

San José State University
Department of English and Comparative Literature
English 1A, Composition 1 (GE A2), Section 24, Fall 2012

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Office Hours:	M/W 12:30-1:30pm and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	M/W 10:30-11:45 a.m.
Classroom:	Boccardo Business Building 124
GE Category:	Written Communication A2

Course Description

Section 47: Below you will find the course description that is common to every English 1A class. This paragraph describes our particular section. In section 47 we will pursue the stated 1A goals through process-focused writing with much time spent at writing exercises and assignments in and out of class in the proscribed journal. You will often work in a small-group setting during class time sharing ideas, writing, and leading one class discussion.

All Sections: English 1A is the first course in SJSU's two-semester lower-division composition sequence; it provides an introduction to baccalaureate-level composition, with attention to the "personal voice" and personal experience, on the one hand, and the more formal attitudes and demands of writing at the university (expository and argumentative essays), on the other. Students will develop college-level reading abilities, rhetorical sophistication, and writing styles that give form and coherence to complex ideas and feelings.

Prerequisites: Placement by the English Proficiency Test (EPT), or passage of an approved substitute course for the EPT.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

Students shall achieve the ability to write complete essays that demonstrate college-level proficiency in all of the following:

- Clear and effective communication of meaning.
- An identifiable focus, tailored to a particular audience and purpose (argumentative essays will state their thesis clearly and show an awareness, implied or stated, of some opposing point of view).
- The ability to perform effectively the essential steps of the writing process (prewriting, organizing, composing, revising, and editing).
- The ability to explain, analyze, develop, and criticize ideas effectively.
- Effective use within their own essays of supporting material drawn from reading or other sources.
- Effective organization within the paragraph and the essay.
- Accuracy, variety, and clarity of sentences.
- Appropriate diction.
- Control of conventional mechanics (e.g., punctuation, spelling, reference, agreement).

Student Learning Objectives:

- SLO 1: Students shall write complete essays that demonstrate the ability to perform effectively the essential steps in the writing process (prewriting, organizing, composing, revising, and editing).
- SLO 2: Students shall write complete essays that demonstrate the ability to express (explain, analyze, develop, and criticize) ideas effectively.
- SLO 3: Students shall write complete essays that demonstrate the ability to use correct grammar (syntax, mechanics, and citation of sources) at a college level of sophistication.
- SLO 4: Students shall write complete essays that demonstrate the ability to write for different audiences.

Academic Policies online:

Students, You are responsible for reading the following information online at <http://www.sjsu.edu/english/comp/policyforsyllabi.html>

- Course guidelines
- Academic policies (academic integrity, plagiarism, ADA and DRC policies)
- Adding and dropping classes

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

- *The Curious Writer: Concise Edition*. Third Edition; Bruce Ballenger ISBN 0-205-78019-9
- *COMP*. ISBN 1-4390-8246-4
- *The Little Princes*, Conner Grennan. Distributed free by “Campus Reads”
- 1 Mead Composition Book, **College Ruled**. No other journals accepted.
- *American Heritage College Dictionary*. Paperback. Or similar portable text.
- 5 yellow books (1 for diagnostic, 3 for in-class essays, 1 for the final)

- **Stapler** (all papers must be brought to class stapled)
- 1 double-pocket folder

Other Readings

- MyCompLab. This non-required, free online companion to *The Curious Writer*, if you purchased the text new, is a grammar review and practice system from which I may make individual assignments from time to time. You are encouraged to take advantage of this program.

Other equipment / material requirements

- Regular internet access, especially an email account for assignment updates

Classroom Protocol

Come to class on time; don't check your texts while in class; use common sense and decent behavior. College students are adults; behave like one. Please do not eat in class.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Grading: A-F. This class must be passed with a C or better to move on to CORE GE Area C3 and to satisfy the prerequisite for English 1B. A passing grade in the course signifies that the student is a capable college-level writer and reader of English.

Letter Grade	True Grade	Range
A	4.00	3.75-4.0 (+)
A-	3.66	3.5-3.75
B+	3.33	3.25-3.5
B	3.00	2.75-3.25
B-	2.66	2.5-2.75
C+	2.33	2.25-2.5
C	2.0	1.75-2.25
C-	1.66	1.5-1.75
D+	1.33	1.25-1.5
D	1.00	1.00-1.25
F	0.0	.99 and below

A word about how I approach grading: I start looking at every composition by asking if it satisfies the requirements of the assignment. If it does, it will earn a satisfactory grade: C. If it does not satisfy the requirements, then the grade slides down to D or F. If the composition does more than simply satisfy the requirements, then the grade slides up to

A or B. I will complete a scoring rubric with each graded essay.

