



THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH & COMPARATIVE LITERATURE @ SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY



ENGL 1B: THE ONE ABOUT TV
SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY, FALL 2016

INSTRUCTOR: DANIEL HENDEL DE LA O
COURSE: ENGL 1B, ARGUMENT AND ANALYSIS
GE/SJSU STUDIES CATEGORY: GE C2 HUMANITIES—LETTERS
PREREQUISITES: GE AREAS A1 (ORAL COMMUNICATION) AND A2 (WRITTEN COMMUNICATION I) WITH GRADES OF C- OR BETTER
UNITS: 3

OFFICE: FOB 111
OFFICE HOURS: MO/WE 10:30 – 11:30 AM (OR BY APPOINTMENT)
PHONE: 408.924.5019
EMAIL: DHDELAO@GMAIL.COM
BLOG: EAUZONE.BLOGSPOT.COM

SECTION 7 (44974): FR 9:30 AM – 12:15 PM, BBC 124

COURSE THEME



Since the first American transmission in 1941, television has been a transformative force in our culture. Even today, despite the ever-changing nature of the technology, it remains a powerful influence in our society. This semester we will be studying the historical and social impact of television on American culture. From reality TV to DVRs, from binge-watching to cord-cutting, we will examine the prevalent issues that contemporary television has brought to the forefront, and discuss the new role this medium may (or may) not play as new technologies take hold.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

All books are available in an electronic edition (e.g. Kindle, Nook), though pagination may vary from print editions.

Books:

- *I Want My MTV: The Uncensored Story of the Music Video Revolution* by Rob Tannenbaum and Craig Marks (ISBN: 0452298563)
- *Street Gang: The Complete History of Sesame Street* by Michael Davis (ISBN: 0143116630)

Writing guide:

- *The Everyday Writer with Exercises (5th Edition)—Special Edition: San Jose State University* by Andrea A. Lunsford (ISBN: 9781457667121)*

*A free electronic version *The Everyday Writer* is available to all SJSU students through Canvas.

Note: Access to an on-demand streaming service (e.g. Netflix, Hulu Plus, Amazon Prime, iTunes) is not required, but may be helpful for the purposes of this course.



GENERAL COURSE DESCRIPTION



ENGL 1B is a writing course that exposes you to significant works of the human intellect and imagination. Through the study of literary, rhetorical, and professional texts, you will examine the analytical and creative process in the production and perception of such works, and the significance of the historical and cultural contexts in which the works are created and interpreted. You will practice prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing, and you will practice reading closely in a variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes.

ENGL 1B LEARNING OUTCOMES (GELO)

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

1. Recognize how significant works illuminate enduring human concerns
2. Respond to such works by writing both research-based critical analyses and personal responses
3. Write clearly and effectively

ENGL 1B COURSE CONTENT

Diversity:

SJSU studies include an emphasis on diversity. You will engage in integrated reading and writing assignments to construct your own arguments on complex issues (such as diversity and ethnicity, class and social equality) that generate meaningful public debate. Readings for the course will include writers of different genders and from different socio-economic classes.

Writing:

You will write a series of essays informed by research and articulating fully developed arguments about complex issues. Writing assignments will give you repeated practice in prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing. This class requires a minimum of 6000 words, at least 4000 of which must be in revised final draft form. Assignments include in-class writing as well as revised out-of-class essays.

Reading:

In addition to being writing intensive, ENGL 1B is also a reading course. You will read a variety of literary, rhetorical, and professional works of the human intellect and imagination. Secondary materials will be read to help situate the historical and cultural contexts in which the primary texts were created. All the readings serve as useful models of writing for academic, general, and specific audiences.

Critical Thinking:

In addition to focusing on how to write arguments, the course also teaches you how to analyze and evaluate texts critically. More specifically, you will practice evaluating arguments for purpose, audience, rhetorical strategies, conclusions; evaluating ideas by contextualizing your assumptions and values (historical, cultural, socio-economic, political); and evaluating your own understanding of ideas by identifying your own interpretative lens.



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Multimodal:

You will be presenting your arguments orally to class both as an individual and as part of a group.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Visit sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/ for university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc.

THE 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>.

