

San José State University
Department of English & Comparative Literature
ENGL 1A: First-Year Writing, Section 09, Spring / 2022

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Aamina Ahmad
Office Location:	Zoom Office; link available on Canvas Home Page and Announcements Page
Telephone:	
Email:	aamina.ahmad@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	MW 12pm-1pm
Class Days/Time:	MW 130pm-245pm
Classroom:	Zoom classroom; link available on Canvas Home page and Announcements Page
Prerequisites:	Reflection on College Writing
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	GE Area A2 Written Communication I

What Will We Do in English 1A?

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.

But what *is* a rhetorical situation? Every day, with or without realizing it, you participate in a series of rhetorical exchanges. Perhaps a friend is trying to persuade you to go for a pizza whilst your mom has been pressing for the health benefits of eating vegetables. When you turn on the TV perhaps Bill Maher has been trying to entice you into laughing at Fox News or perhaps Apple have convinced you the iPhone one million is so great that it's time up upgrade?

In all of these scenarios rhetorical strategies are being used to encourage *you* to see things a certain way. In this class we are going to use and develop our **critical** reading and writing skills to better understand these strategies and how they work. We will **analyze** a range of texts (from essays to audio-visual texts) which will focus on two themes: **education**, an area in which you have considerable experience and expertise already and global citizenship, an area that might be newer to you but is one that will likely impact your future considerably. These theme will likely segue into other directions, depending on what we discover and what we wish to explore further as we progress through the semester.

As we read we will assess how the rhetorical tactics the authors use work and how effective they are. As we try to understand how these authors use **language** to persuade an **audience** to agree with them we will also look at where these texts sit within a wider context – who are the authors responding to, who are they challenging, who do they agree with? This process of mapping where the text stands in relation to other opinions involves an open and inquiring approach to research, which will, in turn, prepare **you**, to enter into the conversation. Armed with a greater knowledge of the **context** of the debate and informed via a rigorous research process you will be able to use your own selection of rhetorical tools and tactics to present, to **advocate**, for *your* opinion. So whilst we will be looking at how others exercise influence over us through their words what I'm

most interested in is what YOU think, the process that has helped you arrive at this position and how you will, through your writing, convince us to see things from your perspective.

The Format of Our Class: Online Synchronous and Asynchronous

Our ENGL 1A class is an online class. But it is an online class with both asynchronous and synchronous components. What will this look like for you and mean for your schedule?

We will meet **every week on Mondays and Wednesdays synchronously via Zoom**. But homework and assignment preparation will be completed outside of those class hours and submitted via Canvas (this work is what you will complete asynchronously).

A Word On Using Zoom and Making it Work

We've all had a lot of experience on Zoom these last two years and probably have a lot of feelings around it. I'm going to make some suggestions about how we use which are designed to make it a little more effective and hopefully a little less arduous for all of us.

Signing in:

- Please sign in with your full first name and last name as listed on the class roster.
- If you are able to add your pronouns to your handle that would be great and helps all of us.
- If you do not have access to a computer or smartphone with internet access, call in to class using a landline phone. This is not optimal; please try to locate an internet-enabled device to use for class. Contact me and let's work together to remedy if you are in this situation.
- Stay focused, and remain engaged in class activities. Close any apps on your device that are not relevant and turn off notifications.

Video:

- Turn on your video when possible. It is helpful to be able to see each other, just as in an in-person class. Seeing each as we share our work can help to create a sense of safety and connection which is useful to us as artists and can really reduce the metaphorical sense of distance between us.
- If you have limited internet bandwidth, use your phone for the audio. Zoom allows users to use the computer for video only and then to use your phone (cell or landline) for the audio. This greatly reduces bandwidth use.
- If you're unable to find an environment without a lot of visual distractions, use the virtual background option on your computer. This enables you to replace your physical setting with the virtual image of your choice. You can also choose to blur your background.
- Use gallery view. This option will provide you with a greater sense of our class community.
- One more very important consideration: Many of you will have good reasons for not wanting to turn your video but there is a power imbalance that occurs when some people are looking and those they are looking at cannot see in return. If you have a functioning camera and choose not to use it, please think about ways you can help those whose cameras are on to feel less vulnerable given this strange power dynamic. What forms of participation can you use to create and maintain your presence as an engaged participant in class so that those whose cameras are on don't feel that they are the only ones there?

