

San Jose State University
Department of English and Comparative Literature
English 1A, Written Composition 1 (GE A2), Section 54, Fall 2015
“Television Literacy, The Media, and Community: How the Medium is Changing”

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Office Hours: R 2-4pm
Class Days/Time: TR 12:00-1:15pm
Classroom: Sweeney 238
GE Category: Written Communication A2

Required Texts/Readings

- *The Elements of Style (4th Edition)* by William Strunk and E.B. White – **ISBN-10: 020530902X; ISBN-13: 978-0205309023**

Supplemental Texts/Readings

- *The Everyday Writer (5th Edition)* by Andrea Lunsford – **ISBN: 9781457667121**

ENGL 1A Section Description

Throughout the years, television has served as a window to the world, connecting all corners of the world with the push of a button. Now with the rise of the internet and the easy access to technology, this world is changing. In this course, we will take a brief look at television history. However, the bulk of the course will be spent evaluating the changes that have taken place since the introduction of the internet. We will analyze the rise of fan culture and evaluate its relevance in both academia and the modern world. The course will consist of four units: Television Literacy, Your Soundtrack, The News, and Social Media

ENGL 1A Course Description

English 1A is an introductory writing course that will help students understand the writing process and the goals, dynamics, and genres of written communication. Through interpretation and analysis of texts, students will develop clear thinking and effective writing that give form and coherence to complex ideas. Students will practice these skills by writing for various audiences and rhetorical situations.

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.

Prerequisites

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

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 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).

Academic Policies

You are responsible for reading the following information online at:

<http://www.sjsu.edu/english/comp/policy/index.html>

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

Classroom Protocol

Participation

As a member of this class, you should be committed to contributing to discussion, answering questions, and completing assignments, and overall growth. I will observe your participation and grade you accordingly throughout the semester.

Attendance

You are unable to participate in this class if you don't attend. Therefore, your attendance will have a direct correlation with your participation grade.

Tardiness

I will be on time for every class, so I expect you to do the same. We will begin classwork promptly at 12:00 and if you are tardy, you will be expected to make up that assignment. Also, being tardy is a disruption to me, along with your classmates. Please make an effort to be respectful and be on time.

Technology

On certain days, which you will know about in advance, you will be permitted to use technology in class. This includes computers, tablets, and cell phones. On any other day, these items are prohibited in the classroom. If I see you on these devices, participation points will be deducted from your grade and after multiple warnings, you will be asked to leave the classroom. Using these items in class causes a distraction, which is disrespectful to the class.

Late Work

I will permit you to turn in ONE late assignment in the course of the semester. I encourage you to use this opportunity when you really need it, like when you are sick or unable to attend class for another important reason. Once you have turned in one late assignment, no others will be

permitted.

Eating

I understand that this course is during lunchtime, so I will permit eating in the classroom as long as it's not disruptive. Nothing too smelly. Nothing too loud. Nothing that is going to be messy.

Extra Credit

Throughout the course of the semester, I will allow you to turn in four extra credit assignments. Each assignment will earn you five extra points. You can complete the additional two creative projects and/or attend any oncampus reading event and write a one-page summary about your experience. For more information on these events, please visit www.litart.org.

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.”

- It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor’s process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
- 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) (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) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf>.

Grading

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

A = (Exceptional Work) 900-1000 points

B = (Above Average Work) 800-899 points

C = (Average Work) 700-799 points

D = (Below Average Work) 600-699 points

F = (Failing Work) 599 or Below points

Grading Breakdown

Four Out-of-Class Essays (1250 words each) – 400 points

- Television Literacy Essay – **GELO 1, 2, 3 4, 5**
- Personal Essay (Memoir) – **GELO 2, 3 4, 5**
- Media Evaluation Essay – **GELO 1, 2, 3 4, 5**
- Self-Reflection Essay – **GELO 1, 2, 3 4, 5**

Two In-Class Essays (1250 words each) – 100 points

- Diagnostic Essay – **GELO 2, 3, 5**
- Descriptive Essay – **GELO 2, 3, 5**

Two of Four Projects – 100 points

- Personal Television History Project
- Your Soundtrack Project
- Fan Art Project
- Social Media Project

Rhetorical Presentation (250 Words) – 100 points

Participation 150 points

Final Portfolio/Conference – 100 points

Journal – 50 points

Reading

English 1A is a reading-intensive course meant to help you strengthen your reading and critical thinking skills. All readings listed on the calendar must be finished by the class time for the date listed. So to ensure full

credit you must complete the readings by class time and be prepared to participate orally and in writing.

