

## **San José State University Department of English and Comparative Literature English 1A, Composition 1 (GE A2), Section 25, Fall 2013**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Gayathri Goel
<b>Office Location:</b>	FOB 227
<b>Telephone:</b>	(408) 924-4517
<b>Email:</b>	Gayathri.goel@sjsu.edu
<b>Office Hours:</b>	M 3:00-4.00 PM and by appointment
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	M & W 1.30-2.45 PM
<b>Classroom:</b>	BBC 103
<b>Prerequisites</b>	Placement by the English Proficiency Test (EPT), or passage of an approved substitute course for the EPT
<b>GE Category:</b>	Written Communication A2
<b>Course Website</b>	<a href="https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1019054">https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1019054</a>

### **Course Description**

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.

Our course specifically focuses on critical thinking on issues such as race, gender, culture, etc. There is a strong relationship between thinking critically and writing well; the two skills help students construct stronger, more logical arguments that are key to clear and effective communication.

## 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.

### Required Texts/Readings

#### Textbook

*The Norton Field Guide To Writing* (with readings) by Bullock and Goggin. 3d ed. New York: Norton, 2013. ISBN: 978-0-393-91957-8.

*The Everyday Writer*, 4th ed. Andrea Lunsford. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2010. ISBN: 978-1-4576-1267-1.

## Other Readings

Throughout the semester other readings will be assigned, however these will be provided either online or in class.

## Other equipment / material requirements

- Green book for in-class essays
- Loose papers for journal writing and a binder (recommended)
- A physical or an online dictionary like WordWeb (recommended).

The nature of this course will require regular access to the internet as you are required to upload your final drafts to turnitin.com. There will also be multimodal elements of the class that will necessitate some internet and computer use outside of the classroom. You will also need regular access to a printer. Please talk to me right away if this is a problem.

**Class Policies Attendance** This is a participation-based class. During each class session we will be working as a group, and these activities cannot be made-up if you miss them. I will hold you to college level expectations concerning attendance. This means that you need to be in class and ready to participate every day. Should a conflict with your schedule arise, you will need to handle this as best as you can and communicate clearly and early with me. Habitual tardiness will not be tolerated.

## Participation

Participation will be crucial to your success in this class. As this class is based on discussion, group work, and many in class activities, it is imperative that you come to class prepared to participate. Not understanding the reading and not doing the reading are very different. There are certain days that are more crucial than others, so please look at the calendar carefully when making plans that interfere with class. For example, **if you miss the peer workshop you forfeit any credit on that essay.** The two debates form a crucial component of the participation grade. Be prepared to voice your opinions with careful consideration and respectfully engage with your peers.

**Late Paper Policy** If you know that you cannot be present to turn in a final draft, please contact me to turn the paper in early. Late papers will receive a penalty of a lower grade. All peer workshops are mandatory and every final draft **MUST** be accompanied by a peer revision. You will also be required to keep copies of your peer feedback in your portfolio.

**Turnitin.com** All out of class essays must be turned in to turnitin.com as well as in paper format on the due date. Papers not submitted to turnitin.com cannot be graded and therefore will be considered late.

**Classroom Etiquette** Because this is a class based on written and verbal communication we will focus on using language effectively. All members of our class need to feel comfortable exploring various modes of communication, and therefore hostile or derogatory speech concerning someone's race, sex, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or intelligence will not be tolerated.

**Electronic Devices** All electronic devices – including cell phones, iPods, laptops, iPads, etc. – must be kept in your bag. This policy applies unless stated otherwise.

### **Information available online**

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 AEC policies)
- Adding and dropping classes

**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. **No extra credit for this class.**

**Revision Policy:** In this portfolio class you are *required to perform one major revision of the argument essay*. A major revision is defined as a significant rethinking or reworking of an assignment rather than correcting small grammatical or structural mistakes. If you need help with revision, or with understanding the concept of “major revision,” I am happy to help you during office hours. I encourage you to research additional sources that would help strengthen your argument and also to focus on using appropriate diction.

### **Grading Scale**

*All assignments must be completed to pass the class* 1,000 total points possible (percentage weight listed below). No extra credit.

A = 940 – 1000

A- = 900 – 939

B+ = 870 – 899

B = 830 – 869

B- = 800- 829

C+ = 770 – 799

C = 730 – 769

C- = 700 – 729

D+ = 670 – 699

D = 630 – 669

D- = 600 – 629

F = less than 600.

Essays will be graded according to the following criteria:

**A= Excellent:** The “A” essay is organized and well-constructed. It demonstrates a clear understanding of the topic and has a focused thesis. Paragraphs are fully developed and discussion of the ideas is apt and specific. The student utilizes appropriate details, lively vocabulary, syntactic complexity and smooth transitions. This paper is virtually free of mechanical errors and is a pleasure to read.

**B= Very Good:** The “B” essay is less precise and not as convincing as the “A” paper. While it exhibits controlling ideas and supports them with specific examples, it may lack sentence variety and a consistent, smooth flow. This paper may contain minor grammatical/mechanical flaws, but it does show overall competence.

**C= Adequate:** The “C” essay responds to the essay topic but in a superficial or generalized way. The paragraphs exhibit a lack of firm control of the ideas and contain insufficient supportive detail. Word choice and syntax is somewhat immature and mechanical errors may be frequent enough to distract the reader.

**D= Poor:** The “D” essay makes an attempt to respond to the topic but is poorly organized, vague and lacks appropriate examples. The paper demonstrates weak control of ideas and contains serious mechanical and grammatical errors.

**F=Unacceptable:** The “F” essay does not fulfill any of the requirements of the assignment. It fails to address the topic, it lacks coherence, and it does not reflect mechanical or grammatical competence.

