

San José State University

Humanities and Arts, Department of English and Comparative Literature

English 2

Critical Writing and Thinking

Spring 2021

Instructor: Bryan Hoffer, M.A.

Class Schedule:

Online:

- Section 22, TuTh 10:30-11:45am
- Section 37, TuTh 1:30-2:45pm
- Section 24, TuTh 3-4:15pm

Email: bryan.hoffer@sjsu.edu

Office Hours: Digital Office Hour via Zoom Link, TuTh 9-10am or by appointment

Prerequisite: ENGL 1A, 1A-F/S (with a grade of C- or better)

GE/SJSU Studies Category: GE A3 / Critical Thinking and Writing

Description

General Description

From SJSU:

In English 2 you will explore the relationship between language and logic in composing arguments. Building on English 1A, you will extend your study of stylistic and grammatical conventions in formal writing.

Section Specific Description

With the general expectations of the course in mind, we will look at present issues that are important to our communities. Through reading, discussing, and writing on these issues, we will learn to review others' work, propose our own research in a formal way, carry out this valuable research, and speak about our findings. By formally interacting with and documenting these issues that we value, using these parts of the writing and critical thinking process will better help us to effectively discuss them in an academic setting, highlighting the complexity, nuance, and significance of the issues.

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

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

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. locate, interpret, evaluate, and synthesize evidence in a comprehensive way in support of your ideas;
4. identify and critically evaluate the assumptions in and the context of an argument;
5. 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 Time You Will Spend on This Work

In a 3-unit course like this one, faculty expect that students will spend **a minimum** of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week). This time includes 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>.

Where You Can Go to Get Support as a Writer at SJSU

Part of becoming a successful writer is learning how and when to seek the support you need.

Please note: While many of these office resources might be physically closed, they will still be available to you online. Please navigate the SJSU website to contact these resources.

- **SJSU Peer Connections**

Peer Connections offers 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. There are three mentoring 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**

Located in Clark Hall, Suite 126, the Writing Center offers appointments with tutors who are well trained to assist you as you work to become a better writer. The Writing Center offers both one-on-one tutoring and workshops on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the Center's online resources, 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.

Where to Access the Technology You Will Need to Do the Work of This Course

You will need an electronic device that allows you to access the internet and Canvas, and to read the online texts. The University provides students access to technological resources at several locations on campus and can be contacted online:

- **Academic Success Center (Clark Hall).** 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.
- **Media Services (Martin Luther King Library).** 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.

How to Contact a Reference Librarian

English & Comparative Literature

DeeAnn Tran

Email: deeann.tran@sjsu.edu

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 on your right to understand your grades. In your section syllabus, your instructor outlines specifically our grading practices for the year: information on feedback practices, relative weights of assignments, and the grade calculations.

Where You Can Find Information About University Policies

The Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs (GUP) maintains university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. You may find all syllabus-related University Policies and resources information listed on GUP's [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

Readings/Texts

Required Texts:

Whose Story Is This? Old Conflicts, New Chapters by Rebecca Solnit, ISBN-13:
978-1642590180

- Physical copy or e-book

Recommended physical texts:

The Curious Writer, Brief 4th Edition by Bruce Ballenger, ISBN-13: 978-0205876655

- I will provide brief excerpts via Canvas.

Other Materials:

- Various works that will be provided to you via digital scanned copies, or online links.

Courtesies and Expectations

- Email: *Emailing structure below.*

From: inquiringmind@email.com
To: isittimetogradealready@email.com
Subject: [title], [class and section]

Dear/Hello/Good Morning/Afternoon/Evening _____,

Body: [Polite banter about the weather or observational humor, followed by an insightful, well thought out question.]

Thank you/Best/Sincerely,

Name
(Contact: email)

- Office Appointments: *Come see me during office hours (see top), or kindly request another appointment time using the email structure (above). I want to help you. Please ask questions. Come to me **before** you are struggling and confused.*
- Readings/Homework Assignments: *Everything will be completed before the date on the schedule. This is very important as we will be discussing it during class time.*
- Late Policy: *I am always glad to help you plan and organize your time. All out of class assignments will be due by the start of the class. All in class assignments will be due by the end of class. Formal Out-of-Class late papers will be docked points per. day. No Informal writing assignments will be accepted late.*
- Attendance: *Come on time and be prepared to learn.* I expect you to participate in class discussions and ask questions if something is not clear. Doing the work is not enough. In terms of learning, the material and active class participation makes the class more enjoyable. Because of this, attendance is very important, since missed class time is a missed opportunity to learn and have issues resolved. Please bring all of your texts to the class discussions.