Writing: Writing assignments will give repeated practice in all phases of the writing process: prewriting, organizing, writing, revising, and editing. Eight essays are required—4 in-class and 4 out-of-class, for a minimum of 8,000 words. This minimum requirement excludes the final examination, reading responses, quizzes, and any brief or informal assignments. You must complete all 8 essays in order to pass this course.

(SLO1-4)

In-Class Essays (4) approx. 800+ words each: (20% final grade)

- #1 Diagnostic Essay
- #2 Personal Essay Draft 1
- #3 Writing an Argument Draft 1
- #4 Former Departmental Final

Out of Class Essays, minimum 1200 words each: (40% final grade)

- #1 Literacy Narrative
- #2 Personal Essay
- #3 Writing a Proposal
- #4 Writing an Argument

Holistic Final: University mandated (20% of final grade)

Journal/Participation: As specified below: (20% of final grade)

In-class participation in English 1A is **required**. It is rare that students who miss several classes pass the class. 45% of your grade is based on activities that will be taking place in class. All Journal writing assignments are considered part of your participation grade as do all workshop dates. (SLO 1, 2, 3, 4)

- **Workshops** are an important component of the writing process and your final essay grade. You will bring 5 copies(or as instructed) to class on the workshop date in order to participate. You will turn in critiqued copies with final essay as instructed: SAVE them. If you miss a workshop, your essay will be graded down one full letter grade. I have zero-tolerance for late arrival on workshop days: You Will Be Asked to Leave. (SLO 1, 2, 4)
- **Journal:** In-class free writing, self-assessment, reading responses, and/or directed exercises will comprise part of each day. Bring your Composition Book to every class. (SLO 1, 2, 4)
- **Reading:** English 1A is a reading-based course. You will have reading assignments to complete for almost every class period, and each reading will be accompanied by some form of writing. In addition, all or most of the assigned essays will be related to readings. It is therefore imperative that you complete the readings *prior to each class* and come with your book and Journal Responses prepared to discuss them in class. Occasionally, there may be reading quizzes. All readings in this course address diversity and contribute to effective writing strategies (SLO 1-4).
- **Student Presentation:** Each student will participate in a group presentation and will be graded individually and as a group contributor (SLO 4).

- **Quizzes** (SLO 2, 3) Occasional quizzes will be based on current writing and/or reading discussions. Quizzes must be taken in class and cannot be made up. Unannounced quizzes may be given at my discretion.
- **Individual Conference** One conference with me by appointment is mandatory for each student. (Participation; SLO 1-4) This will be scheduled Tuesday, October 11. Time tbd.

Grammar: Basic grammar will not be a major component of class content, BUT it is a major component of essay grades. It is your responsibility to seek additional support through LARC, the Reading Center and *MyCompLab* or other online tutorials. (SLO 3)

The University Essay: A common essay final, graded holistically, shall count **20 %** toward the course grade. The final will be held on Saturday, December 6, 8:00 a.m. **THIS TEST IS MANDATORY TO PASS THIS COURSE.** The test will consist of an in-class essay on a specific topic. Please be on time and bring 2 Yellow exam books, pens, and a (non-electronic) dictionary.

Extra Credit Attending ONE approved author readings with written response. (SLO 2; diversity) Extra credit will *not* change a grade from failing to passing. The assignment counts as one quiz.

- www.litart.org for Literary Event details

Late Work. Late work receives a reduction of 1 grade per class session it is late. **If** the paper is turned in after the class period on the assigned due date, the essay will be graded down half a letter grade. **If** you are sick or have to miss class for any other reason on the day something is due, arrange to have a classmate turn it in if you do not want a grade reduction. **For** extenuating circumstances, I must be contacted *before* the due date to consider an extension.

No Work by Email. No work in my mailbox. No exceptions. I do not accept work by email or in my campus mailbox. If you need to miss a class session, ask a classmate to turn in your classwork and to collect handouts and assignments for you. Otherwise, turn in the paper as “late” next class session.

Your Responsibility If You’re Absent. If you miss class, contact a classmate to get notes, assignments, etc. It is your responsibility to figure out what’s going on and to show up prepared the next class session. Please do not ask me to do extra things for you if you choose not to come to class.

Always bring your journal and required text to class. These are required for participation. If you’re not prepared to contribute to the class, be prepared to be asked to leave for the day.

Homework format: (this includes all Essays, and any work outside the Journal)

- * All work must be typed, double spaced
- * Use a 12-point Times Roman font
- * Use standard MLA essay heading format. (*Curious Writer* pg 312).
- * Papers must be single-sided for the teacher (but copies for classmates for peer revision may be double-sided)
- * Staple your papers BEFORE class. I do not accept unstapled work.(no paper clips, bent corners)

Be Fully Present No electronic devices are to be on/used/visible during class.

Infractions will result in being dismissed from class.

