

San José State University
Department of English & Comparative Literature
ENGL 1A: First-Year Writing, Section #49, Fall 2016
Sex, Guns, and Rock 'n' Roll

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Sara Cook
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Office Hours:	Tuesdays & Thursdays, noon – 1pm
Class Days/Time:	Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9am – 10:15am
Classroom:	Sweeney Hall, room 348
Prerequisites:	Directed Self-Placement
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	GE Area A2 Written Communication I

ENGL 1A Course Description

ENGL 1A is an introductory writing course that will help you understand the writing process and the goals, dynamics, and genres of written communication. Through interpretation and analysis of texts, you will learn to think clearly and write effectively as you give form and coherence to complex ideas. You will explore writing for various audiences and rhetorical situations.

Our theme this semester is *Sex, Guns, and Rock 'n' Roll*. From the first female presidential candidate, to the causes of mass shootings, to the ways that doctors are using music as medicine, we will explore these current events as we learn to read, write, and think with the critical and curious eyes of academics.

ENGL 1A Learning Outcomes (GELO)

Upon successful completion of the course, you will be able to

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

ENGL 1A Course Content

Writing: Writing assignments will give you 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 you should be able to perform well in timed writing situations, at least two essays will be written in class. In addition, ENGL 1A classes require multiple out-of-class essays.

Essays will correspond to the readings and will increase in difficulty as we move through the semester. In-class essays will be written in large blue books or yellow books; please bring at least one blue or yellow book the day of an in-class essay along with pens and your dictionary. **In-class essays cannot be made up.** If extenuating circumstances apply, please see me well in advance (at least one week) of the date of the in-class essay. All out-of-class essays must be in MLA format, as detailed in *The Everyday Writer*, and are due in class. Unstapled papers will not be accepted.

Reading: In addition to being an intensive writing course, ENGL 1A is also a reading course. Reading is a crucial component of the class, as one must read effective writing to become an effective writer. During the semester, you will read a variety of rhetorical and professional works on the art and craft of persuasive language.

Class discussions and activities are based on the reading. It is pertinent that you have the reading completed on the corresponding date on the schedule – I cannot emphasize the importance of this enough. I expect you to read slowly, attentively, and to annotate your text with a pen or pencil.

Multimodal: You will be presenting your arguments orally to the class using specified visual aids.

Rough Drafts & Workshops: Essay and presentation assignments require rough drafts. The original rough draft must be turned in with your final draft. If you only turn in one draft of an assignment where a rough draft and final draft are due, you will receive an “F” for that assignment.

Workshops are a chance for you to test drive your essay and are very important to the writing process. You must attend! If you miss a peer editing workshop, you must still turn in a rough draft with your final draft, and you will forfeit one letter grade on the assignment.

Other work: You will have various other homework and in-class assignments. These cannot be made up.

Participation: This is a **seminar** course; oral participation is necessary: your thoughts and questions are important to the discussion and our communal growth as writers. The potency of our class depends upon our commitment to reading, discussing, and writing with conscientiousness and consistency. You are expected to participate with flawless preparation and awe-inspiring enthusiasm.

Your participation will be assessed through in-class writing assignments, group work, and class discussion.

Attendance: Regular attendance is crucial to your success in this class. Remember, there are no “excused” absences in college. If you fail to attend a class, you are still expected to turn in the assignments due that day, get details on whatever topics were covered in class, and complete the homework for the next meeting. It is your responsibility to contact me or a classmate to see what you missed.

ENGL 1A Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, you are expected to 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>.