Audio:

- Mute your microphone when you are not talking. This helps eliminate background noise.
- Use a headset when possible. If you own headphones with a microphone, please use them. This improves audio quality.
- Be in a quiet place when possible. Find a quiet, distraction-free spot to log in. Turn off any music, videos, etc. in the background.

Chat:

- Follow my guidelines. I will usually ask one of you to act as chat monitor as I find it hard to look through the chat while teaching but I do really like it when you make use of the chat and it is a very useful tool for those of you who might feel less comfortable unmuting.
- If you make use of the chat feature, use the window questions and comments that are relevant to class.
- Don't share anything you wouldn't put up on the projector in class!
- Disrespect or hate speech is not permitted. Just like in your in-person classes, respectful behavior is expected.

What are our Course Learning Objectives (CLOs) in English 1A?

These goals are:

- Read to learn.
- Read to write.
- Write with an increased awareness of the process.
- Read and write with an increased awareness of the language you use.
- Reflect on and assess your own writing, process and product.

The goals above are known as the Course Learning Objectives (CLOs). These CLOs have been designed to allow you to meet the General Education Learning Objectives (GELOs). The GELOs are detailed below.

What are the GELOs you will have mastered at the end of this class:

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.

What Books Will I Need?

The Curious Writer
By Bruce Ballenger
6th Edition

ISBN: 0135807212
ISBN: 9780135807217

Available for rental at San Jose Spartan Bookstore.

Other Readings

Additional readings can be found on Canvas.

NYT Subscription

You will also need to purchase a digital version of *The New York Times* for the semester (4 weeks @ 99 cents, then \$1.88 per week). This digital version will allow you to keep a personal archive of stories you are following for your writing assignments in this course. Use the following link to access the educational subscription page. You will use your MySJSU account (@sjsu.edu) to set up a special education rate for the subscription:

<http://www.nytimes.com/subscriptions/edu/lp1474.html?campaignId=48U9F>

What Else Will I Need for Class?

- You will need to have access to a laptop/pen and paper if that is how you prefer to work.
- You will usually not need to bring in your textbook, but I will give you warning if you do.
- You will need regular Internet and email access outside of class.

How Will We Stay in Touch During the Course?

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 checking the messaging system through MySJSU to learn of any updates. Announcements will be the main place that I communicate with you and where homework will be posted. From announcements, you will usually be directed to a relevant discussion board.

What Kind of Assignments Will We Do in English 1A?

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. I will not assign more work than this, but please bear in mind that we all work differently; some students may need more support from the writing center, or take more time to read assignments. However, if you are struggling with the assigned workload please come and see me to discuss strategies to address this.

While we will be focused on two major themes: **education (your experience of it, the challenges of it and its possible future) and global citizenship (what it is, what it looks like in our communities and what kinds of citizens we want to be)**. The following assignments will give you an overview of what we will be doing. However, these may be subject to amendment in their detail depending on how we move through the course. The diagnostic essay and informal assignments will take place in class; all other assignments will be completed outside of class.

Diagnostic Essay

In this in-class essay, you will write a letter home honing on a particular news story or news item; you will attempt to engage a familiar audience with your news story so that you can engage them in the discussion you are starting.

Personal Essay

You will explore and describe a personal connection to this news story. Your task will be to speak to a less familiar audience of peers and instructor to bring them into this story that has engaged you.

Rhetorical analysis

In this essay, you will be asked to conduct an analysis of a political ad, political campaign, documentary, or poster, meme that relates to your news story and evaluate how effective it is, and potentially propose ways in which it might have been made more effective.

Profile Essay

In this essay, you will interview and write about a particular person who can shed some light on the issue/news story you are following. Are they engaged citizens who are trying to change the world in this some way or do they have an experience that could give us a new way to engage with this news story. You will be expected to find a subject, arrange and record an interview, create a transcript and produce a magazine-style feature about this person.

