

San José State University
Department of English and Comparative Literature
English 1A, Composition 1 (GE A2), Section 84, Fall 2013

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| Instructor: | Leah Griesmann |
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| Office Hours: | Wednesday 2-5pm |
| Class Days/Time: | Mondays 6-9pm |
| Classroom: | Clark 318 |
| Prerequisites: | None |
| GE Category: | Written Communication A2 |

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.

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.

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 DRC policies)
- Adding and dropping classes

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Rereading America, 9th Edition. Colombo, Cullen, & Lisle

The Everyday Writer, Lunsford

Escape from Camp 14, Harden

Additional materials

Blue Books for in-class essays

Dictionary

Folder for in-class handouts

Binder paper or notebook for in-class writing assignments

Stapler for all assignments

Classroom Protocol

It is critical to come to class on time with all required materials. Tardiness or not having your required materials will negatively impact your grade.

Cell phones, laptops, and all electronic devices must be turned off and out of sight.

Participation is mandatory in this class. Bring your best effort to all class activities. Students doing anything other than class work will be asked to leave.

Speak up! Feel free to express your opinions during class discussions, even if they differ from those of the instructor or other students. Do communicate respectfully to foster a learning environment that is comfortable for everyone.

If you are experiencing difficulties, or require extra assistance, feel free to visit me during my office hours. I am always happy to help students!

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.

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| Essay 1 & 3 (SLO 1,2,3) | (5% each) | 10% |
| Essays 2 & 6 (SLO 1, 2, 3, 4) | (10% each) | 20% |
| Essays 4 & 5 (SLO 1, 2, 3, 4) | (15% each) | 30% |
| Quizzes & Reading Logs | | 15% |
| Participation | | 10% |
| Final Portfolio (SLO 1, 2, 3, 4) | | 15% |

Grading Scale: A-F

Departmental Policy: The Department of English reaffirms its commitment to the differential grading scale as defined in the official SJSU Catalog: (“The Grading System”). Grades issued must represent a full range of student performance: A=Excellent; B= Above Average; C= Average; D=Below Average; F=Failure.

Course Content

Essays

Students will complete **eight** essays (including two rewrites) for a total of 8,000 words. This word count excludes the final exam, quizzes, and reading logs. Both in-class and out-of-class essays will be assigned. Students must complete **all** eight essays to receive a passing grade in the course.

Readings

Readings listed in the syllabus must be read before the class date. A cursory reading is not enough—students are expected to have thoroughly read and annotated assigned texts. Students who have not read the material or are unable to comment on the assigned readings will receive a negative participation grade in class. Reading logs will be assigned one class in advance.

Reading Log Format

An assigned reading log should be 1-2 pages long, typed, and follow this format:

- 1) **VOCABULARY:** List any vocabulary words you had to look up, along with definitions
- 2) **SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT:** Summarize the author's thesis and argument
- 3) **EVIDENCE:** List the evidence the author uses to support his or her main points
- 4) **RESPONSE:** What is your own response to the piece? Use specific examples to explain your reaction

Quizzes

Pop quizzes on assigned readings will be given at my discretion. Quizzes must be taken in class on the day given and cannot be made up.

Rescheduled Class & Extra Credit Assignments

All students must do one rescheduled class assignment and may do one extra credit assignment linked to the book, *Escape from Camp 14*. The rescheduled class/extra credit assignments (event attendance, event description, and personal response) must be 2 pages minimum, MLA formatted, and must reflect reading comprehension of the book.

Escape from Camp 14 Special Events:

** Oct. 2, 4 pm MLK Library 225-229: "Faculty Insights: Travel in North Korea."

** Oct. 16, 4 pm MLK Library 255-257: "LINK: Grassroots Liberty in North Korea."

** Nov. 7, 4 pm Student Union Ballroom: Blaine Harden, journalist and author of "Escape from Camp 14."

POLICIES

Attendance

Writing is a process that is learned through a series of steps. Missing classes will result in missing key steps that will help you progress in your writing, thus negatively impacting your grade. If you must miss a class, be sure to communicate with a **classmate** to hand in work, find out any subject matter that you missed, and to get copies of handouts.

Participation

Class participation is an important part of your grade. Participation doesn't just mean showing up—it means showing up prepared and actively engaging in class activities. All reading must be done prior to class so that you can contribute to class discussions. Participating in class discussions is a fun way to improve your critical thinking skills and also important for your grade. Don't be afraid to express your opinions.

Assignments

All assignments are due on paper **at the beginning of class** on the date specified (not emailed). **NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.** All assignments must be completed in order to pass the class.

One-Time Emergency Pass

Because all students may at one point during the semester be faced with a genuine emergency, students shall have a one-time-only EMERGENCY PASS to be used for a major essay assignment. It is suggested that students wait to use this pass for a real emergency, as it can only be used once.

The emergency pass may be used to turn in any out-of-class essay 7 days late.

Directions: Email me that you are using your emergency pass by the date of the assignment due. When you turn in your essay, attach a stapled note that you are using your emergency pass for your essay. Sign and date it as below, and submit it to me **in class** no later than 7 days late.

“I am using my emergency pass for __ (assignment) _____ due __ (date) __. I _____ (name) _____ understand the guidelines for using this pass. “

Plagiarism

At SJSU, plagiarism is defined as “the act of representing the work of another as one's own (without giving appropriate credit) regardless of how that work was obtained, and submitting it to fulfill academic requirements.” Plagiarism is a serious academic infringement and can result in failure of the course and even dismissal from SJSU.

SJSU Writing Center

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 2013, Course Schedule, Wednesdays (Subject to Change)

August

26 Syllabus, Introductions, Quiz, & Diagnostic **Essay 1**

September

2 HOLIDAY, Rescheduled Class

9 EW 1-12, RA 110-136 Mann and Moore, 189-197 Malcolm X

16 EW 78-92, Rewrite of **Essay 1** Due, In class: *Two Million Minutes*

23 EW 66-76, South Korean education (handouts) and 201-219 Kozol

30 Chapters 1-3, *Escape from Camp 14*, **Essay 2** Due

October

7 EW 355-362, *Escape from Camp 14*

14 EW 3-3-309, *Escape from Camp 14*

21 **Essay 3** (in class)

28 RA Ehrenreich, 267-280 and Terkel (electronic)

November

4 RA Kendall 314-331 and Arnold 342-346, **Draft Workshop Essay 4**

11 HOLIDAY, RESCHEDULED CLASS

18 **Essay 4** Due, RA Fredrickson 565-567, Martinez 604-613

25 Buchanan 593-603, **Essay 5** Draft Workshop

December

2 **Essay 5** Due, Portfolio Draft Workshop

9 **Essay 6** in class, **Portfolio** Due