Assignment Word Count and Learning Goals

Type of draft	Assignment	Word Count	Type of Assignment	GELO
Final draft	Essay 1	700	in-class writing	GELO 1,2,3,4,5
	Presentation 1	100	out of class writing	GELO 1,2,3,4,5
	Essay 2	1000	out of class writing	GELO 1,2,3,4,5
	Essay 3	700	in-class writing	GELO 1,2,3,4,5
	Essay 4	1200	out of class writing	GELO 1,2,3,4,5
	Presentation 2	100	out of class writing	GELO 1,2,3,4,5
Rough draft	Essay 5	1200	out of class writing	GELO 1,2,3,4,5
	Presentation 1	100	out of class writing	GELO 1,2,3,4,5
	Essay 2: Peer workshop	1000	out of class writing	GELO 1,2,3,4,5
	Essay 4: Peer workshop	1200	out of class writing	GELO 1,2,3,4,5
	Presentation 2	100	out of class writing	GELO 1,2,3,4,5
	Essay 5: Peer workshop	1200	out of class writing	GELO 1,2,3,4,5
	Journals, proposals and other homework	2000	out of class writing in & out of class writing	GELO 1,2,3,4,5

Final drafts = 5,000 words
Rough drafts = 5,600 words
Total = 10,600 words

Required Texts

Textbooks / Materials

- *The Everyday Writer* by Andrea Lunsford
 - All students have a free electronic copy of this in their Canvas accounts.
- *Course Reader* compiled by Sara Cook
 - This is available for purchase at Maple Press.
 - You must bring this to class every day.
- A College-level dictionary
- A device to access the internet during class (laptop, smart phone, tablet, etc.)
- A video editing app, such as *Splice* (free)

Other Readings

Other readings will be posted on Canvas throughout the semester.

Grading Policy

Grading: A-F. This class must be passed with a C- or better as a CSU graduation requirement. A passing grade in the course signifies that the student is a capable college-level writer and reader of English.

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

Essay 1 (in-class)	5%
Presentation 1	5%
Essay 2 (out of class)	10%
Essay 3 (in-class)	10%

Essay 4 (out of class)	15%
Presentation 2	10%
Essay 5 (out of class)	15%
Other Work	10%
Participation	10%
Final project	10%

Grade Calculation:

A+ = 100-97%	A = 96-93%	A- = 92-90%
B+ = 89-87%	B = 86-83%	B- = 82-80%
C+ = 79-77%	C = 76-73%	C- = 72-70%
D+ = 69-67%	D = 66-63%	D- = 62-60%
F = 59-0% Unsatisfactory		

Essays in this class will be graded according to the following criteria:

A = Excellent. This essay is organized and well constructed. It demonstrates a clear understanding of the topic and has a focused thesis. Ideas are clearly presented and supported with specific details. Paragraphs are fully developed and flow easily from one to the next. The language is varied, lively and syntactically complex. This paper is virtually free of mechanical errors and is a pleasure to read.

B = Very good. This essay shows an understanding of the prompt, but is less precise and original than the “A” paper. This paper exhibits clear ideas and supports them with examples, but may lack sentence variety and a consistent, smooth flow. This paper may contain minor grammatical and/or mechanical errors, however it does exhibit overall confidence.

C = Average. This essay discusses the prompt, but in a superficial or overly generalized way. The paragraphs show a lack of firm control of the ideas and neglect to provide sufficient support and detail. Word choice and syntax is unvaried and simplistic and mechanical errors may be frequent enough to distract the reader.

D = Poor. This essay makes an attempt to discuss the prompt, but is poorly organized, vague, and lacks appropriate and/or adequate examples. The paper exhibits a weak control of ideas and syntax and is full of mechanical and grammatical errors.

F = Unacceptable. This essay does not adequately fulfill any of the requirements of the assignment. It fails to address the prompt or misrepresents it significantly. It lacks coherence, clarity and development. This essay does not demonstrate a competent understanding of grammar and mechanics.

Classroom Protocol

In this class I expect you to:

1. Follow your curiosity.
2. Enjoy and commit yourself. Academic work is what you make of it.
3. Come to class on time. Tardiness is disruptive and disrespectful, and chronic tardiness will affect your grade.
4. If you are not using your cell phone for a class activity, it should be silenced and **stowed**. If you are engaging in electronic activity during class that I have not directed, I will ask you to leave.

