

San José State University
Department of English & Comparative Literature
English 2: Critical Thinking and Writing, Section 09, Fall 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Peter O’Sullivan
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Office Hours:	Mondays and Thursdays, 10:30–11:30 AM
Class Days/Time:	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00–10:15 AM
Classroom:	Online
Prerequisites:	GE Areas A1 (Oral Communication) and A2 (Written Communication I) with grades of C- or better
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	GE A3 / Critical Thinking and Writing

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, and assignment instructions can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU to learn of any updates.

ENGL 2 Course Description

General Course Description

ENGL 2 is an introductory writing course that focuses on the relationship between language and logic when composing arguments. Building on the skills acquired in ENGL 1A, you will learn to reason effectively and think rhetorically to invent, demonstrate, and express arguments clearly, logically, and persuasively.

Section-Specific Course Description

In this course, we are going to learn the nuts, bolts, gears, and cogs of argument. We will learn first how to read, understand, and analyze the arguments of others before learning how to construct our own logical and persuasive arguments. We will learn the relationships between arguments and their intended audiences. We will also learn what argument is and is not for. The focus of this class is on monsters, both human and inhuman. We will be focusing on the societal anxieties that give rise to the darkest expressions of our imaginations and how they’re expressed throughout various cultures. This class will examine various media in our exploration of monstrosity.

ENGL 2 Learning Outcomes (GELO)

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

1. locate and evaluate sources, through library research, and integrate research through appropriate citation and quotation;
2. present effective arguments that use a full range of legitimate rhetorical and logical strategies to articulate and explain their positions on complex issues in dialogue with other points of view;
3. locate, interpret, evaluate, and synthesize evidence in a comprehensive way in support of one's ideas;
4. identify and critically evaluate the assumptions in and the context of an argument;
5. distinguish and convey inductive and deductive patterns as appropriate, sequencing arguments and evidence logically to draw valid conclusions and articulate related outcomes (implications and consequences).

ENGL 2 Course Content

Diversity: SJSU studies include an emphasis on diversity. You will engage in integrated reading, writing, and oral assignments to construct your own arguments on complex issues (such as diversity and ethnicity, class and social equity) that generate meaningful public debate. Readings for the course will include writers from different ethnicities, gender, and class.

Writing: You will write a series of essays informed by research and articulating fully developed arguments about complex issues. Assignments emphasize those skills and activities in writing and thinking that produce the persuasive argument and the critical essay, each of which demands analysis, interpretation, and evaluation. Writing assignments give you repeated practice in prewriting, organizing, writing, revising, and editing. This class requires a minimum of 6000 words, at least 4000 of which must be in revised final draft form.

Logic: You will learn methods of argument analysis, both rhetorical and logical, that will allow you to identify logical structures (such as warrants, evidence, qualification, rebuttal; enthymemes and syllogisms) and distinguish common logical fallacies.

Reading: In addition to being writing intensive, ENGL 2 is also a reading course. You will read a variety of critical and argumentative texts to help develop your skills for understanding the logical structure of argumentative writing.

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

ENGL 2 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.

Assignment Word Count and Learning Goals

Assignment	Word Count	GELO
Pathos Analysis: Movie	1000	3-5
Film Proposal	1000	1-5
Annotated Bibliography	1500	1-5

Research Based Proposal Revision	1000	1-5
Reflective Essay	500	1-5

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

King, Stephen. *Danse Macabre*. ISBN 978-1439170984. Available at Spartan Bookstore and Amazon.com

Other Readings

Related articles, blogs, podcasts, and videos will be posted on Canvas. You are responsible for checking Canvas every day for updates.

Grading Policy

Requirements for particular assignments will vary, but in all cases essay grades will reflect the paper's effectiveness, which are 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.

All grades will be broken down on a percentage basis, using the following model.

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		

Assignments are weighted as follows

- Participation Assignments 10%
- Rough Drafts 10%
- Final Drafts 30%
- Research Assignment 30%
- Group Video Project 10%
- Final Portfolio 10%

Extra Credit

There is no extra credit given in this course.

Late Policy

Assignments cannot be turned in until the due date. Anything turned in on the due date will be graded right away. Anything turned in after the due date will be graded on an as available basis. Anything turned in two weeks or more late will receive no higher than a C-.

Classroom Protocol

You are expected to come to class each day with both video and audio activated, unless you can demonstrate to the professor's satisfaction that this is an undue burden because of technological limitations. You are required to actively participate in class discussions, group activities, and individual assignments. This class only works when everyone is involved.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

ENGL 2 Fall 2020 Course Schedule

Course Schedule Subject to Change. All Changes Will Be Announced on Canvas

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/20/20	Introductions, syllabus, classroom policies, ice breaker
2	8/25/20	Argument and Appeals King: Chapter 1
2	8/27/20	Pathos King: Chapter 2
3	9/1/20	Ethos King: Chapter 3
3	9/3/20	Logos King: Chapter 4
4	9/8/20	Fallacies King: Chapter 5
4	9/10/20	Rhetorical Analysis King: Chapter 6
5	9/15/20	Structure King: Chapter 7
5	9/17/20	Arguments of Fact King: Chapter 8
6	9/22/20	Argument of Definition King: Chapter 9

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
6	9/24/20	Evaluation King: Chapter 10
7	9/29/20	Causal
7	10/1/20	Proposals
8	10/6/20	Academic Arguments
8	10/8/20	Finding Evidence
9	10/13/20	Evaluating Sources
9	10/15/20	Using Sources
10	10/20/20	Plagiarism
10	10/22/20	Documenting sources
11	10/27/20	Blake, Meredith: Lovecraft Was a Virulent Racist...
11	10/29/20	Documentary: Horror Noire
12	11/3/20	Documentary: Horror Noire
12	11/5/20	Short Films
13	11/10/20	Short Films
13	11/12/20	Short Films
14	11/17/20	Work on Group Project
14	11/19/20	Work on Group Project
15	11/24/20	Work on Group Project
15	11/26/20	NO CLASS. Thanksgiving.
16	12/1/20	Work on Group Project
16	12/3/20	Last Day of Class. Watch Films.
Final Exam	12/9/20	Turn in Portfolio