

San José State University
Department of English & Comparative Literature
English 2: Critical Thinking and Writing, *Section 9*, Fall 2021

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Zehlia Babaci-Wilhite
Office Location:	Zoom: https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/83875531504
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Virtual Office Hours:	Tuesdays and Thursdays: 1:00-2:00pm (by appointment)
Class Days/Time:	Thursday: 6:00-8:45pm
Classroom:	Zoom
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

Course Learning Management 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

ENGL 2 is an introductory writing course that focuses on the relationship between language and logic when composing arguments. We will focus on STEM versus STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics). 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.

ENGL 2 Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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. You will be reading 6 chapters and complete 6 quizzes.***

Logic: You will learn methods of argument analysis, both rhetorical and logical, that will allow you to identify logical structures and distinguish common logical fallacies in critical thinking.

Reading: In addition to being writing intensive, ENGL 1B 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 and critical thinking.

Oral: 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	% Worth	Word Count	GELO
Research Outline and Proposal	50	250	1-3
Essay #1: Rhetorical analysis	150	750	1-3
Outline/Draft Essay #1	50	250	1-3
Essay #2: Research argument	150	750	1-5
Outline/Draft Essay #2	50	250	1-5
Multimodal Presentation (Group)	50	10 minutes	1-3
Multimodal Presentation (Individual)	50	5 minutes	1-5
Reading/Quizzes (25 points per quiz)	150	1500	1-5
Workshops/Library/Guest Lectures	100	1500	1-5
Final Portfolio	100	750	TBD
Participation/Discussion	100	N/A	1-5
Total	1000		

Required Texts

Textbook and free learning platform

- Babaci-Wilhite, Zehlia. Learning Critical Thinking Skills Beyond 21st Century For Multidisciplinary Courses: <https://store.cognella.com/94221>
- <https://owl.excelsior.edu/>

Other Readings

- Other readings and videos provided throughout the semester through Canvas

Grading Policy

Specify your grading policy here. Include the following:

- All grades will be posted on Canvas including assignments we do in class. Each assignment's percentage points (from above) will be a separate section on Canvas. Any writing related to that particular assignment will be in a separate module. I grade most major assignments out of 100 and the grades are on a +/- system
- There is no extra credit for this course
- Percentages for each assignment are in the section under "Assignment word count and weight"
- Late work will be reduced accordingly
- Must receive a C- or higher to pass the course

The department's standard grading scheme consists of the following: "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. The following are the criteria by which essays are typically evaluated in first-year writing courses: 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. Students must receive a C- or higher to pass the course

Letter grade	Percentage	GPA
A+	97–100%	4.33 or 4.00
A	93–96%	4.00
A–	90–92%	3.67
B+	87–89%	3.33
B	83–86%	3.00
B–	80–82%	2.67
C+	77–79%	2.33
C	73–76%	2.00
C-	70–72%	1.67
D+	67–69%	1.33
D	63–66%	1.00
D-	60–62%	0.67
F	0–59%	0.00

Online Etiquette

1. Zoom brings the classroom into your home, but while on camera, you are nevertheless in a public space. Therefore, **we ask that you present yourself online as you would in an actual classroom**. Please be fully dressed, for instance, and refrain from eating. We recognize that there's little to be done about the cat sauntering across your keyboard, or family members moving around in the background, but we appreciate the things you do to create a positive, professional learning environment for yourself and others.
2. Additionally, just like in a classroom, **we are asking for your active attention**. This means closing all windows other than Zoom, and refraining from toggling between other programs or apps. This is different from passively interacting with your screen.
3. When not speaking, please mute your microphone. This will avoid ambient noises making their way into our discussions. When in class, **I encourage you to keep your video on**. If you have any concerns about doing so, *please speak with your instructor about an accommodation* **and add your picture**.