COURSE POLICIES

Grades and grading:



- I will sometimes make sentence-level corrections to only one page or paragraph of your essay. This is done in an effort to make you a better editor of your own work. You should assume that the corrections I've made are applicable to your entire essay.
- If extra-credit is offered, it will only be once, so please stay up-to-date on your assignments.
- There is a participation component to your grade. Though only 10 points, it could mean the difference between letter grades. To receive all or most of these points, it is important that you actively engage in the classroom experience (e.g. frequently asking questions and/or commenting). Simply attending class is not sufficient to garner full points, as they are based on active participation, not attendance.
- At least twice a month, I will share my most up-to-date grades with the class.

Assignments:

- All writing assignments are due on the dates indicated on EauZone, which contains the most up-to-date schedule and information.
- Late assignments must be emailed to me no later than the following class after the due date. However, they will be lowered one letter grade—*I will not accept an assignment beyond this point.*
- Assignments submitted via email, will be graded as any other. However, no marked-up hard copy will be returned to you.
- Without prior notification, missed in-class essays and presentations cannot be made up. If you must miss your presentation date, make prior arrangements with a classmate to switch days.
- You will automatically be docked 5 points on your final draft for coming to class on a writer's workshop day without anything to share.
- I will not accept any assignments that are unstapled.



Etiquette:



- I consider it highly disrespectful to sleep in class. If you fall asleep in class, you may be asked to leave.
- The use of laptops during class is restricted to note taking only—absolutely no social media during class time.
- If you come to class after the first 15 minutes, please wait for an appropriate moment to enter so as not to disturb the class.
- Please do not pack up before our class time is over—I'll be sure to get you out of class on time.

Email:

- Indicate your section number in the subject line, or somewhere in the body. This helps me reply to your email more efficiently.
- Google Docs users: Please remember to grant me permission to edit it BEFORE you share. Otherwise, I have to request permission to edit your document and the entire process is further lengthened.
- Email me individually rather than as a reply to a group message because I can easily miss these responses.
- Due to the high volume of email I receive daily, it may take me a day (or more) to respond.
- Unless it affects an in-class essay or presentation, there is no need to contact me if you miss class.
- If you were absent, please do not message me to ask what you missed. As soon possible, obtain the email addresses of at least two other members of the class. They should be able to fill you in on any relevant information. If you still have a question, then feel free to contact me.

MLA Style

As is standard in American English classes, all typed work must be submitted in MLA Style. Samples are located in both *The Everyday Writer* (p. 457) and online at EauZone. Unstapled work will never be accepted.

Please follow this sample heading for all typed work*:

Name

1B: Section number

Assignment

Date

Writing about television:

When writing about television programs, per standard MLA form, titles are always italicized (e.g. *Friends*, *The Walking Dead*). Additionally, the first time you mention



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a program, cite the network(s) on which it aired (e.g. NBC, MTV) and its years on the air (e.g. 1974 – 1978, 1983, 2009 –). Example: *Deadwood* (HBO, 2004 – 2006).

Television episode titles are placed inside parenthesis (""). Example: *Star Trek: The Next Generation's* pilot, "Encounter at Farpoint," debuted in the fall of 1987.

Television episodes may also be referred to by their season (S) and episode order (E). Example: The twenty-second episode of *Big Bang Theory's* third season can also be called "S3E22."

**Note to 7:30 AM section: The AS Print Shop opens at 8 AM—30 minutes after class starts. Please plan accordingly.*

EAUZONE



I maintain the EauZone (eauzone.blogspot.com) as a centralized location for assignments, reminders, documents, important dates, links, and general class information. It also contains an easy-to-reference archive of the course work. In addition, this website will be the location of the course's eReader (eR). These Web sources will be required to complete some assignments.

On the homepage, click on "English 1B: The One About TV" under "Fall 2016 Courses" to be routed to our page. Feel free to use the "Comments" function in each posting; it is often a helpful way to communicate with classmates.

GRADING CRITERIA

Grading: A-F. To take the Writing Skills Test and move on to upper-division coursework, students need a C- or better in English 1B.

Essays will be graded by the following criteria:

- 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 significant 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.



EDITING MARKS GUIDE

Here is a guide to some of the editing symbols (some standard, some my own) you'll be seeing on your papers this semester. Additionally, you will find the corresponding page in *The Everyday Writer* for many of the marks.

