

San José State University
College of Humanities /LLD
LING 21-10, Language and Thinking, Fall, 2018

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Roshini Joseph
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Office Hours:	T/Th 10:30-11:30am and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	T/Th 1:30 – 2:45pm
Classroom:	Engineering Building 232
Prerequisites:	English 1A strongly recommended

GE/SJSU Studies Category: Critical Thinking (A3) 3 Units. Grading options: A-F

Other Contact Information: Contact me by email. If you're not able to see me during office hours, you can make an appointment with me for another time. My box is in the Linguistics and Language Development department office in Clark Hall 473.

Course Website: Assignments, handouts, and lectures will be posted on the course website on Canvas. If you have trouble getting to the website, you can call the help desk at (408) 924-2377 or email me. Assignments will be available only on 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, government websites, and the SJSU website, 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. **Think more not less.**

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.

Course Goals and Student Learning Outcomes

GE/SJSU Studies Learning Outcomes: 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 logically to draw valid conclusions and articulate related outcomes (implications and consequences).

(The alignment of Learning Outcomes with assignments is given in the "Assignments" section below.)

Course Content Learning Outcomes: 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

Textbooks

Bassham, Gregory; William Irwin; Henry Nardone; & James Wallace. *Critical Thinking: A student's introduction* [Fourth Edition]. McGraw-Hill. **Special edition** by Create Custom Publishing for *LING 021 Language and Thinking*, Kevin Moore, San José State University, *Linguistics*. ISBN-13: 978-1-308-43356-1. Available at Spartan Bookstore on campus.

Or download the book using the given link

http://s3.amazonaws.com/engrade-myfiles/4008228113384505/Students_Guide_to_Critical_Thinking.pdf

The link is also given on the Canvas course site.

Other Readings: A compiled course reader will be available at Maple Press (481 E. San Carlos, one block from campus; (408) 297-1000). Will be available on _____. Be aware that Maple press takes only cash or checks. Hope for the best, but prepare for the worst. There will be other readings and exercises that will be posted on Canvas.

A college level dictionary is recommended.

Other requirements / equipment / material

You **must be able to access Canvas** to view course material, assignments and to turn in assignments and essays.

Library Liaison: Toby Matoush: toby.matoush@sjsu.edu

(SJSU library and library liaison are good sources to help you in your research, choosing topics etc.)

Summary of Course Requirements and Percentages of Final Grades Requirements and Percentages

Homework and Participation	12%
Problem Sets (Five total)	20%
Chapter quizzes	8%
Topic Worksheet	1%
Opinion and Analysis Essay	5%
Definition Essay	6%
Pros and Cons Essay	8%
Argument Essay	12%
Library Visit	1%
Presentations	5%
Mid Term	8%
Cumulative final exam	14%

Grading Policy: On assignments, papers, and exams the grade will be stated as a percentage. That percentage will be weighted for the value of the assignment. For example, if you got a 100 on the first assignment, that would count as 5 points towards your ultimate total; if you got a 90, that would count as 90% of 5 (or $.9 \times 5 = 4.5$ points). To calculate your grade, add up the points for each assignment. For example if you got 100 on each assignment you would add in each of the numbers on the right in the table above; i.e. $5+10+10+20+10+5+5+20+15=100$. The determination of grades based on points earned will depend on how well the class as a whole does. The table below gives the **approximate expected** point-values of each grade. Possible grades are “A” through “F”.

Grades and Percentages

A	95-100%	B	84-86%	C	74-76%	D	64-66%
A-	90-94%	B-	80-83%	C-	70-73%	D-	60-63%
B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%	F	below 60%

Note: This course must be passed with **a C- or better** as a CSU graduation requirement. One must be able to say “I understand” before one can say “I agree” or “I disagree”.

Assignments: (Subject to change with prior notice)

All work must be turned in on Canvas.

Assignment weights can be found in the summary in Table 1 above. Due dates can be found in the schedule in Table 3 below. Grading policies are specified in the sections on “Grading, Classroom Policies and Late Policy” above.

(If at any time you have questions of how your work has been graded, please talk to me).

1. *Homework and participation.* The homework will be problems from the textbook or similar problems with data from mass media such as newspapers. Homework will be discussed in class and students will be asked to contribute the results of their work to class discussions. There will also be short pop-quizzes and other class activity including evaluating the final presentations. Under capitalism man exploits man; under socialism the reverse is true. There are no make-ups for these activities.