Classroom Protocol

Please do your part to help us all foster a welcoming and supportive zoom classroom environment. We will do our best work when everyone feels comfortable enough to participate. Blatant displays of disrespect undermine the sense of community we need to learn and to share what we learn from each other. When we disagree, let's do so respectfully and sincerely. We will be studying the art of effective communication throughout this semester course and learning how to debate with others in a spirit of honest and respectful inquiry. In the unlikely event that a student might exceed the bounds of civility, s/he will be asked to leave for the remainder of the zoom class session. Behavior that fits this description include offense comments directed at your peers or myself, sleeping during class, talking with your peers about things unrelated to the class, or focusing your attention on electronic equipment rather than the class activity or discussion.

The class policies have been developed over the last three decades of teaching composition. They are intended to ensure the smooth operation of the class and to encourage a professional working environment congenial to all.

- **Office hours** are yours: University professors expect students to seek out what they need as they take charge of their own learning outcomes. We make ourselves available during office hours to provide students access to our time as a key resource in their studies.
- **Deadlines** must be honored; otherwise *the grade will be reduced accordingly*.
- **Email** is useful to schedule appointments or to advise me of an absence. I will use Canvas to advise you of my absence. *I cannot accept papers via email*. Nor is email a suitable vehicle for student-teacher conferencing.
- **Your work** is public in this class, part of our collective inquiry into writing, reading, and democracy. We will share work in Canvas regularly. I reserve the right to publish your work to the class as part of our workshop activities.
- **Recording class sessions** is possible, but you must advise me in writing so that I may seek permission from the class for such a recording. I will need to know what will be recorded, when, how and why, as well as how the recordings will be stored and used. No recordings of the class may be uploaded or shared electronically without written consent from me.
- **Make ups** for in class work cannot be made; if you are not in class (for whatever reason), *you miss that work opportunity and points*. Out of class assignments may be made up only with documentation of a compelling reason for missing the planned work in the first place.

- **Workshops** are an essential part of the writer’s working experience. Your participation in workshops is critical to your success and mandatory.
- **Arriving Late or Leaving Early:** Please don’t do it. It is disruptive to your classmates. However, I also understand that life happens, so if you have an emergency and arrive late, please make sure you explain to me why you were late. If you have to leave early for some reason, make sure to tell me in advance.
- **For attendance:** [University Policy F-69-24](#).

University Policies

“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>

Course Schedule

Below is the tentative schedule for the class the academic year. Please keep in mind that as the course unfolds, there will be inevitable changes to it. Whenever any changes are made, I will notify the class on Canvas.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
Module 1: Introduction		
1	Th 8/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome to English 2 • Introductions and Icebreakers • What we will do during our zoom class: Your questions about the Syllabus • Discussion on our class topic: Education and STEM/STEAM, the used of our textbook and the active learning platform for the quizzes. • The class will break up into small groups of 3-5 and discuss a selected topic to develop a research project on STEM versus STEAM (proposal and presentation) • Read Research/Outlining (https://owl.excelsior.edu/)
	Homework	For next time: Write a short-biography to be posted on Canvas, read the syllabus and the Writing Process (https://owl.excelsior.edu/)
Module 2: Reading and Writing		
2	Th 8/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz on your syllabus • Power Point presentation on Language in Education and STEM vs STEAM • Introduction to reading techniques: Chapter 1 • <i>Reading:</i> How do you read? Practice active reading • <i>Writing:</i> How do you write an outline? Practice active writing • Class activity: What are the elements of your project? • Each student will take 2-3 minutes to present his/her project and discuss what s/he found most significant about the project conducted so far.
	Homework	For next time: Read Prewriting Strategies (https://owl.excelsior.edu/) and write an outline of your research proposal.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
3	Th 9/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short presentation of your research project • Assigning Peer Review groups • Respond to your peers' project • Class activity: Continue to analyze the elements of your research project with references • Discuss the new chapter you read to inspire your peers • How to use APA format versus MLA <p>Discuss the video (mp4)</p>
	Homework	Post your outline on Canvas for an open discussion and then read Citation and Documentation (https://owl.excelsior.edu/)
4	Th 9/9	Library session: Take notes
	Homework	For next time: Post your notes on Canvas and watch the video supports/See mp4 (Invited Guest)-
5	Th 9/16	<p style="text-align: center;">Module 3: Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion and activity: What is the purpose of STEAM education and what are the 21st century critical thinking skills? • In class research: resources on different literacies (visual literacy, digital literacy, science literacy, virtual literacy and critical literacy) • Pre-writing activities: Post an article or a video on STEAM education in the Discussions on Canvas related to our readings. Please include a paragraph of at least 200 words in which you summarize the article and explain why you think it is important- Peer review a post • Discuss the Video 1
	Homework	For next time: Read Argument and Critical Thinking (https://owl.excelsior.edu/) Watch Video 1 and Read a new chapter 2, 3 or 4. <i>Complete the quiz of chapter 1</i>
6	Th 9/23	In-class: Multimodal Group Presentations
	Homework	For next time: Post your research proposal on Canvas and prepare your power-point presentation- Read a new chapter 5, 6 or 7 and <i>complete a quiz on a new selected chapter 2, 3 or 4</i>
7	Th 9/30	<p style="text-align: center;">MODULE 4: Essay#1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read and reflect on the writing prompt for your rhetorical analysis essay • Start your outline: Summarizing, paraphrasing, and quoting. • Discuss your outline with your peers and the chapters you read • Be inspired by one of the post you read demonstrating the learning outcomes of: <i>Gelo 1 and 3</i> • Inspire each other and discuss APA format

