

San José State University  
 Department of English and Comparative Literature  
 English 1A, Written Composition 1 (GE A2),  
 Section 34, Spring 2015

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Professor Ellen Tara James-Penney
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Office Hours:	M/W 7:30-8:30 am, and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	M/W 9:00-10:15
Classroom:	Clark Hall (CL) #243
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 articles 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: 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, at least three essays shall be written in class. In addition, ENGL 1A classes require at least three out-of-class essays.

*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 means taking part in all class activities. Therefore, 10 percent of your grade involves 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  
 The Long Valley by John Steinbeck  
 12 Angry Men by Reginald Rose  
 Fast Food Nation by Eric Schlosser

Articles for analysis will be emailed to you.

#### Other material requirements

- Three (3) large Green books for in-class essays
- A red and white “composition” book (college ruled). You MUST take notes from the lectures.
- Loose-leaf paper for in-class writing and homework assignments.
- 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>.

Written Essays: you will write three in-class essays and three out-of-class essays this semester. Each of the out-of-class essays will go through at least one revision. Please refer to the course schedule for assignment objectives, word counts, and due dates.

#### Unit One: Personal Reflection Count GELO

- In-class Essay #1: Personal Response 750 5
- Revised Essay #1: Reflection & Analysis 1400 2-5

#### Unit Two: Reading Arguments

- In-class Essay #2: Reflection & Analysis 750 1-3, 5
- Revised Essay #2: Rhetorical Analysis 1400 1-5

#### Unit Three: Writing Arguments

- In-class Essay #3: Stylistic Analysis 1000 1-3, 5
- Revised Essay #3: Persuasive Argument 1400 1-5

Final Portfolio 1300 1-5

**Portfolio Project:** At the end of the semester, students will turn in a portfolio consisting of two revised out-of-class essays, two revised in-class essays, and a short reflective analysis of your writing process.

**Oral Presentation:** Students will be paired and interview one another.

Please refer to the course schedule for each assignment objective and presentation date.

**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, and usage.

### Grading Policy

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 the requirements of the assignment.

Total point value for the course is 1000. At the end of the semester, your overall course grade will be calculated as follows:

Individual Assignment	Point Values	Percentage	Point Value
In-class Essay #1: Personal Response diagnostic			0
In-class Essay #2: Reflection & Analysis	5%		50
In-class Essay #3: Stylistic Analysis	5%		50
Revised Essay #1: Reflection & Analysis	15%		150
Revised Essay #2: Rhetorical Analysis	20%		200
Revised Essay #3: Persuasive Argument	20%		200
Interview Project #1	10%		100
Class Participation	10%		100
Final Portfolio	10%		100
Final Exam & quizzes	5%		50
<b>Total Points:</b>			<b>1000</b>

### Course Grade Point Values

1000-930	A
929-900	A-

899-870	B+
869-830	B
829-800	B-
799-770	C+
769-730	C
729-700	C-
699-670	D+
669-630	D
629-600	D-
599-0	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.”

Cell Phones: If I see you texting, you will be asked to surrender your phone for the remainder of class. If you do not wish to surrender your phone, you will be asked to leave class.

Leaving the Classroom: Once class has started, you are not permitted to leave without permission. Anyone leaving class will be asked not to return. It is disruptive to class discussions when students are walking in and out of class. During group work, you will have the opportunity to leave class briefly to use the bathroom facilities.

Essay Format: All out-of-class essays must be typed and double-spaced (1 inch margins, TimesNewRoman or similar, 12 pt font). Handwritten essays are not acceptable. Place essays in a folder with drafts. Do not use a cover page. On the first page of your essay, put your name, ENG 1A, and the date. Move 3 hard returns down and title your essay—do not underline your title. Start your text another 2 lines down from title. Final versions of essays must be accompanied by the draft on which I commented and must be placed in a folder. I will not accept revised essays without the draft or a folder.