Mapping The Problem: The Annotated Bibliography

In this assignment, you will be asked not to argue but to research and collect data and evidence that you will then use to help you determine the position you'd like to take in your final persuasive blog. You will research and explore various arguments and approaches to your news story to identify what the problem is, why this issue needs to be addressed. In the following assignment, the presentation, you will advocate for the solution.

Persuasive Blog

In a digital blog, featuring hyperlinks and images, you will advocate for some kind of urgent reform to some aspect of the news story you have been following; the presentation should make effective use of rhetorical tools and research/evidence with which you support your claims (making use of peer reviewed articles). Submitted work must include process materials – notes, workshop, etc.).

Informal Writing Assignments

There will be regular, short writing assignments either in or outside class related to our readings, writing processes, etc; these will be opportunities to practice the rhetorical moves you are mastering and to refine your sentences.

Canvas Discussions

You will be asked to post/contribute to Canvas discussions each week. These are to be submitted to the board by midnight Sunday night before class. These will be varied; you might be asked to share some writing, to comment on the work of others, or take part in an online conversation about a reading. Please enter posts in the text box (not attachments). **Late posts are not awarded points.**

In-Class Participation

This component is for ACTIVE participation (see below for what this looks like in the context of our classroom!).

Final portfolio

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 including a final reflection which you will write in class and in which you will explore what you have learned.

[Assignment Word Count and Learning Goals](#)

Assignment	Word Count (max)	GELO
Diagnostic Essay and Reflection	1000	2, 3, 5
Profile Essay	1000	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Rhetorical Analysis	1000	1, 2, 3,4, 5
Mapping the Problem	1000	2, 3, 5
Persuasive presentation	1000	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Informal Writing Assignments	2000 overall	1, 2
Final Portfolio and Reflection (Department Assessment)	1000	1
Canvas Discussions and Active In-Class participation	1000	1, 2

Grading In This Class

Feedback on your work is intended to help you apply lessons from class as you complete assignments, and to transfer lessons learned from one assignment to the next. Throughout this class you will get rigorous feedback from me and your peers and you will be expected to do the same as a participant of this learning community.

My hope is that together we find a way to focus our attention on your development as a writer and the centrality of the **writing process**. Developing an effective writing process (focused on reading and writing) is the most important thing for you to do in order to become an effective writer in the long-term. An effective writer is the writer who writes with a sense of purpose and an understanding of the tools they want to use to achieve that purpose. This writer may reach for more than what they are yet capable of, but when they fail to attain their vision, they learn something for the next attempt. This writer's learning and development is a continuous and ongoing process; it does not end with a grade. As a result, we will not be using weighted grades in this class. We will be using a grading contract. This I hope will allow us to honor the values that, I feel, really matter in your development as a writer: your engagement, your commitment, your perseverance as a writer, and your respect for and participation in our learning community.

How the Contract Works

Assuming you agree to the terms of the contract, these are the following terms you will have to fulfil to receive a B in English 1A. What follows are the requirements to get a B. **You must fulfil all 10 requirements to get a B grade.**

You must:

1. Complete **ALL** assigned drafts and pre-writing activities for each essay and submit them to Canvas by the posted deadline.
2. Submit final drafts that demonstrate significant revision. I should be able to see a process and a movement as you shift from your first to final draft. I am looking to understand the arc of your progress. That means that fixing typos are not evidence of thoughtful revision. That is just the start of your revision process. Show me in your drafts that you have engaged deeply with the feedback received and that the work you are presenting has genuinely developed as an argument.
3. Participate in 85% of all in-class activities. These activities are on the schedule.
4. Complete and submit 85% of all homework assignments by the due date.
5. Engage regularly in class discussion. You must show a willingness to listen to your peers and to me, and you should be able to share your views with the class. In doing this you will contribute to the collaborative learning we are doing in the class. This is not necessarily easy for all students but it is one of the key ways in which you learn and we learn from you, and I need to see a consistent attempt to do this or at the very least a real attempt to improve on this skill.
6. Provide thoughtful, engaged feedback to peers during workshops. This requires attending the scheduled workshops during class time and completing worksheets and workshops as directed. You must attend all scheduled workshops to fulfil this term of the contract.
7. Interact with respect in our classroom at all times. This includes paying attention when someone else (one of your peers or myself) is speaking to the class. This also includes avoiding using technology in a distracting manner which is the most common way in which the contributions of your peers and myself are missed. You should not take out phones or laptops unless you are asked to do so. If you are asked to use these devices, you will be expected to stay on task. Violating this term will impact on how well you fulfil this term of the grading contract.
8. Show a scrupulousness in your approach to plagiarism. This means making sure you are quoting accurately, citing your sources, using works cited pages when asked and that your usage of MLA is correct and up to date. You must, of course, not copy any work directly or submit work from other classes to this class – if you are not sure what plagiarism, please come and talk to me.

9. Arrive on time throughout the semester and demonstrate a consistent readiness to engage in the learning that we will be doing in this classroom.

10. Submit a complete End-of-the-Semester Portfolio and Reflection Essay that meets all outlined requirements by the due dates at the end of the semester.

You will be asked to sign your agreement to this contract at the start of this course.

What happens if I do not fulfill the contract?

If you do not fulfill all 10 items of the contract, your grade will be lowered by one half letter grade for every requirement you do not meet. For example, if you meet 9 of the 10, you will get a B-. If you meet 8, you will get a C+, etc.

If there are reasons beyond your control as to why you might not be meeting the requirements, come and speak to me so that we can find a way to make sure you can meet enough requirements to get a C- and satisfy the A2 requirement. Communicating promptly with me is the best way that we can work together to make sure you succeed in this class; there is nothing more important to me than to see everyone in this class succeed at San Jose State and beyond.

What if I want to get a higher grade than a B?

A B is an honorable grade to receive in a college level English class. However, some of you will want to set yourself a higher target grade. You will want to make exceptional progress in this class, and I commend that. If you are keen to do better than a B, these are the additional requirements you will need to fulfil.

11. For each of your major writing projects, your grade will be elevated by 1/2 letter if ONE of your assignments is of excellent quality. I will be looking for evidence of thoughtful analysis, exceptional process work, a deep engagement with our in-class work in the development of the essay, careful copy editing and proof reading.
12. If you meet the first ten requirements and complete 100% of your in-class activities, you will receive a B+.
13. If you meet the first ten requirements and complete 100% of all assigned homework, you will receive a B+.
14. If you meet the first ten requirements and complete 100% of all assigned homework and all in-class activities, you will receive an A-.
15. If you meet the first ten requirements and submit an exceptional personal essay, you will get a B+.
16. If you meet the first ten requirements and submit an exceptional personal essay AND profile essay, you will receive an A-.
17. If you meet the first ten requirements submit an exceptional personal AND profile AND rhetorical analysis, you will receive an A.
18. If you completed the first ten requirements AND completed 100% of in-class assignments/homework AND submitted an exceptional final blog, you will receive an A.

For each piece of writing, you will receive feedback from me. In addition, you will get a guide/rubric which will tell you what I am interested in seeing in your work (we will attempt to create some of these rubrics together so they reflect both yours and my shared values). There will be no numbers attached to the feedback, just a focus on your writing and your progress.

How to Understand your grade on Canvas

As this is likely a new system for you, it can be a little confusing to follow. Here are a few guidelines that might help you:

When you look at Canvas and see your grade is at 100% this will indicate that you are meeting the requirements to get a B.

If your grade starts to climb above 100% then you are moving towards a grade of B+ and beyond.

Usually if your grade is climbing to between 110% and above you are in the B+ range

Usually if your grade is in the 120% -130% range you are in the A- to A range.

Please note that if you are falling below the 100% range, your grade is falling below the B range and this would be a great moment to come and check in with me to see what support you might need to make sure you fulfil the terms of the contract.