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		Practice on how to use APA
	Homework	For next time: Read a new chapter 8, 9, 10 and <i>complete a quiz on a new selected chapter 5, 6, or 7</i>
8	Th 10/7	Guest Lecture: Take notes
	Homework	For next time: Post your notes. Read rhetorical Styles (https://owl.excelsior.edu/) as well as a new chapter 11, 12 or 13 and <i>complete a quiz on a new selected chapter 8, 9 or 10</i>
9	Th 10/14	<p style="text-align: center;">Module 5: Individual Presentation and Essay#2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-class: Select a chapter for your Multimodal Individual Presentations • Read and reflect on the writing prompt for your research argument essay • Discuss the chapters you read and the video 2 <p style="text-align: center;">Start your outline</p>
	Homework	For next time: Watch video 3. Complete the outline of your Essay and start your draft essay #1- Read a new chapter 14 or 15 and <i>complete a quiz on a new selected chapter 11, 12 or 13</i>
10	Th 10/21	<p style="text-align: center;">Group Workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer Review groups • Respond to your peers' final Essay • Discuss APA format and video 3
	Homework	For next time: Prepare your presentation and post your outline on Canvas, respond to two of your peers.
11	Th 10/28	In-class: Multimodal Individual Presentations 2
	Homework	
12	Th 11/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss your outline in class and start your first draft Essay#2 • Demonstrating the learning outcomes of: Gelo 3, 4 and 5 • Practice on how to use MLA and APA (Revision) • Holding our final Mandatory Peer Review Session • Assigning Peer Review groups • Read and respond to your peer's draft.
	Homework	For next time: Complete the first draft of your Essay #2 and Post it on Canvas and <i>Complete a quiz on a new selected chapter 14 or 15.</i>
13	Th 11/11	Veteran Day
	Homework	For next time: Submit the first draft of your Essay #2

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
14	Th 11/18	<p style="text-align: center;">MODULE 6: ePortfolio</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Class: Demonstrating the learning outcomes of: <i>Gelo 1-5</i> • ePortfolio prewriting activity: Integrating evidence into your ePortfolio • Assemble and prepare the inventories and the outline for the Self Reflection Essay and ePortfolio • Write a practice essay in preparation for the Final Self-Reflection Essay that is the centerpiece of your ePortfolio • Discussion and Informal Peer Review. • You will be uploading the Final ePortfolio.
	Homework	<i>For next time:</i> Complete and submit your final draft Essay#2 on Canvas
15	Th 11/25	Thanksgiving
	Homework	<i>For next time:</i> Complete your ePortfolio
16	Th 12/2	Revise your ePortfolio DUE: Final ePortfolio to submit on Canvas (with the ePortfolio materials for your assessment).