Canvas: <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/canvas/index.html>. All course materials will be posted on Canvas: syllabus, readings, journal assignments, handouts, etc. Class announcements will be made through Canvas as well. Be sure to check your account daily. Your completed weekly homework, journal, and other informal writing assignments will be submitted through Canvas.

Email Submissions: Hardcopies of all formal essays are required. I do not print out essays for students. If you cannot make it to class, I will accept an email submission as evidence of the assignment’s completion; however, you are still responsible for turning in a hardcopy at the next class meeting you attend. I respond to all email submissions. If you do not get a reply from me within 12 hours, you must assume I did not receive it. Lost

email submissions are not valid excuses for late or missing assignments. You will still be held responsible.

Lateness: Late essays (revisions and drafts) will not be accepted without penalty unless you have arranged with me **before the due date** to turn the paper in late (one full grade reduction per class). This includes illnesses.

Drafts are required of each major essay assignment. I will not grade an essay unless I have first seen a draft. In addition, I do not accept late homework assignments. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to contact a classmate to find out the assignment. Computer excuses are not acceptable in this class. 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.

Extra Credit: There are no opportunities for extra credit in the course.

### 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](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at [http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic\\_calendars/](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/). The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/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](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) 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), <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](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/>. 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](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

Monday 1/26: Class Introductions  
Wednesday 1/28: In-class Essay #1 (Diagnostic)

#### Week 2

Monday 2/2: Writing paragraphs; Parts of speech  
Wednesday 2/4: Writing paragraphs. Discuss “The Chrysanthemums.”  
Essay 1 Final draft assigned.

#### Week 3

Monday 2/9: Rd “The Chrysanthemums.”  
Methods of paragraph development (description / narration)  
Wednesday 2/11: Methods of paragraph development (definition, process analysis);  
Subjects & verbs; tenses; singular/plural; pronoun agreement.

#### Week 4

Monday 2/16: Writing introductions, thesis statements; Subjects & verbs; excess words!  
Discuss Ch. 1-2 of *Fast Food Nation*.  
Wednesday 2/18: Writing conclusions, organization; Subject-verb agreement;  
rhetorical elements: emotional and logical appeals

#### Week 5

Monday 2/23: Fallacies. Bring a newspaper editorial to class!  
Wednesday 2/25: Essay #1 Final Draft Due!  
Rd and be ready to discuss *Love is a Fallacy*

#### Week 6

Monday 3/2: Essay #2 (Analysis) assigned. Analysis of articles (discussion):  
Identify rhetorical elements.  
Wednesday 3/4: Analysis of articles; in-class activity, “Questions! Questions!  
Questions!”

## Week 7

Monday 3/9: Rhetorical analysis writing process. What constitutes sound research?

Wednesday 3/11: In-class Essay #2 (Analysis).

## Week 8

Monday 3/16: The art of persuasion. Rd “12 Angry Men”

Wednesday 3/18: Quiz on “12 Angry Men.” (Some students will read certain scenes from the play. Be ready. Mandatory!)

## Week 9

Monday: Spring Break!

Wednesday: Spring Break!

## Week 10

Monday 3/30: Essay #2 Final draft due!

Grammar quiz!

Wednesday 4/1: In-class activity (mandatory)

## Week 11

Monday 4/6: In-class activity (mandatory)

Wednesday 4/8: Rd and discuss Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream” speech.

## Week 12

Monday 4/13: Rd and ready to discuss remainder of *Fast Food Nation*.

Wednesday 4/15: Essay #3 in-class essay (Persuasive)

## Week 13

Monday 4/20: Interviews (group 1)

Wednesday 4/22: Interviews (group 2)

## Week 14

Monday 4/27: Misplaced modifiers; Comma use; Excess words (again!)

Wednesday 4/29: Research and debate exercise

## Week 15

Monday 5/4: Revising arguments

Wednesday 5/6: Essay #3 Final draft due

## Week 16

Monday 5/11: Portfolio due. Cumulative review.

Wednesday 5/13: Last day of class Par-TAY!

## Week 17:

Begins Finals Week  
(Date and location TBA)