.

The “F” essay will demonstrate a striking underdevelopment of ideas and insufficient or unfocused organization. It will contain serious grammatical, mechanical, and usage errors that render some sentences incomprehensible.

Extra Credit

Opportunities for extra credit will be announced in class at various times.

Disabled Student Services

Students who require assistance due to a disability should contact the Disability Resource Center (Admin 110) at 408-924-6000 or 408-924-5990 TTY as soon as possible. You should also contact me and let me know what special accommodations may be necessary in the classroom.

University Policies

Academic integrity

Students should know that the University's Academic Integrity Policy is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf. Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University's integrity policy, require 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 website for Student Conduct and Ethical Development is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

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 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and 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 digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>

Helpful Websites

<http://www.prenhall.com/troyka>

<http://www.sjsu.edu/larc/>

<http://www.sjlibrary.org>

<http://essayinfo.com/>

<http://www.wonderfulwritingskillsunhandbook.com>

<http://www.turnitin.com>

Course schedule

Homework is listed on the day it is assigned—be sure to do the homework by the following class meeting. “Handbook” is the grammar text. Other readings are in *Clear Writing*.

TUESDAY	THURSDAY
8/25 INTRODUCTION HW: Adler “How to Mark a Book” handout Shitty first drafts” handout Buy course textbooks	8/27 IN CLASS ESSAY #1 Diagnostic HW: Register with turnitin.com Do library plagiarism tutorial at: http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/tutorial/plagiarism/index.htm
9/1 Review diagnostic essay Essay planning, assign Narrative Essay (#2) Aloud: WEB Du Bois, pg 111 HW: Read Handbook ch 1, ch33 Read Sedaris, pg 29	9/3 FURLOUGH DAY (Kelly only) HW: Read Handbook ch 2-4 Read Coupland, pg 396
9/8 Grammar you need to know HW: Gourevitch, pg 233 Handbook ch 16-17	9/10 Essay #2 workshop HW: Edit essay Kennedy, “The Protean N-word” handout Handbook ch 18
9/15 Essay #2 due (Narrative) N-word video HW: Hemingway, pg 332	9/17 Video/article discussion Managing the in-class essay HW: Handbook ch 19-21 Sontag, pg 398
9/22 FURLOUGH DAY – ALL FACULTY HW: Handbook ch 22	9/24 Essay #3 in-class, bring blue book! HW: Gladwell, pg 63
9/29 Essay review, essay #4 assigned HW: MLK pg, 176	10/1 Coupland, “Cigs” pg 57 HW: Dyer, pg 190
10/6 Essay #4 workshop HW: Polish essay	10/8 Essay #4 due Discuss Dyer HW: Ingram, pg 273
10/13 Essay #5 assigned (Process analysis) HW: re-read Adler, “How to Mark a Book”	10/15 FURLOUGH DAY (Kelly only)
10/20 Discussion Work on essay #5 HW: Klein, 44	10/22 Essay #5 workshop HW: Edit essay
10/27 Essay #5 due (Process) HW: Rodriguez, pg 114	10/29 Discussion HW: Lincoln, pg 170 Twain, pg 306

11/3 Discussion HW: Robinson, pg 147	11/15 Essay #6 in class, bring blue book! HW: TBD
11/10 Discussion HW: Lopez, pg 77	11/12 Discussion HW: TBD
11/17 Review essay, in-class prep, essay 8 assigned HW: TBD	11/19 Essay #7 in class, bring blue book! HW: TBD
11/24 FURLOUGH DAY Write essay #8	11/26 THANKSGIVING
12/1 Workshop #8	12/3 Final Prep review
ENGLISH 1A FINAL EXAM SATURDAY 5 Dec 2009 8-10a.m Place TBD _____ Bring yellow book, dictionary, pens (blue/black ink). No pencils allowed for essay writing.	
12/8 Letter to Kelly due Last day of instruction Essay #8 due (Argument/Persuasion)	

Important SJSU dates FALL 2009

Thursday, September 3	Last Day to Drop Courses w/o Entry on Record
Monday, September 7	Labor Day - Campus Closed (L)
Friday, September 11	Last Day to Add Courses & Register Late (A)
Monday, September 21	Enrollment Census Date (CD)
Wednesday, November 11	Veteran's Day -Campus Closed (V)
Wednesday, November 25	Classes that start at 5:00 PM or later will not meet.
Thursday, November 26	Thanksgiving Day - Campus Closed (T)
Tuesday, December 8	Last Day of Instruction – Last Day of Classes
Wednesday, December 9	Study/Conference Day (no classes or exams) (SC)
Thurs – Wed, December 10-16	Final Examinations (exams)
Thursday, December 17	Final Examinations Make-Up Day (MU)
Friday, December 18	Grade Evaluation Day (E)
Monday, December 21	Grades Due From Faculty – End of Fall Semester (G)
December 22- January 24	WINTER RECESS