

San José State University
Humanities, Linguistics & Language Development
43042 Language and Thinking, Ling 21-09

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Janet Kitajima
Office Location:	Clark Hall, room 406C
Telephone:	(408) 431-1270
Email:	janet.kitajima@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Tues/Thurs. 12.30 – 1.00 pm and by appointment
Class Days/Time/Room:	Ling 21-09, Tues & Thurs, 12.00 – 1.15, Clark 308

Canvas

Course materials such as syllabus, updates and other information can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](http://sjsu.instructure.com) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU](http://my.sjsu.edu) at <http://my.sjsu.edu> (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor) to learn of any updates. You will also be required to upload final drafts of essays onto Canvas.

Course Description

Exploring 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 apply them to written documents like newspaper articles, magazine articles, essays, and government websites, with a focus on current events. Successful students will get good at analyzing these documents and producing arguments of their own. Students should be willing to get familiar with current world events during the semester.

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. 4,000 of these words must be in revised final-draft form.

GE/SJSU Course Goals

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

1. Locate and evaluate sources through library research and integrate research through appropriate citation and quotation.
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.
3. Effectively locate, interpret, evaluate, and synthesize evidence in a comprehensive way in support of one's ideas.
4. Identify and critically evaluate the assumptions in and the context of an argument.
5. Effectively distinguish and convey inductive and deductive patterns as appropriate, sequencing arguments and evidence 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:

- Insightfully analyze arguments as well as things that only pretend to be arguments.
- Demonstrate the ability to construct clear and meaningful discussions of their own involving their opinions on current events that are important to the people of the nation and the world.
- Begin to analyze the conceptual frames that underlie their experience of reality.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Bassham, G., Irwin, W., Nardone, H. & Wallace, J.M. (2011). *Critical Thinking. A Student's Introduction* (4th ed./5th ed.). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill. **Or** Bassham, Gregory, et al., (eds.) *Critical Thinking: A Student's Introduction*. 5th ed. McGraw-Hill: ISBN 9781121958722 (This is a custom textbook available only at the SJSU Bookstore.

Course Reader. Available at Maple Press, 481 E. San Carlos St. Phone: 297-1000. Please note that Maple Press does not accept credit cards; cash and personal checks are accepted.

You should have a college level dictionary.

I also advise you to subscribe to NPR's Up First podcast.

Library Liaison

Toby Matoush – toby.matoush@sjsu.edu

Course Requirements

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities.

Class Participation

Students are expected to participate in class activities, practice exercises, and general discussions, and there may also be homework and quizzes. Being an active member of the class makes it more stimulating for all. Attendance and timeliness is also significant, and students should inform me before class, or as soon as possible afterwards, if they cannot attend.

Assignments

4 Short Assignments

Assignments are to be typed and double-spaced with 1" margins, and will consist of a series of problems. They will require well organized thought, but a formal essay structure is not required for these assignments.

Assignment #1: Recognizing arguments (Contributes to the satisfactions of LO 4).

Assignment #2: Deductive and Inductive Reasoning (Contributes to the satisfaction of LOs 3 & 4).

Assignment #3: Fallacies (Contributes to the satisfaction of LOs 2 & 4).

Assignment #4: Presuppositions (Contributes to the satisfaction of LOs 3 & 4).

Mid Term Exams

Exams will have writing tasks similar to assignment problems. There will be 2 midterm exams.

Essay #1

Present a good argument on a controversial socially-relevant issue involving diversity (e.g. class, ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, religion). The issue must be one on which people disagree, and you will have to consider both sides of the argument. You may choose your topic, subject to my approval. The essay assignment includes a first draft and a final draft. The first draft should be at least 500 words long, and the final draft should be at least 1,000 words long. A typed, double-spaced page with 1” margins contains approximately 350 words, so 1,000 words would be approximately 3 pages. Each draft must be typed, double spaced, and with 1” margins, using Times New Roman font sized 12.

You will have to deal with the arguments that are currently being made on both sides of the issue that you choose. This will involve library research. You will have to determine which claims are true and which arguments are most pertinent. You must cite the sources that you use.

Essay #2

This essay will be a more substantial exploration of a debatable topic, and will be written using the Toulmin method. The first draft should have at least 1,000 words and the final draft will be 2,000 words long. (Contributes to the satisfaction of LOs 1 through 5).

First drafts of essays should be typed and turned in to me on the date marked in the schedule. You will receive feedback from me. The final drafts of both essays should be uploaded onto Canvas *and* a hard copy, along with the 1st draft and the grading rubric turned in on the due date.

In-Class Presentations & Reviewing Others’ Presentations

Your in-class presentation will be a discussion of the arguments of your final essay. The class will participate in the discussion. (Time allowed – approximately 10 – 15 minutes total). You will also review other students’ presentations. (Contributes to the satisfaction of GELOs 1,2,3 & LOs).

