

San José State University
 Department of English and Comparative Literature
 English 1A, Written Composition 1 (GE A2),
 Section 40, Fall 2015

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Professor Ellen Tara James-Penney
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Office Hours:	M/W 10:30-11:30 am, and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	T/Th 7:30-8:45 a.m.
Classroom:	Boccardo Business Center (BBC) #124
Prerequisites:	English Placement Test
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	Written Communication A2

GE A2 Course Description

Written Communication 1 cultivates an understanding of the writing process and the goals, dynamics, and genres of written communication, with special attention to the nature of writing at the university. Students will develop college-level reading abilities, rhetorical sophistication, and writing styles that give form and coherence to complex ideas and feelings. A passing grade of C or better signifies that the student is a capable college-level writer and reader of English.

ENGL 1 Section 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 more formal attitudes and demands of writing at the university (expository and argumentative essays). Students will develop college-level reading abilities, rhetorical sophistication, and writing styles that give form and coherence to complex ideas and feelings.

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

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

1. demonstrate the ability to read actively and rhetorically;
2. demonstrate the ability to perform the essential steps in the writing process (prewriting, organizing, composing, revising, and editing) and demonstrate an awareness of said performance;
3. articulate an awareness of and write according to the rhetorical features of texts, such as purpose, audience, context, and rhetorical appeals;
4. demonstrate the ability to integrate their ideas and those of others by explaining, analyzing, developing, and criticizing ideas effectively in several genres;
5. and demonstrate college-level language use, clarity, and grammatical proficiency in writing.

ENGL 1A Course Outcomes (CLO)

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, including appropriate citation.
- Effective organization within the paragraph and the essay.
- Accuracy, variety, and clarity of sentences.
- Appropriate diction and tone.
- Control of conventional mechanics (e.g., punctuation, spelling, reference, agreement).

Course Content

Diversity: SJSU studies include an emphasis on diversity. Thus, you will be reading works from writers of different ethnicities, gender, socioeconomic class, and ideologies.

Writing: Writing assignments shall give students repeated practice in all phases of the writing process: critical thinking, researching, prewriting, organizing, writing, revising, and editing. This class requires a minimum of 8000 words, at least 4000 of which must be in revised final draft form. Because in-class writing is valued and students should be able to perform well in timed writing situations, two essays shall be written in class. In addition, ENGL 1A classes require at least three out-of-class essays (one of which is the oral presentation).

Reading: ENG 1A is also a **reading** course. The reading is a crucial component of the class, as you must read effective writing to become an effective writer. All readings must be completed by the beginning of each class session, and all discussions and assignments will be based on the reading material. It will be impossible to be a successful student in this course if you neglect to complete the daily reading.

In addition, **PARTICIPATION DOES NOT MEAN** coming to class and sitting silently at your desk; it does mean taking part in all class activities and discussions. Therefore, your grade requires asking questions, offering opinions and suggestions, giving feedback, debating, etc. ☺

Required Texts/Readings

Lundsford, Andrea. *The Everyday Writer* (with exercises). 5th ed. Boston: St. Martin's, 2013.

Print edition: ISBN #978-1-45766712-1; available at the Spartan Bookstore

Steinbeck, John. *The Grapes of Wrath* (order online)

Steinbeck, John. *Working Days: The Journals of the Grapes of Wrath* (order online)

Articles for analysis will be emailed to you.

Other material requirements

- Three (3) large Green books for in-class essays
- A “composition” book (college ruled). You MUST take notes from the lectures.
- Loose-leaf paper for in-class writing.
- PENS, including highlighters!

Library Liaison

Toby Matoush is the library liaison for English and Comparative Literature and for Languages.

Phone: (408) 808-2096

Email: toby.matoush@sjsu.edu

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including 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>.

Oral Presentations:

1. Students will be paired and interview one another.
2. Each student will present a multimodal essay. (I will explain in class.)

Grammar & Reading Quizzes: I reserve the right to give pop quizzes, which will test your completion and comprehension of the required reading assignments, and can alter and/or add assignments at any time.

Final Exam: There will be a comprehensive final exam on grammar, punctuation, research, citation, and include a short essay.

Grading Policy—PAY ATTENTION!