Some of this will not be entirely clear until the end of the class when we measure up how you have done on the ten key requirements for the class but at any point you can come and talk to me to figure out clearly what your grade is.

Please reach out to me if anything appears confusing or if you have questions about the contract. It can take a little time to get used to this way of working. But I hope this approach will honor your hard work and effort in a clearer way than a points-based system.

Attendance: According to [University Policy F-69-24](#), attendance is not a criterion for grading *and* states that “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.”

Active Participation in Class Discussions:

Please do understand that absence from class impact your ability to participate in this class and will make it harder for you to uphold your part of the grading contract. Given also that essential preparatory work for your assignments is done in class and because assignments all build on one another, not participating in our community will likely affect your performance in this class.

How We Will Get the Most Out of Our Collaboration

- **Office hours:** I am a resource for you and here to help with queries or to clarify any concerns you might have about the class or your assignments. Make use of me! You may make an appointment or drop in during office hours. Either way, I welcome the chance to support your writing as best I can.
- **Attendance:** is required. Assignments in this class are cumulative, with each one preparing you for the next one so missing class also means you will fall behind on crucial preparatory work for your written assignments. Given how much ground we cover in the course of a semester, it is vital to keep up. The risks of non-attendance are: **your overall grade will be adversely affected. In particular, please be aware that absences on workshop days have a profoundly detrimental impact and make it very difficult for you to fulfil the terms of the grading contract.** If there are reasons that attendance has become a struggle and you need extra support, reach out. As faculty, we want to see you succeed in this community and I want to find ways to help all of you do that.
- **Missed work:** If you do miss class (excused or unexcused), do ask your colleagues for assistance in catching up on the missed work and be available to them for the same. With a large number of students, it is not easy for me to respond to promptly (or at times, at all), so it makes sense that instead of floundering, feeling overwhelmed or waiting for me to reply, you find the means as a learning community to support one another. How might you do this? Exchanging numbers and emails with peers will help!
- **Excused absences (for illness, family emergencies, etc.):** *If possible*, it would be helpful if you could communicate such absences in advance of class. I may at times also ask for documentation for illness. Work that needs to be made up as a result of an EXCUSED ABSENCE **only** must be done so by arrangement with me.