Final Exam

The final exam will be similar to the assignment problems, and will also include a section where you will be asked to write a paragraph about presuppositions or framing. The time allowed for the exam is 2 hours 15 minutes. The date for the exam is shown in the schedule. Rescheduling is only allowed if you have a documentable emergency or if you have 3 exams already scheduled on the same day.

Grading Information

98% - 100%=A+ 980 - 1,000	94% - 97%=A 940 - 979	90% - 93%=A- 900 - 939	87%-89%=B+ 870 - 899	84% - 86%=B 840 - 869	80% - 83%-B- 800 - 839
77% - 79% = C+ 770 - 799	74% - 76% = C 740 - 769	70% - 73% = C- 700 - 739	67% - 69% =D+ 670 - 699	64% - 66% = D 640 - 669	60% - 63% = D- 600 - 639

Assignment Name	Total Possible Points
Participation	50
Possible Extra Points	10
Assignment #1	50
Assignment #2	40
Assignment #3	40
Assignment #4	60
Essay #1 First Draft	50
Essay #1 Final Draft	150
Mid-Term Exam 1	65
Mid-Term Exam 2	40
Final Exam	100
Essay #2 First Draft	75
Essay #2 Final Draft	200
Presenting & Audience for others	50 , 20
Total	1,000

“This course must be passed with a C- or better as a CSU graduation requirement.”

Classroom Protocol

- **Cell phones must be turned off and put away during class.**
- Please arrive to class on time. Late entrances and early exits are highly distracting for both fellow students and instructors
- Absence from class may not be used as an excuse for failing to submit assignments on time.
- Assignments turned in late will receive a lower grade. A point will be deducted for each day that the assignment is late, up to a week. After a week, the assignment will be graded out of 80% of the original score, decreasing by 10% after each subsequent week.
- In-class assignments cannot be made up unless there are extenuating circumstances.
- Exams may not be taken at alternative times except in the case of an emergency or religious observance or if the student has 3 other exams scheduled on the same day. Any such cases must be documented in writing by the appropriate authorities.
- Each assignment must be the original work of the student who turns it in. No student may collaborate with anyone on any written document related to this class, or take any words from any source without acknowledging using either APA or MLA citing guides. You may discuss homework assignments with your classmates.
- Turning in essays written for a previous class is plagiarism and will result in an automatic fail for that assignment.
- If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to contact me, or a fellow student, to find out what you missed.

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/>”

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab 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 DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit [Peer Connections website](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to



scan this code.)

SJSU Counseling Services The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit [Counseling Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

21965 Language & Thinking; Spring, 2018, Course Schedule

The schedule is subject to change with fair notice. If it should become necessary to change the schedule, notice will be given in class and posted on Canvas.

Course Schedule

DATES	Tuesday	Thursday
8/21 – 8/23		Introduction to the Class
8/28 – 8/29	Introduction to Arguments Read CT Chapter 1 DUE: Personal Journal	What Detracts from Good Arguments
9/4 – 9/6	Recognizing Arguments Read CT Chapter 2	Deductive Reasoning Read CT Chapter 3 DUE: Assignment #1
9/11 – 9/13	Inductive Reasoning Read CT Chapter 11 Explaining Essay #1	Library Tour Meet at the King Library, room 219 at the usual time. DUE: Assignment #2
9/18 – 9/20	Language & Critical Thinking Read CT Chapter 4 DUE: First draft of Essay #1	Language & Critical Thinking Cont.
9/25 – 9/27	Review for Mid Term 1 DUE: Final Draft of Essay #1	Mid Term 1
10/2 – 10/4	Logical Fallacies Read CT Chapter 5	Logical Fallacies Read CT Chapter 6
10/9 – 10/11	The Toulmin Method DUE Assignment #3	On Writing Essays Read CR <i>Writing Argumentative Essays</i> DUE: Completed Toulmin Outline
10/16 – 10/18	Plagiarism and the Need for Citations Due: First draft of Essay #2	Individual conferences
10/30 – 11/1	Oral Presentations	Oral Presentation
11/6 – 11/8	Oral Presentations	Oral Presentations
11/13 – 11/15	Presuppositions & Hidden Assumptions Read Yule, in Course Reader DUE: Final draft of Essay #2	Presuppositions & Hidden Assumptions
11/20 11/21-11/23	Assignment #4 – We will review the topics covered and work on this assignment in class.	Thanksgiving Holiday
11/27 – 11/29	Mid-Term Review	Mid-Term 2
12/4 – 12/6	Cognitive Frames	Cognitive Frames Video <i>Crosstalk – Do not miss it!</i>
5/8 – 5/10	Practice for Final Exam	Practice for Final Exam
FINAL EXAMS	Ling 21-09 Friday, Dec. 14 – 9.45 – 12.00 pm	