- Absences: *If you will miss class for a university sanctioned reason, e.g. a religious holiday, please let me know **ahead** of time using the proper protocol. If you are sick, you will need to make sure that your assignments will be submitted as normal.*

Synchronous and Asynchronous Coursework

Our course will be predominantly synchronous, meaning that a majority of the time we will meet to have a class together online during the listed course time at the top of the syllabus. Should there be a specified project or assignment set that replaces our normal synchronous meeting, this will be noted on our Canvas page and our normal meeting will be replaced with an asynchronous agenda.

Course Content and Assignments

From SJSU

Diversity: SJSU studies include an emphasis on diversity. In this class, you will engage in integrated reading, writing, and oral assignments to construct your own arguments on complex issues that generate meaningful public debate. Readings for the course will include writers from different ethnicities, gender, and class. Classroom discussion will always be inclusive and respectful of other viewpoints.

Writing: You will write a series of essays informed by research and articulating fully developed arguments about complex social issues. Assignments emphasize the skills and activities in writing and thinking that produce the persuasive argument and the critical essay, each of which demands analysis, interpretation, and evaluation. These writing assignments will give you repeated practice in prewriting, organizing, writing, revising, and editing. This class requires a minimum of 6,000 words, at least 4,000 of which must be in revised final draft form. For each assignment you will be given a specific prompt detailing all the requirements, including due dates, scope, and criteria for evaluating your essay. All writing will be assessed for its level of critical thinking, integrated research, synthesized ideas, and logical structure as well as for its clarity, conciseness, coherence, organization, and proper APA/MLA citation. Writing workshops will precede all major essays, and a peer reviewed version of your essay with substantial comments will be submitted with your final revision.

Logic: You will learn methods of argument analysis, both rhetorical and logical, that will enable you to identify logical structures and distinguish valid evidence from logical fallacies; distinguish denotation from connotation, abstract from concrete, and literal from inferential meaning; recognize and evaluate assumptions underlying an argument; distinguish the role of audience, context, and purpose in shaping argumentation strategies; and evaluate rhetorical appeals to understand the role of emotion and ethos in relation to logic as part of effective argumentation.

Reading: In addition to being writing intensive, ENGL 2 is also a reading course. You will read a variety of critical and argumentative texts to help develop your skills for understanding the logical structure of argumentative writing.

Multimodal assignments: You will be required to participate in discussions that make use of multiple mediums from writing to oral presentation.

Final: The final will be an e-portfolio that includes the critical essay you wrote before entering SJSU, the critical essay you will write for this class, a reflection essay on your progress as a writer and critical thinker this semester and an appendix of evidence.

Writing Assignments

Informal Assignments:

Informal assignments will consist of classwork and homework assignments that will be completed individually or in groups depending on the assignment. They will be submitted via Canvas

Please note that no late work will be accepted on the informal writing assignments once the assignment locks. That being said, I am always glad to talk to you regarding your circumstances, before assignments are due, so that we can discuss my recommended plan of action.

These assignments (ranging from Canvas discussion posts, assignment files, to other interactions detailed on our online hub) will typically be worth 5-20 pts. Assignments worth fewer points (5), will be based on credit/no credit for completion of the assignment. Assignments with larger point values (10-20) will be graded and evaluated for a specific point value.

Formal Assignments:

Formal Writing Assignments, which are essays and major projects, must be submitted online via Canvas. If I suspect plagiarism, I will manually input it into Turnitin.com. Feel free to check for plagiarism on your own using the Turnitin.com tool before submitting your work.

Standard MLA/APA Formatting for all papers:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/13/>

Formal Assignment Genres for the Academic Year:

Review with Rhetorical Analysis
Research Proposal
Research and Critical Essay
Formal Research Talk

Reflection Portfolio

Late papers will be docked 10% per day

Please note that grading and other policies are approached holistically and reflective of the department's philosophy and goals. You can refer to details noted here:

http://www.sjsu.edu/english/frosh/program_policies/index.html

From SJSU:

Grading: The following are the criteria by which essays are typically evaluated in first-year writing courses:

An "A" range essay is organized and well-developed, demonstrating a clear understanding and fulfillment of the assignment, written in a unique and compelling voice. It will show the student's ability to use language effectively with a solid command of grammar, mechanics, and usage.