Student Technology Resources (Optional)

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and 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 digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

Peer Connections (Optional)

The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) and the Peer Mentor Program have merged to become Peer Connections. Peer Connections is the new campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring. Our staff is here to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. Students are encouraged to take advantage of our 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 WST, improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. We are located in SSC 600 (10th Street Garage), at the first floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. See the Peer Connections website for more information (peerconnections.sjsu.edu) and be sure to come see us!

SJSU Writing Center (Optional)

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. The [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/) is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/>.

English 1A, Fall 2012, Course Schedule

PLEASE NOTE: Subject to change with advance notice from me given in class and follow-up email. Check daily.

Syllabus is open for adjustment at midterm at my discretion.
If you are planning around post-midterm dates, see me as soon as possible.

Date	Homework Readings, Assignments DUE this date	Topics and Considerations
Wed 8/22	Come to class ready to Buy all required texts for Monday's homework. SEND an email to me for further info.	Roll! Course Introductions Syllabus Review Student Questionnaire
Fri 8/24	Literary Event: Ed Sams Book Release Reading	5pm: MARTIN LUTHER KING LIBRARY, ROOM 225/229
Mon 8/27	Bring all required materials today. Reading: <i>Curious</i> Chapter 1 pp. 3-21 Journal: Exercises 1.1 & 1.4 <i>only</i>	Text review Writing as a Process: Discussion and in-class writing. Video: <i>Bard Behind Bars</i> (take notes) Instructions for IC Essay #1: Diagnostic
Wed 8/29	Reading: <i>Curious</i> Chapter 1 pp. 21-31 Journal: Exercises 5 & 6 BRING: Yellow book, dictionary, pens, Journal with completed exercises	IC Essay #1 Diagnostic
Mon 9/3	LABOR DAY	NO CLASS
Wed 9/5	Reading: <i>Curious</i> Chapter 2, pp. 32-48 Journal: Exercises 2.1 & 2.2	Reading as Inquiry: Discussion and in-class writing Return Essay; Post-essay discussion Video: <i>Bard Behind Bars II</i> (take notes) Assign <u>OC</u> Essay #1: Literacy Narrative

Date	Homework Readings, Assignments DUE this date	Topics and Considerations
Mon 9/10	Due: Typed IC #1, one copy Reading: <i>Curious</i> Chapter 2, pp. 49-53 and 63-73. Journal: Exercise 2.3 Step One ONLY	Reading as Process: Discussion and in-class writing Literacy narratives, Peer Review discussion
Wed 9/12	DUE: 5 copies(total) of Literacy Memoir complete Draft	Workshop: Groups of 5, assigned
9/12	Literary Event: Karen Tei Yamashita	7 pm: Reading and book signing. ENGR 189
Mon 9/17	OC Essay #1 DUE Reading: <i>Curious</i> Chapter 3 pp.75-78 and 81-84. Journal: p.84 “Inquiring Into the Essay” #1	Workshop Review: Discussion & writing Writing a Personal Essay: Discussion and in-class writing Anonymous Questions
Wed 9/19	Reading: <i>COMP</i> pp. 29-33 Journal: <u>Review the Reading</u> (RR) p.33 #1, 3, 4 Reading: <i>Little Princes</i> pp. TBA	Understanding Narratives: Discussion, Dialog, action, detail (sample group presentation)
Mon 9/24	Reading: <i>Curious</i> Chapter 3 pp. 88-94 Journal: p. 89 Listing Prompt #1 & 2; and Fastwriting Prompt: choose at least one (1-4)	Personal Essay: Topics and techniques Discussion, writing, small groups SIGN UP for midterm conference time.
Wed 9/26	Reading: <i>Curious</i> pp. 93-96 “Judging What You Have.” Journal: p. 93 “What’s Promising Material” all 4 points. Choose a topic for today’s IC essay. THEN answer p. 93-94 “Questions for Reflection” dots 1-3 & choose <u>one</u> from dots 4-6.	IC Essay #2 Draft 1, Personal Essay BRING: Yellow book, dictionary, pens. Journals will NOT be used for this draft.
Mon 10/1	Reading: <i>COMP</i> Chapter 4 pp. 45-48 Journal: RR 1-4	Description and Reflection Pass back IC Essay #2 Assign OC Essay #2 Personal Essay
Tues 10/2	Author Event: Nick Flynn (poetry/memoir)	7pm: Screening of <i>Being Flynn</i> , ENGR 189
Wed	DUE: Typed IC # 2, 1 copy	Draft 1 Flash Review

