
San Jose State University

Department of English & Comparative Literature

ENGL 1A: First-Year Writing Sections 73, 84,85; Fall 2019

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Swathi Sreerangarajan
Office Location:	FOB 109
Email:	Canvas Inbox or swathi.sreerangarajan@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	T/Th 12 - 1 pm
Class Days/Time:	Section 73 T/Th 10:30-11:45 am; BBC 221 Section 84 T/Th 7:30-8:45 am; BBC 121 Section 85 T/Th 9:00-10:15 am; DMH 167
Prerequisites:	Reflection on College Writing

GE/SJSU Studies Category: GE Area A2 Written Communication 1

Course Management on Canvas: All course materials such as syllabus, announcements, readings, major handouts, and assignment prompts will be available on the Canvas learning management system. Please check the course schedule page (also on Canvas) to keep track of class plans and homework. All assignments will be turned in on Canvas and most will be due by Sunday 11:59 pm. You are also responsible for checking the messaging system through MySJSU for any updates.

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.

ENGL 1A Learning Outcomes (GELO): Upon successful completion of the course, you will be able to

1. read actively and rhetorically;

2. 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. integrate your 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.

Required Texts/Readings: We do not have a course textbook; all readings are available on Canvas in the form of PDFs.

Other technology requirements / equipment / material: It would be ideal—though not required—to bring your laptops/tablets to class. This will help you save and refer back more easily to the in-class prewriting and drafting activities we perform in class. Since our readings are pdfs, this would also save you the trouble of printing hard copies to use in class.

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, and completing assignments.

All assignments are due on Canvas unless otherwise instructed. The following table represents the weighted assignments of this course and how they meet Written Communication I standards as well as the GE learning objectives.

Assignment	Word Count	Learning Goals	Percentage of Final Grade
Reading Responses	~1000 (total)	1, 2, 5	10
Participation*	N/A	1,2,3, 4	10
Essay 1: Examining a Unique Power Struggle	900	2, 3, 5	20
Essay 2: Profile Essay on a Comedian of your choice	1200	1, 2, 3, 5	20

Assignment	Word Count	Learning Goals	Percentage of Final Grade
Essay 3: Multimodal Essay (in class) on Fake News	400	1,3,5	10
Essay 4: Synthesis essay on a Controversial Issue of your choice	1000	1,2, 4, 5	20
Final Self-Reflection Essay** (plus e-portfolio)	500	1,2,3,4,5	10

*Participation includes the completion of all in-class work, annotations of readings, peer review, essay draft submissions, completion of workshops, and your contributions to class discussion. This is not a lecture course, so you need to be prepared to talk. That means having readings completed, annotated, and available in class (either hardcopy or on computer/tablet). If you do not attend class, you will not be participating, which will reflect on your final grade.

**At the end of the semester you will compile a portfolio of your writing that documents how you met the learning goals of the course. This self-reflection essay will be part of the final writing portfolio assignment.

Grading Policy

Requirements for particular assignments will vary, but in all cases essay grades will reflect the paper's effectiveness, which is broken down into three major areas: content (this includes maturity and sophistication of thought), organization, and expression.

An "A" range 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" range 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" range 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” range 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.

Determination of Grades

Final grades will be determined as a percentage of completed points and assigned on par with the following scale:

A (92-100%); A minus (90-91%); B plus (88-89%); B (82-87%); B minus (80-81%); C plus (78-79%); C (72-77%); C minus (70-71%); D (61-69%); F (<60%)

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

Classroom Protocol

(a) Classroom community and Principle of Generosity

Given some of our course topics, you may encounter perspectives and ideas that are unfamiliar or challenging to your belief system. With that in mind, this class will be run in a spirit of respectful collaboration and generosity. You are not required to agree with your peers or the texts you read, but you are expected to adhere to the standards of common courtesy. For any inappropriate behavior, I will offer one private warning. Subsequent infractions will be reported and handled per college policy.

(b) Late work/Life happens Policy

Get in touch with me asap if you need 1-2 extra days (or a bit longer) for your assignment. Otherwise, work turned in late may receive up to 25% less credit and/or may not receive detailed feedback. Severely late work (without notice, more than 2 weeks past deadline) will be docked 25% points and will not receive feedback.

University Policies

The link below contains university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc.: <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/index.html>.

Relevant policies for FROSH English can also be found at http://www.sjsu.edu/english/frosh/program_policies/index.html