SYMBOL	MEANING	THE EVERYDAY WRITER	SYMBOL	MEANING	THE EVERYDAY WRITER
^	Insert	-	FRAG	Fragment	p. 38
□	Text is likely not properly double-spaced	-	ITL	Either add or remove italics	p. 425, 448
□	Indent 1x	-	HEAD	Issue with page header	-
□ □	Indent 2x	-	PASS	Passive voice	p. 28c, 32g
+	Good point	-	RO	Run-on sentence	p. 9, 385
?	Meaning unclear	-	SLANG	Slang	p. 23a
#	Add space	-	SP	Spelling	
""	Add quotation marks	p. 43	SV	Subject-verb agreement	p. 355
//	Faulty parallelism	p. 8e, 27	T	Tone	p. 10d, 17c, 23a, 23d
¶	Start new paragraph	p. 8	TC	Title case	-
@	Delete	-	TNR	Times New Roman font	-
2x	Double-space	-	TRANS	Transition	p. 8e, 30b
ABB	Abbreviation	p. 46a	UL	Underline	p. 47
AWK	Awkward phrasing; reword	-	WC	Word choice	p. 261
CS	Comma splice	p. 37			



COURSE WORK

Class sessions will employ a combination of lectures, group discussions, presentations, and writing workshops that will cover a range of activities, including analyzing, interpreting, outlining, revising, and editing.

All out-of-class essays should:

- Be typed
- Be approximately three pages in length (750 words)
- Be in MLA Style
- Include a works cited page—unless otherwise noted

Your semester's course work is comprised of:

Item	Description	GELO	Word Count*	In-class	Workshop	Revised	Point Value	Grade Log
Diagnostic Essay	This in-class essay will be my first opportunity to evaluate your writing.	1,3	400	✓				N/A
Expository Essay	Using Tannenbaum and Marks' <i>I Want My MTV</i> as a basis, this expository essay will examine the societal significance of Music Television.	1,3	750				20	
Infographic	For this in-class assignment, you will create an original infographic chronicling the history of gay representation on American television.	1-3	250		✓	✓	20	
Editorial Essay	Using Michael Davis' <i>Street Gang</i> , the societal impact of <i>Sesame Street</i> —as well as its recent move to HBO—will be the focus of this editorial.	1-3	400	✓			20	



Item	Description	GELO	Word Count*	In-class	Workshop	Revised	Point Value	Grade Log
Research Paper	You will write a 10-page research paper examining the representation of a spiritual belief system in a major American television series.	1-3	2,500		✓	✓	80	
Reflections	You will write eight 2-page reflections based upon a variety of topics related to television.	1-3	4,000				80 (8x10)	1.
								2.
								3.
								4.
								5.
								6.
								7.
								8.
Multimedia Presentation**	You and a classmate will create a 10-minute multimedia presentation based upon a television-related topic.	1-3	500	✓			20	
Participation	Note that points are garnered by active participation in class, not attendance.						10	
Approximate word count: 8,800		Point total: ____/250						

*One typed page in MLA Style is approximately 250 words; one handwritten page is approximately 200 words.

**You must provide your own laptop. Macs will require an Apple-specific adaptor to connect to the university's projection system. Some newer model PCs, those with HDMI-only connections, may also require special adaptors.

Final grade calculations:

A+	244-250	B+	219-223	C+	194-198
A	232-243	B	208-218	C	182-193
A-	224-231	B-	207-217	C-	176-181*
				Non-passing	0-175



*At least 176 points must be earned to receive course credit

COURSE SCHEDULE

This schedule is subject to change. Always consult EauZone for the most up-to-date information and schedule. Consider any hard copy of this syllabus to be only a rough guide and immediately out-of-date.