- **Punctuality:** Given how distracting late arrivals are for the whole class, I ask that you arrive on time. If you know you are going to be late (as with an absence) telling me ahead of time allows me to accommodate this with the least amount of disruption to our community.
- **Deadlines:** I do expect you to meet all deadlines and that your assignments meet the requirements outlined in the assignment. This is an expectation borne of trying to prepare you for the working world where missed deadlines are simply not tolerated. If deadlines are proving difficult to meet, please come and talk to me so we can strategize ways to help you meet them. If you do not meet deadlines, you will not be fulfilling the terms of the contract and your grade will be impacted.
- **Format:** please submit your papers to me at the start of class. They should be: double spaced, Times New Roman, point 12, and make sure that page numbers are marked to ensure ease of reading (this is to make it easier for me and your peers to read your work and assist you with our feedback). Please also staple your work before you turn it in.
- **Printing:** Please also be prepared to print your papers when asked. You may have to do this for me for final drafts which I will ask you to turn in during class (though I will always also ask for a digital submission to Canvas), or for workshop where hard copies that your peers can mark-up are very helpful for you to have. Please do not email your papers to me as I have a large number of students and it becomes very hard to keep track of your work.
- **Email:** is the best way to communicate with me. If you email after 5pm please note that I may not be able to respond till after 9am the following morning. Similarly, with queries that come in on Friday night - be prepared that I may not respond till the following Monday. Please plan accordingly for this scheduling issue. Longer queries specific to your writing or an assignment are best addressed during office hours.
- **Online discussions are a part of your assigned homework in the grading contract:** will be posted to Canvas every week (these may be based on readings you have completed from the text book or articles I ask you to read). The discussions will usually be posted by Monday. You will then be asked to respond to the discussion board before our next class (Wednesday and Monday). Please write in the text box; no attachments. Please also note, midnight, Sunday is a hard deadline: **I do not accept late discussion posts. Please also note you may be asked to complete additional discussion boards for class or in-class.**
- **Your work** as part of our collective inquiry into writing, reading, and democracy is public in this class. We will share work in Canvas regularly. (Please note: because of this I must reserve the right to publish your work to the class as part of our workshop activities).
- **Peer Review:** I ask that you give thoughtful and engaged feedback to peers during peer review and via your engagement on discussion boards. I also ask that you work sincerely, fairly and collaboratively on group projects (your peers will give feedback on your level of engagement, effort and commitment at the end of projects and whenever we come to the end of a group assignment). We are a community and communities thrive when we all give as much as we take.
- **Workshops:** are an essential part of this class. Your participation in workshops is critical to your success, and mandatory. These workshops are conducted in class. To get the most out of workshops, you *must* bring to workshops a completed draft, and you *must* turn in to me the workshop copies as well as the final, revised draft of the essay. (Only with documented reason and prior approval can I allow you to complete workshops with your group via email.) **As stated earlier and repeated here for emphasis, unexcused absences on workshop days will impact your grading contract.** I also expect you to actively engage with the work of your class mates during workshops and treat their labor with respect and consideration; we have the choice to really help one another this year, and I believe that if we do, we will all get a great deal from our collaboration.
- **Participation:** Class participation takes a number of forms from listening to your peers, contributing to discussion, completing in class assignments to workshoping. I expect you to participate in ALL these ways. Learning to express your ideas in a public forum is an important life skill and this class is a safe place to learn how to master this. It does not come easily to everyone but I hope to see improvements in this skill over the year – as hard as it might feel to speak up, I expect you to try. Remember: participation in in-class activities (and on Canvas Boards) are a key component of your grading contract with me. The more prepared you are before class, the easier this will feel: do the reading and any required written work so you don't have to 'hide' in class.
- **Class interaction:** As I have mentioned, I expect active participation. In whatever way you participate, I expect thoughtful and respectful interactions in this class. This means being alert, open and actively listening during discussion but it also means being respectful of your colleagues and their opinions. We may disagree with one another but that should not impact the compassion and respect with which we try to understand one another's point of view.

- **Classroom Etiquette:** Please honor and respect the labor in our classroom (including mine) by coming to class prepared. You will get much more out of this class if you have completed all assigned work beforehand. I think it is fair to ask that you do not sleep, text, do homework for other classes, play around with cell phones or socialize in a distracting manner during this class. Part of being a member of a learning community means respecting the learning that is ongoing in our community and all of these behaviors undermine that process. I will do my best to shape activities in a way that is useful and helpful to your success, but I cannot carry the load of making our class an effective learning space alone. I ask you to help in this by attending class with your whole heart and in making our classroom a place where all of us (including me) can learn and grow.
- **Plagiarism:** Make sure you understand what plagiarism is – if you have any doubts about how you are handling your material, please come and see me before you turn in your work. Academic dishonesty has serious repercussions and will certainly have a profound impact on the terms of the grading contract. There is no reason this should happen, but if you have any doubts, please talk to me.

I really look forward to our work together!

[Where You Can Go to Get Support as a Writer at SJSU](#)

Part of becoming a successful writer is learning how and when to seek the support you need.

- **SJSU Peer Connections**
Peer Connections offers course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals. There are three mentoring locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit [Peer Connections website](#) at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.
- **SJSU Writing Center**
Located in Clark Hall, Suite 126, the Writing Center offers appointments with tutors who are well trained to assist you as you work to become a better writer. The Writing Center offers both one-on-one tutoring and workshops on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the Center's online resources, visit the [Writing Center website](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook.

[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](#)

English 1A Spring 2022

Please note this schedule is subject to change – you will be informed of changes either via Canvas or email. Please mark deadlines and workshop dates in your class so you do not miss vital delivery dates.

The schedule is color-coded. **Yellow** are workshop dates. **Blue** are final deadlines and the **magenta** will signal to you the various inquiry questions/modules that will guide us through this course.

Please also remember missing a workshop date will affect the terms of your grading contract.