Diversity

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

Writing

English 1A is a writing-intensive course meant to prepare you for collegelevel writing, which will be required in all other classes, and which depends upon clear communication of meaning. All essay writing assignments are noted on the calendar and must be turned in by the beginning of class on the day they are due. All other writing assignments will be assigned during class and must be turned in on time. You will also receive assignment sheets with further instructions for all essays. You will write more than 8000 words this semester.

Learning Groups

At the beginning of the semester, I will divide you into groups of five. You will be required to complete a group project at some point in the semester with your assigned group. Also, you will be expected to conduct peer workshops throughout the semester. Please exchange information and get to know members of your group in case you've missed an assignment or need to meet outside of class.

Out of Class Essays

You will write out of class essays at the end of each unit. Each essay will be a minimum of 1250 words long (5-6 pages long depending on font). You are encouraged to bring rough drafts to my office hours to make essays as excellent as possible. There will be significant point deductions for not using MLA, or for improper or missing citations. Part of MLA guidelines require the essay be typed in a 12-point font, doublespaced, with one-inch margins on all sides, and with your name and page number in the header. All minimum requirements listed on the writing prompts must be met in order to pass the assignment. Passing is a C. To receive an A you must exceed the requirements.

In Class Essays

You will write two in class essays during the semester. Each essay will be a minimum of 1250 words long (5-6 pages long depending on font). You are encouraged to bring rough drafts to my office hours to make essays as

excellent as possible. There will be significant point deductions for not using MLA, or for improper or missing citations. Part of MLA guidelines require the essay be typed in a 12-point font, double-spaced, with one-inch margins on all sides, and with your name and page number in the header. All minimum requirements listed on the writing prompts must be met in order to pass the assignment. Passing is a C. To receive an A you must exceed the requirements.

Projects

Along with the completion of your essays, you are required to turn in two of the four projects during the middle of each unit. Each project will coincide with the unit and essay assignment. These projects aren't graded on artistic merit, but effort on the student's part. In short, you don't have to be the best artist to get a good grade on the project. If I can tell time and effort was put into the project, I will grade accordingly.

Revisions

Throughout the semester, you will be expected to revise four essays of your choice. You will do so with the assistance of myself and your learning groups. Both first and final drafts will be included in your final portfolio, so don't throw anything away. **YOU MUST INCLUDE REVISION #4 IN YOUR FINAL PORTFOLIO LABELED AS SUCH!**

Rhetorical Project

At some point in the semester, you will be expected to complete a group rhetorical project with your learning group. It will be a 15-20 minute lecture to the class on your assigned Strunk and White chapter. As part of this project, you will be responsible for giving the class a one-page minimum worksheet on your discussion. **IMPORTANT: ONCE WE GO OVER EACH CHAPTER, YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS KNOWLEDGE. IF YOU MAKE ERRORS ASSOCIATED WITH CHAPTERS WE'VE ALREADY GONE OVER IN CLASS, I WILL DEDUCT EXTRA POINTS FROM YOUR PAPER.**

Journal

Each day you are in class, you will be responsible for a five minute journal entry, be it a free write, an assigned question, or another prompt. Your entries need to be dated and I will check them at random. If you miss a day, you will be expected to make it up. This will be done at the beginning of class, so please be on time for class.

Conferences

You will be responsible for seeing me during my office hours three times

throughout the semester. One of these will be required within the first three weeks. If you do not come to my office hours, it will reflect in your participation grade.

Final Portfolio/Conference

This is the fun part! You'll be able to show off the hard work you've done throughout the semester. You'll turn in your final portfolio and present one of your essays and creative projects to the rest of the class.

Want Extra Help?

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 Peer Connections

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their 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.

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) 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.SJSU

Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit [Counseling Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

**syllabus is subject to change*