Requirements for particular assignments will vary, but in all cases essay grades will reflect the paper’s effectiveness, which I have broken down into three major areas: content (this includes maturity and sophistication of thought), organization, and expression. All assignments, quizzes, and exams are graded on a traditional A-F scale. The following are the criteria by which essays are typically evaluated in first-year writing courses:

- An “A” 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.
- A “B” essay demonstrates competence in the same categories as an “A” essay, but it may show slight weakness in one of these areas. It will respond to the topic suitably and may contain some grammatical, mechanical or usage errors.
- A “C” essay will complete the requirements of the assignment, but it will show weaknesses in fundamentals, such as development. It may show weakness in

mastery of grammar, mechanics, usage, or voice.

- A “D” essay will *neglect to meet all the requirements of the assignment* or may be superficial in its treatment of the topic. It may lack development or fail to stay on topic. It may contain grammatical, mechanical, and/or usage errors that interfere with reader comprehension.
- An “F” essay *does not fulfill one or more of the requirements of the assignment*.

Total point value for the course is 150. At the end of the semester, your overall course grade will be calculated as follows:

In-class Diagnostic:	0
Grammar quizzes and reading analyses	10 (2 pts. each)
Oral presentation	30
In-class/Out-of-class essays	60 (15 pts. each)
Participation	25
Final exam	25

Course Grade Point Values

100-93	A
92-90	A-
89-87	B+
86-83	B
82-80	B-
79-77	C+
76-73	C
72-70	C-
69-67	D+
66-63	D
62-60	D-
59-0	F

This course must be passed with a C or better as a CSU graduation requirement.

Classroom Protocol

Attendance: University policy F69-24: “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to ensure maximum benefit for all members of the class.” Thus, do NOT be later than 5 minutes (unless you have contacted me with a legitimate reason), or you will be asked to leave. Showing up late disrupts the class. Be considerate of your classmates.

Cell Phones: If I see you texting or listening to music, you will be asked to leave class, resulting in a 0 for that day’s class participation.

Essays: Hardcopies of all formal essays are required and must be typed and in MLA format. Handwritten essays are not acceptable. Drafts are required of each major essay assignment. I will not grade an essay unless I have first seen a draft.

Late assignments: If you are unable to attend class (this includes illnesses) the day an essay or homework assignment is due, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to have a friend or classmate print and deliver the assignment to me DURING your regular class time. In addition, you are to upload your work to Canvas at least six hours prior to class. I will not accept email submissions, period.

Except in extreme cases of illness or emergencies, there will be NO make-up quizzes or exams unless you have arranged other accommodations with me before the exam date.

Canvas: <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/canvas/index.html>. All course materials will be posted on Canvas: syllabus, readings, grammar/editing assignments, etc. Class announcements will be made through Canvas as well. Be sure to check your account daily.

University Policies

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, 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/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](#), <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course:

- “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 this 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.” In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- “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.”

Academic integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](#) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>. Sanctions are

at the discretion of the instructor and may include the following: oral reprimand, failure on the evaluation instrument, reduction in course grade, failure in the course, referral for additional administrative sanctions.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. [Presidential Directive 97-03](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center \(AEC\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See [University Policy S14-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf>.

Additional Information: Please read carefully the following information available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/english/comp/policy/index.html>

- Course guidelines
- Academic policies (academic integrity, plagiarism, ADA and AEC policies)
- Estimation of Per-Unit Student Workload
- Recording policies
- Adding and dropping classes
- Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays

Student Technology Resources

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. 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.

SJSU Writing Center (Optional)

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) 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.

ENGL 1A Course Schedule (Subject to change)

Week 1	Orientation/diagnostic essay/academic writing Reading <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> and <i>Working Days: The Journals of the Grapes of Wrath</i>
Week 2	Critical thinking/research/citations Reading <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> and <i>Working Days: The Journals of the Grapes of Wrath</i>
Week 3	Critical thinking/research/citations/grammar Reading <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> and <i>Working Days: The Journals of the Grapes of Wrath</i>
Week 4	Out-of-class essay #1(1,500 words): first draft and final draft due.
Week 5	Studying the use of photography, videography, poetry, collages, drawings, and other elements accompanying the academic essay.
Week 6	Multimodal writing cont'd
Week 7	Multimodal writing cont'd Film excerpts
Week 8	Reading and analysis of <i>Fast Food Nation</i>
Week 9	Reading and analysis of <i>Fast Food Nation</i> Film excerpt (compare/contrast)
Week 10	In-class essay #2 (excluding diagnostic from beginning of semester)
Week 11	Fallacies
Week 12	In-class essay #3
Week 13	How to interview/Interview presentation
Week 14	Out-of-class essay #2 (1,500 words): first draft and final draft due.

Week 15 Preparation and beginning of oral presentations

Week 16 Oral presentations

Week 17: Begins Finals Week
(Date and location TBA)