

San José State University
Department of Linguistics and Language Development

LING 21: Language and Thinking
Section 05 Fall 2018

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Tridha Chatterjee
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Office Hours:	M: 12-1pm; W: 1-2pm, and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	MW 3:00-4:15pm
Classroom:	Clark Hall 308
Recommended Prerequisites:	English 1A
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	Critical Thinking (A3) 3 Units/Graded A-F

Course Description

This course explores systems of language and logic in oral and written discourse, with a focus on the role of shared cultural assumptions, language style and the media of presentation in shaping the form and content of argumentation. We will study well-established techniques of critical thinking and logic, and apply them to written documents such as newspaper articles, magazine articles, essays and websites with a focus on current events. Successful students will become skilled at analyzing the arguments contained in these documents and will become proficient at producing sound arguments of their own in short and lengthy essays. Students should be willing to get familiar with current world events during the semester.

Required Readings

Textbook

Bassham, Gregory et al. (eds.) 2013. *Critical Thinking: A Student's Introduction*, 5th. ed. Boston: McGraw-Hill. (4th. edition is acceptable)

Other Readings

Other required readings will be made available to you on Canvas.

Library Liaison

Toby Matoush is the SJSU library liaison for linguistics. You can reach her by email (toby.Matoush@sjsu.edu) for any questions you may have regarding library sources.

Course Website

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, assignments, notices, etc. can be found on Canvas. You are responsible for regularly checking Canvas to find instructions and learn of updates.

Learning Outcomes:

GE Area A3 (Critical Thinking and Writing) Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- GELO 1: Locate and evaluate sources, through library research, and integrate research through appropriate citation and quotation.
- GELO 2: Present effective arguments that use a full range of legitimate rhetorical and logical strategies to articulate and explain their positions on complex issues in dialogue with other points of view.
- GELO 3: Effectively locate, interpret, evaluate, and synthesize evidence in a comprehensive way in support of one's ideas.
- GELO 4: Identify and critically evaluate the assumptions in and the context of an argument.
- GELO 5: Effectively distinguish and convey inductive and deductive patterns as appropriate, sequencing arguments and evidence logically to draw valid conclusions and articulate related outcomes (implications and consequences).

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- CLO1: Apply deductive and inductive logic.
- CLO2: Identify fallacies of relevance and evidence.
- CLO3: Evaluate arguments for validity and soundness, strength and cogency.
- CLO4: Analyze and discuss the use (and abuse) of logic in public discourse.
- CLO5: Analyze and discuss the interaction of culture, language and thought.
- CLO6: Write coherent, well-reasoned and well-supported essays.

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

According to SJSU policy for A3 courses such as this one, each student is required to produce 6000 words of written work during the semester. Four thousand of these words must be in revised final-draft form. You will write three essays, each with a peer reviewed draft and then a final draft (details and word count will be mentioned in the prompts).

Additionally, you will give a short oral presentation (5-10 minutes) at the end of the semester that will be evaluated by your classmates and by your instructor.

ASSIGNMENT	LEARNING OUTCOME	WORD COUNT
Assignments 1-3	GELOs 4, 5; CLOs 2, 3	1000 (~300 words each)
Quiz	GELOs 4, 5; CLOs 1, 2, 4	250
Midterm	GELOs 4, 5, CLO 3, 5	250
Essay 1 (First/final Draft)	GELOs 1-5, CLOs 1-6	400/500
Essay 2 (Final/final Draft)	GELOs 1-5, CLOs 1-6	700/1000
Essay 3 (First/final Draft)	GELOs 1-5, CLOs 1-6	700/1000
Final Exam	GELOs 4-5, CLOs 1-6	500
	Total Word Count	6300 (roughly)