2. *Problem Sets* will be like the homework, a series of problems. These will be submitted online (unless otherwise stated). The successful student will present well-organized thoughts. Revisions will be allowed for most assignments.

Problem Set #1: Identifying statements, arguments, premises and conclusions. 250 words (Contributes to the satisfaction of LO 4.)

Problem Set #2: Discussing language issues. 250 words (Contributes to the satisfaction of LO 4.)

Problem Set #3: Reasoning. 250 words (Contributes to the satisfaction of LOs 2 and 4.)

Problem Set #4: Fallacies. 250 words (Contributes to the satisfaction of LOs 3 and 4.)

Problem #5: Framing. 500 words (Contributes to the satisfaction of LOs 3 and 4.)

3. *Chapter quizzes.* There will be a chapter review and quiz at the end of each chapter which will be done online.

4. *Exams* will have writing tasks like the assignment problems. Students will write a minimum of 200 words on the midterm and 500 words on the final. Time: Midterm, one hour and fifteen minutes; Final, two hours and fifteen minutes. Please note days and times on the course schedule.

5. *In-class presentation* will be a discussion of the arguments of your essays # 2 and # 3. The class will participate in the discussion. (Time: approximately six to ten minutes’ total.)

6. *Essays* will be longer written assignments where you will implement what you have learned in critical thinking and argumentation. All essays (except the opinion essay) will have two drafts—a first mandatory review draft and the final draft. (Contributes to the satisfaction of LOs 1 through 5.)

Essay # 1 (Opinion and analysis) will be in two stages an opinion piece in response to an article and an analysis of the essay for a total of 1000 words.

Essay # 2 (Definition) will be a definition and the use of that definition to support your argument. First draft 400 words, final draft 500 words for a total of 900 words.

Essay # 3 (Pros and Cons) will be on a controversial socially-relevant issue. You will do research, consider and evaluate the arguments on both sides of the issue. First draft 800 words, final draft 1200 words.

Essay # 4 (Argument) will be your stance on the issue discussed in essay # 2 and your arguments to support your stance. First draft 800 words, final draft 1500 words.

All drafts must be typed, double spaced with approximately one-inch margins. Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration. The final draft of each essay must be turned into Canvas. More details on the essay will be given in class.

Classroom Protocol and Policies

- Please arrive to class on time. Late entrances and early exits are highly distracting to your fellow students and the instructor.
- Being 10 minutes late or not attending the complete session can result in loss of participation points.
- Courtesy and respect towards one's fellow students and the instructor are always expected. Therefore, while in class, please do not web surf, read unrelated materials or do homework for another class. And please refrain from texting. Abuse of electronics can result in loss of participation points.
- Students are expected to complete assigned reading before the class for which it is due, to be prepared to discuss its contents, and to participate fully in class.
- Informal homework must be done for the class in which they are due, and **you must be on time and present in class for the discussion to get credit for the informal homework unless there is a certified excuse.** You may be asked to type the homework or submit it on Canvas. It is impossible to make up such homework, since the point of them is to keep everyone up to speed.
- Students must access the course website for assignments.
- Each assignment must be the original work of the student who turns it in. Students may discuss homework assignments, but must not collaborate with anyone on any written document related to this class unless otherwise specified. Collaboration on written work would constitute **plagiarism** (see below). **Plagiarism has serious consequences; for example, you can get an F in the course.**
- Final drafts of essays must be typed, double spaced, 12 point font.
- All assignments and essays (rough drafts and final drafts) must be submitted on Canvas. **Be sure to keep your own electronic copy of whatever you submit.**
- All peer reviews are an integral part of the essay. Not doing the peer review and not submitting the peer review will result in a loss of points. Half of the American people have never read a newspaper and half never voted for president. One hopes it is the same half.
- If you miss a class it is your responsibility to contact me or a fellow student so that you can find out what you missed. Frequent absences in class will affect your grade since you will miss the class activities that have no make-ups.

Late Policy

- All assignments are due (in class and on Canvas) on the day and time specified in this syllabus (see course schedule) unless otherwise noted in class.

- Problem Sets and Essays 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 accepted for half credit only.
- For Problem Sets once answers are discussed or posted on Canvas, the assignment will not be accepted. The important thing is never to stop questioning.
- Informal homework and chapter quizzes will not be accepted late. These exercises must be completed and the student present in class for the ensuing discussion to receive all the points.
- Absence from class may not be used as an excuse for failing to submit assignments on time.
- In-class assignments cannot be made up unless there are extenuating circumstances.
- Exams may not be taken at other than their scheduled times, except in case of emergency or religious observance. Any such case must be documented in writing by the appropriate authorities.