Key:

DB (Dropbox)

eR (eReader)

MTV (*I Want My MTV*)

STREET (*Street Gang*)

Week 1: <i>American Idol</i>	Fr 8.26
	Class: Syllabus review; Introductions; Lecture— “Understanding the 21 st Century Media Ecosystem”
Week 2: <i>The Golden Girls</i>	Fr 9.1
	Class: Presentation assignments; Lecture—“Building a Better Multimedia Presentation” Due: REFLECTION 1
Week 3: <i>Broad City</i>	Fr 9.9
	Read: MTV—“Part 1: Pictures Came and Broke Your Heart”- “7. A Hail Mary Pass” Class: DIAGNOSTIC ESSAY; Reading discussion; Lecture— “Crafting the Essay: Writing as a Process” and “MLA Style 101”
Week 4: <i>The Brady Bunch</i>	Fr 9.16
	Read: MTV—“8. Midgets, Models, and Trannies”- “20. Don’t Be a Wanker All Your Life” Class: Reading discussion; Presentations; Lecture—“Citing Sources in MLA: The Basics” Due: REFLECTION 2
Week 5: <i>The Office</i>	Fr 9.23
	Read: MTV—“21. A Whopping, Steaming Turd”- “53. You Have No Idea How I Miss It” Class: Reading discussion; Presentations; Lecture— “Infographics 101” and “A Brief History of Gayness on Television” Due: EXPOSITORY ESSAY
Week 6: <i>Star Trek</i>	Fr 9.30
	Read: eR—“The 100 Best Infographics” (Creative Bloq), “10 Tips for Designing Better Infographics” (DotDash), “12 Warning Signs that Your Infographic Sucks” (Visme) Class: Reading discussion; Presentations; Writer’s workshop Due: INFOGRAPHIC (Draft 1; Bring 2 copies or have in electronic form); REFLECTION 3



Week 7: <i>The Simpsons</i>	Fr 10.7
	Read: STREET—Ch. 1-8; eR—"There Goes the Neighborhood: The Story Behind the New <i>Sesame Street</i> and its Journey to HBO" (ThinkProgress), "Sesame Street Debuts New Look in Move to HBO" (<i>Christian Science Monitor</i>), "Opinion: New Money Has Ruined <i>Sesame Street</i> " (<i>Guardian</i>), "Sesame Street Goes to HBO, Raising Question of Moral Obligation in Business" (<i>Forbes</i>) Class: Reading discussion; Presentations; "Lecture—"Sesame Street's Greatest Hits" Due: INFOGRAPHIC (Final draft; Email by 2 PM)
Week 8: <i>The Oprah Winfrey Show</i>	Fr 10.14
	Read: STREET—Ch. 9-12 Class: Reading discussion; Presentations; Watch— <i>Sesame Street</i> (S46E1) Due: REFLECTION 4
Week 9: <i>Saturday Night Live</i>	Fr 10.21
	Read: STREET—Ch. 13-18 Class: EDITORIAL; Reading discussion; Presentations
Week 10: <i>American Horror Story</i>	Fr 10.28
	Class: Reading discussion; Presentations Due: REFLECTION 5
Week 11: <i>Black-ish</i>	Fr 11.4
	Class: Reading discussion; Presentations Due: REFLECTION 6
Week 12: <i>I Love Lucy</i>	Fr 11.11 (VETERANS DAY—NO CLASS)
Week 13: <i>Glee</i>	Fr 11.18
	Class: Writer's workshop; Presentations Due: ENGLISH DEPARTMENT ASSESSMENT; REFLECTION 7; RESEARCH PAPER OUTLINE (BRING 2 COPIES)
Week 14: <i>Mad Men</i>	Fr 11.26 [NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING]
	Class: ENGLISH DEPARTMENT ASSESSMENT; Writer's workshop; Presentations Due: REFLECTION 8; RESEARCH PAPER (UP TO PG. 3; BRING 2 COPIES)
Week 15: <i>Modern Family</i>	Fr 12.2
	Class: Writer's workshop; English Department Assessment Due: RESEARCH PAPER (UP TO PG. 6; BRING 1 COPY)
Week 16: <i>Felicity</i>	Fr 12.9 (FINAL CLASS MEETING)
	Class: Quickwrite; Writer's workshop; Presentations Due: RESEARCH PAPER (UP TO PG. 9; BRING 1 COPY)
Week 17: <i>Downton Abbey</i>	Fr 12.16 (FINALS WEEK—NO CLASS)



Week 18: <i>Game of Thrones</i>	Mo 12.19 (FINAL EXAM PERIOD)
	Meet from 7:15 – 9:30 AM Due: RESEARCH PAPER (FINAL DRAFT)