The formal, major writing assignments will be graded holistically. These program policies will be incorporated and tailored with consideration of each assignment's goals and objectives as well as how it helps the reader to achieve their purpose and understanding. It will additionally evaluate how well the writer is able to present writing that has been integrated with consideration to the relevant readings.

Grading for the academic year

Total ~1000 pts possible:

Assignment	Points	Approximate Final Draft Word Count (Not Including Drafts)	GELOs for
Review with Rhetorical Analysis	200	~1000 (plus prewriting) with 250 RA	2-5
Research Proposal with Annotated Bibliography	100	~750 : 500 (plus prewriting) proposal with 250 bibliography	1-3

Research Essay	300	~2000+ (plus prewriting)	1-5
Formal Research Talk with Rhetorical Analysis	100	~500 (plus prewriting)	2-3
Informal Classwork and Homework Assignments	~200	~2000+	2-5
Final, E-Portfolio	100	~500-750	1-3

Move the decimal place once to calculate your percent, whole numbers, no rounding.

Traditional Scale by %: 93--100=A, 90--92=A--, 87--89=B+, 83--86=B, 80--82=B--, 77--79=C+, 70--76=C, 67--69 = D+, 63--66 = D, 60--62 + D--, below 60 = F

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is never acceptable. Never copy your own work, or someone else's. Citations and proper notation are very important in the academic world. All protocol on plagiarism and academic integrity can be referred to in your student handbook. Plagiarism can result in your expulsion from the class and/or the school.

Important Dates:

https://www.sjsu.edu/provost/docs/Academic_Calendar-AY2020-21.pdf

Tentative Schedule

Please note that this schedule is subject to shift with the ebb and flow of the class. Please check our Canvas course for the most up to date information. Other articles will be added to the schedule via Canvas based on current events and discussion.

Spring 2021

Week (First date, Monday, of that week)	Holidays, Topics, Major Text Readings, and Major Writings (See Canvas for exact dates and day to day assignments and readings.)
Week 1 (1/25)	Introduction and Syllabus
Genre:	Review and Rhetorical Analysis
Week 2 (2/1)	Review and Rhetorical Analysis Genre Discussion

	Solnit - Introduction Solnit - <i>Whose Story</i>
Week 3 (2/8)	Solnit - <i>Nobody Knows</i> Solnit - <i>They Think</i>
Week 4 (2/15)	Review Paper Rough Draft Solnit - <i>Unconscious Bias</i> Solnit - <i>Voter Suppression</i>
Week 5 (2/22)	Review Paper and Rhetorical Analysis Final Draft Solnit - <i>Lies Become Laws</i> Solnit - <i>The Fall of Men</i>
Genre:	Proposal and Annotated Bibliography
Week 6 (3/1)	Research and Annotated Bibliography Genre Discussion Solnit - <i>Dear Christine</i> Solnit - <i>Let This Flood</i>
Week 7 (3/8)	Proposal Genre Discussion Solnit - <i>The Problem</i> Solnit - <i>On Women's Work</i>
Genre	Research Essay
Week 8 (3/15)	Research Essay Genre Discussion Solnit - <i>All the Rage</i> Solnit - <i>If I Were a Man</i>
Week 9 (3/22)	Research Proposal Rough Draft Research Proposal Final Draft Solnit - <i>Crossing Over</i> Solnit - <i>City of Women</i>
Spring Break (3/29)	Spring Break (3/29-4/2)
Week 10 (4/5)	Solnit - <i>A Hero</i> Solnit - <i>Long Distance</i>

Week 11 (4/12)	Solnit - <i>Monumental Change</i>
Week 12 (4/19)	Peer Review Research Project Essay Rough Draft
Genre	Formal Research Talk and Rhetorical Analysis
Week 13 (4/26)	Formal Research Talk Genre Discussion
Week 14 (5/3)	Formal Research Talks Research Project Essay Final Drafts Due
Week 15 (5/10)	Formal Research Talks
Week 16 (5/17)	E-Portfolio, Reflection on Writing Due Finals
Week 17 (5/24)	Finals