Information on Course Assignments

1. **Lectures and Discussion Based on Readings** – In order to gain a full understanding of course concepts, students should complete the assigned readings before they are discussed in class and should participate in all in-class activities, including discussions on the topic of the day, group-work, and in-class writing.
2. **Homework Assignments:** These should be completed and submitted by the due date/time. These assignments demonstrate student ability to: Separate arguments from non-arguments (such as report, illustration, unsupported assumption, etc) (GELO 4); identify and evaluate deductive arguments from inductive arguments (GELO 5); identify logical fallacies and provide an explanation for their decision (GELO 4).
3. **Midterm & quiz** – Two tests will be given at specified dates. They involve questions similar to the ones explored in class activities, informal homework and in the assignments. Please note that tests must be taken on the date that they are given to the class; no make-up tests will be given except in cases of documented emergency.
4. **In-class Presentation** – At the end of the semester students will give short in-class presentations outlining the argument that they are making in their final essay. Students will receive feedback on their presentation from their classmates and from their instructor.
5. **Essays** will be longer written assignments where you will implement what you have learned in critical thinking and argumentation. All essays will have two drafts—a first mandatory peer review draft and the final draft. (Contributes to the satisfaction of CLOs 1 through 5.)
Essay # 1 will be a definition and the use of that definition to support your argument.
Essay # 2 will be on a controversial, socially relevant issue. You will do research, consider and evaluate the arguments on both sides of the issue.
Essay # 3 will be your stance on the issue discussed in essay #2 and your arguments to support your stance. The final draft of each essay must be turned into Canvas. More details on the essays will be given in class.
6. **Final Exam**- The final exam is comprehensive and will include topics studied throughout the semester. A study guide for the final will be posted on Canvas, and students will review for the final exam in class on the last day of the semester.

7. **Participation Points** – Students earn participation points by participating in group activities during class, for example, by writing short evaluations of their classmates’ semester-end presentations, by taking in-class quizzes and completing in-class exercises. These points come in the form of being in class – as classwork cannot be made up and homework is not accepted late.

Summary of Course Requirements and Percentages of Final Grades

Essay 1	10%
Essay 2	10%
Essay 3	20%
Quiz	10%
Homework Assignments	15%
Midterm Exam	10%
Final Exam	15%
Class Participation	10%
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 100%

Grading Policy

Like other GE courses at SJSU, the writing requirement (number of words) is mandatory – thus if you do not complete an essay, even if your grade is passing, you can fail the class. Similarly, the oral presentation is mandatory so you must complete it! Also, you must achieve a C- in order to pass and get credit for this course.

Classroom Protocol

- It is important to arrive to class on time, as late arrivals are disruptive to everyone.
- Put your cell phone on silent or vibrate and don’t text or take calls in class.
- Personal computers may be used in class only to support activity directly related to the course, for example, to take class notes or follow a link suggested by the instructor.
- Absolutely no access to electronic devices (phones, ipads, laptops, iwatches, et al.) will be allowed during exams.
- Each assignment must be the original work of the student who turns it in. Students may discuss homework assignments with classmates, but everything you turn in must be your own original writing.
- If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to contact me or a fellow student to find out what you’ve missed.
- No late-add petitions can be signed or approved by the instructor, chair or Dean of H & A.
- The instructor reserves the right to reschedule lecture topics, assignments and exams with adequate advance notice.

Assignment Protocol

- Informal homework can be typed or written – no late assignments accepted.
- Formal Assignments must be typed and turned in on Canvas and to me.
- Essays should be typed and turned into Canvas and to me (with all drafts)
- Late papers/formal assignments will lose ½ grade/day late.
- Peer review is an in class activity and cannot be made up. The points will be deducted from your final score.

Grading Policy

The SJSU Guidelines for General Education require that this course is taken for a letter grade and that it is **passed with a C- or better** in order to fulfill the Area A3 GE requirement. **Your final grade is completely under your control**; it will be the letter grade equivalent of the number of points you earn in the class as shown on the Canvas learning management system. Final letter grades will be assigned according to the chart below:

A+ = 98-100	B+ = 88-89.9	C+ = 78-79.9	D+ = 68-69.9	F = below 60
A = 93-97.9	B = 83-87.9	C = 73-77.9	D = 63-67.9	
A- = 90-92.9	B- = 80-82.9	C- = 70-72.9	D- = 60-62.9	

Note : “All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.” See [University Policy F13-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs’ [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>

Dropping and Adding – Keep this in mind!

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes. Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.