DB= discussion board; there will be 10 DB threads (dates are in the calendar).

There will be a number of short writing activities; dates are not yet assigned for these.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	1/26	Welcome to English 1A. Introductions. Reading: texts; what is a text? The difference between summary and analysis. Identifying audiences and purpose – minding the G.A.P. Syllabus and collective norm setting. Module 1: what is global citizenship?
2	1/31	DB 1 DUE. Before class read: Ballenger, Reading as Inquiry on Canvas. Readings on global citizenship: Ron Israel, Drew Noble Alexander (bring your questions to class). What is a reading about? What is it <i>really</i> about? The art of summarizing. Letter writing assignment and research. Create our rubric.
2	2/1	Naomi Wolf Introduction: annotating and summarizing. Brainstorming and pre-writing for diagnostic essay. Before you pick your story, think carefully! Exploring genres and audiences. Exercise in writing about the same character for different audiences. Introduction to the Personal Essay assignment. Brainstorming for the assignment
3	2/7	Diagnostic essay: letter home assignment.
3	2/9	DB 2 DUE. Before class read: Ballenger, Writing as Inquiry Reading: <i>The Ungrateful Refugee</i> Annotating assigned reading in class. Pre-writing strategies. Body Map Memory exercise. Discuss Personal Essay assignment – conventions of the genre. Researching and reflecting on your own experience. Integrating analysis into your story.
4	2/14	Before class read: Ballenger, Personal Essay, find some personal essays in the NYT Abstract and Concrete Language Introducing narrative elements into a personal essay, creating characters, Pre-write sheet Grammar and Punctuation
4	2/16	DB 3 DUE Before class, Reading: Steve Peha on punctuation and <i>Shitty First Drafts</i> (first drafts and making a mess). Module 2: What helps or hinders our struggle to be effective citizens? <i>Google, Democracy, Truth and The Internet, After success of women's march, how social network empowered mass protests</i> Class discussion on global citizenship, how do we engage as citizens. What is the relationship between citizenship and information?
5	2/21	Workshop Personal Essay
5	2/23	DB 4 DUE. Final Draft Personal Essay; turn in on Canvas.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		Rhetorical Analysis assignment introduced. Practicing rhetorical reading and writing. What do we think it is? What is an argument? What kinds of argument are there? Stasis theory. Murder mystery activity. Logic, Pathos, Ethos. Sources and evidence. SECURE INTERVIEW SUBJECT FOR PROFILE.
6	2/28	Before class: bring in a campaign to think about and discuss Looking at your texts and reading rhetorically. Structuring your analysis, bringing in your paragraphs. Opening and closing gestures.
6	3/2	DB 5 DUE. Workshop Rhetorical Analysis in class Introduce Profile essays. Interviewing techniques. Transcribing.
7	3/7	Final Draft of Rhetorical Analysis Due Module 3: What does citizenship look like around us? Finding models of the profile essay
7	3/9	Anecdotes, quotations and framing the profile essay Integrating dialogue and quotation.
8	3/14	Opening and closing gestures of the profile essay
8	3/16	DB 6 DUE. Introduce mapping assignment and final blog together Online research strategies – lateral reading
9	3/21	Module 4: What kind of citizens do we want to be? Workshop Profile Essay
9	3/23	DB 7 DUE Final Draft Profile Essay Library session
10	3/28	SPRING RECESS
10	3/30	SPRING RECESS
11	4/4	Collecting information on blogs/ form and function
11	4/6	Looking at arguable claims and developing your argument; close look at paragraphs
12	4/11	Mapping/Bibliography Assignment due
12	4/13	Thesis and Opening/Closing gestures.
13	4/18	Practicing argument: class debate
13	4/20	Digital aspects of the blog
14	4/25	Workshops for First Draft of Blog
14	4/27	DB 10 DUE
15	5/2	Workshop for Second Draft of Blog
15	5/4	Final Draft of Blog due
16	5/9	Reflection essay introduced, data gathering
16	5/11	Workshop reflection/assessment
17	5/16	Last day of instruction: assessment preparation and submission