Date	Homework Readings, Assignments DUE this date	Topics and Considerations
10/3	Reading: <i>Curious</i> 96-100 Journal: p. 96 “Evaluating Your Own Sketch” #1-4.	In-class writing(p. 97)
10/3	Author Event: Nick Flynn	7pm: Reading and Book Signing, ENGR 189
10/4	Author Event: Nick Flynn	1pm: In Conversation with Tom Barbash, MLK 225/229
10/4	Author Event: Sharon Olds (poetry)	7pm: check pcsj.org for details. Free local event
Mon 10/8	Reading: <i>Little Princes</i> pp. TBA Journal: TBA	Adding description, reflection, dialog, action, sensory detail to your writing.
Wed 10/10	MIDTERM: Journal Due PLEASE NOTE: Syllabus open for revision at midterm at my discretion.	CONFERENCES: Sign up for 10 minute slot. 9-3pm tbd Appointments held in my office, FO 222.
Mon 10/15	DUE: 5 copies(total) of Personal Essay complete draft Reading: <i>Curious</i> pp. 100-104 Journal: p. 104 #1-4 (typed on separate sheet and turned in)	Workshop Anonymous questions
Wed 10/17	OC Essay #2 DUE Reading: <i>COMP</i> Chapter 12 pp. 173-177 Journal: p. 177 RR #1, 2	Assign OC #3 Proposing a Solution In-class writing(4: list evidence). Small groups meet and plan.
Mon 10/22	Reading: <i>Curious</i> Chapter 5. pp.141-146 and Proposal 1 <i>Curious</i> 147-149 Journal: <i>Curious</i> p. 149 # 3-4	Identifying a problem: topics, stance, audience Discussion, in-class writing
Wed 10/24	Reading: Student Assignment <i>COMP</i> Chapter 5: Reading: Student Assignment <i>COMP</i> Chapter 9:	Student Presentations Group 1: Ch. 5 “Definition” and Group 2: Ch. 9 “Cause and Effect” Discussion

Date	Homework Readings, Assignments DUE this date	Topics and Considerations
Mon 10/29	DUE: Typed draft OC #3 Proposal proposal: One stapled copy only. Attach one blank page. Reading: Student Assignment <i>COMP</i> Chapter 6:	Student Presentations Group 3 : Ch. 6 “Process” Discussion Proposal Flash Review.
Wed 10/31	Reading: Student Assignment <i>COMP</i> Chapter 8: Compare & Contrast Reading: Student Assignment <i>COMP</i> Chapter 7: Classification	Student Presentations: Group 4 : “Compare & Contrast” and Group 5 : “Classification”
Mon 11/5	DUE: 5 copies(total) of Persuasion Essay complete draft	Workshop
Wed 11/7	OC #3 Due Reading: <i>COMP</i> Chapter 1: pp. 15-22 Journal: Recognize an argument’s organization: p. 19 nyt	Anonymous Questions. Understanding/Evaluating Arguments -What makes a strong claim? p. 20 “nyt” Assessing the quality of evidence. p. 22 nyt
Mon 11/12	VETERAN’S DAY	NO CLASS
Tues 11/13	Author Event: Stephen Elliott (fiction and memoir)	7pm: Reading and Book Signing, MLK 225/229
Wed 11/14	Reading: <i>Curious</i> Chapter 6 pp. 173-182 and p. 189-190 “The Language of War is Killing” Journal: p. 190 #1, 2, 4	Writing an Argument <u>Assign OC Essay #4</u> , Writing an Argument <i>Curious</i> p. 198 Inquiry Project QUIZ: Methods of development
11/14	Author Event: Stephen Elliott	8pm: Screening of <i>Cherry</i> with Director Q&A, SH 100

Date	Homework Readings, Assignments DUE this date	Topics and Considerations
Mon 11/19	Reading: <i>Curious</i> p. 194-197 “Is Humiliation an Ethically Appropriate Response to Plagiarism?” Journal: p. 196 # 1 & 2 Choose one of the 3 arguments above to DISAGREE with in today’s essay.	IC Essay #3
Wed 11/21	The day before Thanksgiving	???
Thurs 11/22	<i>THANKSGIVING!</i> Tell your family and/or friends “thanks” for all their support.	
Mon 11/26	Reading: <i>Curious</i> pp. 208-212 and pp. 216-218 “Student Essay” Journal: p. 218 #1, 2, & 4	Pass back IC #3 Research strategies Prompt strategies for Final
11/27	Author Event: Isabel Allende Day	3:15pm: Award Ceremony, Morris Dailey Auditorium PLUS?
Wed 11/28	Due: Typed IC #3, one copy	IC Essay #4: Practice Final
Mon 12/3	DUE: 5 copies(total) of Argument Essay complete draft Reading: <i>Curious</i> pp. 213 “Revising the Draft” section Journal: p. 215 answer each bullet as described.	Workshop Anonymous Questions
Wed 12/5	Questions for review	Hand back IC #4 Review for Saturday’s Final
Final Exam	Saturday, Dec. 8. 8:00am-10:00am MANDATORY ATTENDANCE: You CANNOT PASS this course if you miss the exam!!!	Location TBA _____
Mon 12/10	OC #4 Due	Wrapping it up....