### Major Assignments

Assignment	Due Date	Points	Word Count	SLOs
In-class Diagnostic Essay	08/26	CR/NC	500 words	2
Resumé (in-class)	08/28	CR/NC	500 words	2, 3, 4
In-class essays (2)	09/18 and 10/2	CR/NC	750x2=1500 words	2

Argument Essay	10/28	200	1300 words	1, 2, 3
Major Revision	11/25	100 points	1000 words	1, 2, 3
Proposal Paper (includes cover letter)	12/2	100+200=300 points	1700 words	1-4
Final Presentation	12/4 and 12/9	150 points	500 words	2, 3, 4
Final Reflective essay	12/9	100 points	1000 words	1-4
Participation (includes journal writing, free writes, group work, etc.)		150 points	n/a	1,2,3

You will do a significant amount of writing, in various forms, for this course. Writing assignments are designed to help you practice prewriting, organizing, writing, revising, and editing. There will be four in-class essays and other out-of-class projects totaling a minimum of 8000 words, **all of which are required to pass this course**. Out-of-class essays must be typed (Times New Roman, 12 point font) and double-spaced using MLA format.

**Note on the Final Assignment:** Instead of a final exam, you will write a critical reflection at the end of the class. Think of it as a scientific study of your progress as a writer over the next four months. Remember, writing is a *process*. Collecting your work and then reflecting on that work is part of the process. The final assignment is designed to get you thinking about your specific challenges, your strategies for improvement, your successes and failures, and your goals for the future. Every writer, no matter how accomplished, has room for improvement. This assignment is your culminating experience. This course does not have a final exam.

### Student Technology Resources

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.

## **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>. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook.

## **SJSU Peer Connections**

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 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 at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

## **Estimation of Per-Unit Student Workload**

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five 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 including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

## Recording policies

Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.

Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.

## English 1A, Fall 2013, Course Schedule

This class does not have a final exam. The last day of instruction (December 9<sup>th</sup>) is the final due date for your portfolio.

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice. If needed, notice will be given in class, as well as via email. Check our class website daily for updates and announcements:

<https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1019054/>

Key: NF = Norton Field Guide with Readings, EW = The Everyday Writer

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/21	Welcome! Course overview; Introduction to Canvas.
2	8/26	EW: 48- 77; NF: 266-268 In-Class Diagnostic Essay
	8/28	Introduction to journal writing; In-class essay (Resumé)
3	9/2	Labor Day Holiday- NO CLASS
	9/4	EW: 245-273; NF: 183-190 <b>Journal #1 Due</b>
4	9/9	NF: 164-172 <b>Journal #2 Due</b>
	9/11	EW: 129-184 NF: 754-758
5	9/16	NF: 124-131 Classroom Debate #1 <b>Journal #3 Due</b>
	9/18	In-class essay on Debate #1

6	9/23	EW: 340-362; 380- 385 <b>Journal #4 Due</b>
	9/25	NF: 759-763; 87-95
7	9/30	Classroom Debate #2 <b>Journal #5 Due</b>
	10/2	In-class essay on Debate #2
8	10/7	NF: 323-355 <b>Journal #6 Due</b>
	10/9	EW: 187-215 Proposal Topics
9	10/14	NF: 64-82 <b>Journal #7 Due</b>
	10/16	Mandatory Peer Workshop <b>Argument Essay: Rough draft due</b>
10	10/21	NF: 205-213 <b>Journal #8 Due</b>
	10/23	EW: 215-224
11	10/28	EW: 457-511 <b>Argument Essay Due</b>
	10/30	NF: 101-118 Primary Research Documentation
12	11/4	NF: 693-699; 705-713 <b>Journal #9 Due</b>
	11/6	NF: 155-163 Secondary Research Documentation
13	11/11	Veteran's Day Holiday- NO CLASS
	11/13	Mandatory Peer Workshop <b>Rough Draft of Proposal Due</b> <b>Journal #10 Due</b>
14	11/18	NF: NF: 679-683; 746-753; 105-108; 656-665 <b>Journal #11 Due</b>
	11/20	NF: 922-927; 633-639; 886-889; 936-942
15	11/25	<b>Major Revision Due</b> <b>Journal #12 Due</b>

	11/27	Day before Thanksgiving- NO CLASS
16	12/2	<b>Cover Letter &amp; Proposal Due</b>
	12/4	<b>Presentations</b>
17	12/9	Final Day of Class! <b>Presentations</b> <b>Reflection Due</b>

### **Important SJSU Dates Fall 2013:**

Wednesday	August 21	First Day of Instruction – Classes Begin
Monday	September 2	Labor Day - Campus Closed (L)
Tuesday	September 3	Last Day to Drop Courses Without an Entry on Student's Permanent Record (D)
Tuesday	September 10	Last Day to Add Courses & Register Late (A)
Wednesday	September 18	Enrollment Census Date (CD)
Monday	November 11	Veteran's Day - Campus Closed (V)
Wednesday	November 27	Classes that start at 5:00 PM or later will not meet.
Thursday	November 28	Thanksgiving Holiday - Campus Closed (T)
Friday	November 29	Rescheduled Holiday - Campus Closed (RH)
Monday	December 9	Last Day of Instruction - Last Day of Classes
Tuesday	December 10	Study/Conference Day (no classes or exams) (SC)
Wednesday-Friday	December 11-13	Final Examinations (exams)
Monday-Tuesday	December 16-17	Final Examinations (exams)
Wednesday	December 18	Final Examinations Make-Up Day (MU)
Thursday	December 19	Grade Evaluation Day (E)
Friday	December 20	Grades Due From Faculty - End of Fall Semester (G)
December 23-		
January 20	WINTER RECESS	