5. Engage yourself in our class. If you are doing anything other than being present in our class work I will ask you to leave.
6. Take responsibility for your actions, positive and negative. Remember teachers do not “give” grades, you earn them.
7. Communicate with me. I am here to help you, but I have no way of knowing if you are unclear about an assignment or are otherwise having trouble unless you tell me. If you have questions about the work, speak up in class, come to see me in my office, or send an email.

My Professional Policies

1. I do not accept late work. (See the last page of this syllabus for the one exception to this policy)
2. I do not accept work via email.
3. In class work cannot be made-up (this includes in-class essays, workshops, and “other work”).
4. I reserve the right to publish your work to the class as part of our workshop activities.
5. Please come to my office hours for any help you want; that is what I am here for.

University Policies

The link below contains university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc.

http://www.sjsu.edu/english/frosh/program_policies/index.html

A Few Last Words

Once you graduate with your Bachelor’s degree, you will be among the top 1% educated people in the world. From this fact I would like you 1) take pride in this, and 2) don’t take this opportunity for granted. Don’t slack. Enjoy your time at SJSU and work hard.

Writing well is difficult, and like anything else you have to work at it. Don’t sit back and wait for your brain to effortlessly absorb the material. Engage yourself and you may discover that your writing reveals things to you that you didn’t know *and* that your writing is better than you thought. Lastly, please ask me about any assignment if it is unclear to you. And, please do not hesitate to come talk to me about anything – assignments or otherwise. I am here to help you, and look forward to working with you this semester.

English 1A: First-Year Writing, Fall 2016, Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change. All scheduled readings and assignments need to be completed by the time you come to class on the day they are listed.

CR = Course Reader

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/25/16	Introduction
1	8/30/16	Diagnostic writing. Bring an essay booklet to write in.
2	9/1/16	<i>The Everyday Writer</i> , Chapter 2 “Shitty First Drafts” (CR) Writing rhetorically (in class)
2	9/6/16	“Becoming Members of Society” (CR)

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
3	9/8/16	Essay 1: in-class. Bring an essay booklet to write in.
3	9/13/16	“Bros Before Hos” (CR) “Miss Representation” (in class)
4	9/15/16	“Miss Representation” (in class)
4	9/20/16	Finish “Miss Representation”
5	9/22/16	Peer editing workshop: Complete draft of presentation 1 due
5	9/27/16	Presentations
6	9/29/16	Presentations
6	10/4/16	Workshop: repurposing your presentation for a new genre
7	10/6/16	Peer editing workshop: Complete draft of essay 2 due
7	10/11/16	Essay 2 due
8	10/13/16	“Writing an Argument” (CR)
8	10/18/16	“Thresholds of Violence” (CR)
9	10/20/16	Essay 3: in-class. Bring an essay booklet to write in.
9	10/25/16	“Shootings” (CR)
10	10/27/16	“Toxic Masculinity and Murder” (CR)
10	11/1/16	Peer editing workshop: Complete draft of essay 4 due
11	11/3/16	Essay 4 due
11	11/8/16	“Writing a Research Essay” (CR) <i>Meet in the King Library, room TBA</i>
12	11/10/16	Proposals due Drafting: Presentation 2
12	11/15/16	Peer editing workshop: Complete draft of presentation 2 due
13	11/17/16	Presentations
13	11/22/16	Presentations
14	11/24/16	Thanksgiving break – no class
14	11/29/16	Drafting: final project
15	12/1/16	Workshop: repurposing your presentation for a new genre
15	12/6/16	Peer editing workshop: Complete draft of essay 5 due
16	12/8/16	Essay 5 due
Final Exam		Venue and Time TBA

The one-time-only

Emergency Pass

Guidelines: With this pass, you may turn in one ***out of class essay*** (#2, #4, or #5) up to one week (7 days) late. *This pass may **not** be used for homework or any other assignments.* I highly suggest you save this pass for an actual emergency (i.e. car accident on the way to school, relative dying, etc.)

Directions: Staple this pass to the top of your essay. You must turn in your late essay in class, within the one-week timeframe.

Other pertinent info:

- Essays slipped under my office door will not be accepted.
- Essays that are emailed will not be accepted.
- Essays that are more than one week (7 days) late will not be accepted.