Dropping and Adding: Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, current deadlines, penalties for dropping class, etc. Refer to the current semester’s Catalog Policies section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The Late Drop Policy is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>.

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/>”

LING 21—10, Language and Thinking, Fall, 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 or on Canvas.

NOTES: *CT* is *Critical Thinking* (our textbook); all other readings will be in *CR*, the course reader or posted online. The first column gives the date and week. Each reading listed under homework is for the following class.

On most days, there will be homework exercises or review sheets for the chapter being discussed. Homework exercises will be done on paper or submitted on Canvas as specified in class.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/21	Course Syllabus, Introductions

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		HW: Check the textbook online, complete course syllabus exercise, view What is Critical Thinking Power Point
1	8/23	Being a critical thinker HW: Read the given article and post your opinion due 8/28 Read Ch.2 CT, view Recognizing Arguments Power Point
2	8/28	Recognizing arguments Submit Opinion Essay on Canvas HW: Complete exercise on premises and conclusions
2	8/30	Recognizing arguments HW: Exercise on arguments and non-arguments, Complete chapter quiz on Canvas
3	9/4	Recognizing arguments HW: Problem Set 1 posted due 9/11, read Ch. 4 Language, view Language Power Point
3	9/6	Language HW: Complete exercise, read Definition Essay guidelines
4	9/11	Language Submit Problem Set 1 HW: Complete chapter quiz , read Ch. 3 Logical Concepts—Deductive Reasoning, view Power Point, post essay 1 for peer review by... complete by...
4	9/13	Deductive Reasoning HW: Complete the exercise, Problem Set 2 posted due 9/20
5	9/18	Deductive Reasoning HW: Read Ch. 3 Inductive Reasoning, view Power Point
5	9/20	Inductive Reasoning Submit Problem Set 2 HW: Complete exercise, Definition Essay due 9/25
6	9/25	Inductive Reasoning Submit Definition Essay HW: Complete chapter quiz , Read articles to identify types of reasoning used, Read Ch. 5 Fallacies of Relevance, view chapter Power Point
6	9/27	Fallacies of Relevance HW: Complete exercise, Problem Set 3 posted due 10/4
7	10/2	Fallacies of Relevance HW: Complete chapter quiz , Read Fallacies of Insufficient Evidence, view chapter Power Point
7	10/4	Fallacies of Insufficient Evidence Submit Problem Set 3 HW: Complete exercise, read article to identify fallacies
8	10/9	Fallacies of Insufficient Evidence HW: Complete chapter quiz, Prepare for mid-term review
8	10/11	Mid-term review HW: Problem set 4 posted due 10/18

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
9	10/16	Mid-Term HW: Analyze opinion essay due 10/23, read guidelines for pros and cons and argument essay
9	10/18	Library Visit Submit Problem Set 4 HW: Consider topic for next two essays, list 3 topics
10	10/23	Essay 2 and 3 Submit opinion essay analysis HW: Complete Topic worksheet due 10/25, read Ch. 11 Inductive Arguments, view chapter Power Point
10	10/25	Inductive Arguments Topic Worksheet Due HW: Complete exercise
11	10/30	Inductive Arguments HW: Complete chapter quiz, Read Ch.12 Evaluating Arguments and Writing an Argument essay, post Pros and Cons essay for peer review by... complete by...
11	11/1	Evaluating Arguments, writing an argument essay HW: Read Semantic Frames in CR, Pros and Cons essay due 11/6
12	11/6	Frames Submit Pros and Cons Essay on Canvas HW: Complete exercise
12	11/8	Frames HW: Problem Set 5 due 11/15 posted, Review for finals
13	11/13	Finals Review HW: Review for Finals, Post Argument Essay for peer review by... complete by...
13	11/15	Finals Review Submit Problem Set 5 HW: Read presentation guidelines
14	11/20	Presentations—how to and sign up
14	11/22	Thanksgiving Day
15	11/27	Presentations
15	11/29	Presentations
16	12/4	Presentations HW: Argument essay due on Canvas 12/6
16	12/6 Last Day of Class	Presentations Submit Argument Essay on Canvas
Final Exam	Thursday Dec 13	12:15 to 2:30pm Not the usual time.

