

# English 1A—Composition

## Fall 2005

Instructor: Kelly Harrison  
Section: 55, F 9-11:45  
Location: SH 312

Office: BT553  
Office hours: MW 1:30-2:30, or F after class  
Email: kharriso@email.sjsu.edu  
Course website: [www.sjsu.edu/faculty/harrison](http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/harrison)

### Required texts

- Lynn Quitman Troyka and Douglass Hesse, *Simon & Schuster's Handbook for Writers*. ISBN 0-13-160439-2 or 013144350X
- Caroline Shrodes, Harry Finestone, Michael Shugrue, *The Conscious Reader*. ISBN 0321160746
- College-level dictionary (bundled with handbook in Spartan bookstore)
- 4-5 blue books and 2 yellow books for in-class and final essays

### Essays

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. The first diagnostic essay is not counted in your course grade.

- Diagnostic (in class)
- Narrative—tells a story
- Comparison/contrast—compares two or more objects (in class)
- Process Analysis—describes a process
- Cause-effect—describes results of certain actions (in class)
- Classification—organizes or sorts into categories, schemas, taxonomies
- Argumentation/persuasion—presents your opinion on a topic
- Final preparation (in class)

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, 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 two weeks 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 emergency.**

### 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.

## Workshops

Workshops consist of commenting on and editing your classmates' papers. You are expected to comment thoughtfully and accept criticism with aplomb.

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, December 3 at 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. Place TBD.**

The format is similar to an in-class essay except you will have 30 minutes 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.

## 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 someone else's work off 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.

**Class ID: 1334710 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.

## Helpful Websites

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

[http://wps.ablongman.com/long\\_shrodes\\_cr\\_9](http://wps.ablongman.com/long_shrodes_cr_9)

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

<http://www.sjlibrary.org>

<http://essayinfo.com/>

<http://www.wonderfulwritingskillsunhandbook.com>

<http://www.turnitin.com>

## Course schedule

CR = *The Conscious Reader*

HW = *Simon & Schuster's Handbook for Writers*

**Homework is listed on the day it is assigned—be sure to do the homework by the following class meeting.**

### **F 8.26.05**

Class: Introduction, Dave Barry “Red, White, and Beer”  
Adler “How to Mark a Book” handout  
Read “Shitty first drafts” handout

Homework: Review course description and schedule  
Buy text books and supplies (4 blue books, 2 yellow books)  
Read “Clutter” handout  
HW Ch 1

### **F 9.2.05**

Class: **Essay 1: Diagnostic IN CLASS. Bring to class 1 large blue book and a dictionary.**  
Narrative essay assigned, prewriting skills  
Developing your thesis and outline  
CR Du Bois “On Being Crazy” 548

Homework: HW Ch 33a-f  
HW Ch 3a-c

### **F 9.9.05**

Class: Workshop: Narrative draft  
CR Borges & I 21

Homework: CR Kantrowitz “Growing Up Gay” 544  
HW Ch 3d-e

### **F 9.16.05**

Class: **Essay 2 Due: Narrative**  
CR Kafka “Letter to His Father” 98  
Gettysburg address, 572

Homework: CR Kennedy “The Protean N-Word” 305  
HW Ch 4

### **F 9.23.05**

Class: Grammar  
HW Ch 4 discussion  
“The N-Word” video

Homework: CR Kolata “A Clone is Born” 474

**F 9.30.05**

Class: **Essay 3: Compare/Contrast IN CLASS. Bring to class 1 large blue book and a dictionary.**

Process Analysis assigned, brainstorming session & outlining  
HW Ch 5

Homework: CR Mitford "Behind the Formaldehyde Curtain" handout  
CR Grosso "The Individual in the New Age" 650

**F 10.7.05**

Class: CR Berlin "Notes on Prejudice" 646  
Workshop: Process Analysis draft

Homework: Reread Adler "How to Mark a Book" handout

**F 10.14.05**

Class: **Essay 4 Due: Process Analysis**

CR King "On Writing" 340

CR Ridley "Free Will" 506

"Teen brain development" handout

Homework: "The He Hormone" handout

**F 10.21.05**

Class: **Essay 5: Cause-effect IN CLASS. Bring to class 1 large blue book and a dictionary.**

HW Ch 6

Classification essay assigned & outlining

Homework: CR Atwood "Fiction: Happy Endings" 214

**F 10.28.05**

Class: Workshop: Classification essay  
HW Ch 16 "Conciseness"

Homework: Thomas, "The Technology of Medicine" handout  
CR Graffin "Anarchy in the Tenth Grade" 17

**F 11.4.05**

Class: **Essay 6 Due: Classification**

Argumentation/persuasion essay assigned

CR King "I have a dream" 577

Homework: CR Baker "Destroying to Preserve" 795

**F 11.11.05**

Class: Workshop: Argumentation essay

Homework: CR Balazar "The Internet or a .45, It's Robbery of the Artist" 300  
Rodriguez "Family Values" handout

**F 11.18.05**

Class: **Essay 7 Due: Argument/persuasion**

Grammar review, preparing for the final part 1

Writing letters: format, content

Homework: HW Ch 21 "Impact of Words"

HW Ch 19 "Variety and Emphasis"

Letter to Kelly

**F 12.2.05**

Class: **Essay 8 Final preparation. Bring to class 1 large blue book and a dictionary.**  
Preparing for the final part 2  
Sagan "Can We Know the Universe?" handout  
Homework: Study for the final

**SATURDAY 3 DECEMBER 2005—FINAL EXAM 8:00 – 10:00 am. PLACE TBD.**

**Important SJSU dates**

Monday, September 5	Labor Day observed - campus closed
Tuesday, September 6	Last day to drop or withdraw without a "W" grade
Tuesday, September 13	Schedule adjustment period ends Last day to add courses Instructor drop deadline
Wednesday, September 21	Enrollment Census date
Wednesday, November 2	Spring 2006 Enrollment appointments posted online
Monday, November 7	Winter 2006 registration begins (tentative)
Wednesday, November 9	Priority Registration Period begins for Spring 2006
Wednesday, November 23	Classes that start at 5:00 pm or later will not meet
Thurs-Fri, November 24-25	Thanksgiving Holiday - Campus closed
Thursday, December 8	Fall 2005 - Last day of instruction
Friday, December 9	Study/Conference Day - no classes or exams
Mon-Fri, December 12-16	Fall 2005 Final Exams
Monday, December 19	Final Exams - make-up day
Wednesday, December 21	Grades due from faculty
Wednesday, January 11	Fall 2005 grades available at <a href="https://my.sjsu.edu">https://my.sjsu.edu</a>