

# First Year Writing Section 81

## ENGL 1A

Fall 2024 3 Unit(s) 08/21/2024 to 12/09/2024 Modified 08/22/2024

### Contact Information

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#### Contact Information

Instructor: Victoria Thorp

Office Location: FOB 116

Email: [victoria.thorp@sjsu.edu](mailto:victoria.thorp@sjsu.edu)

**Office Hours:** I am available to connect in person on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 1:15-2:45 pm at my office on campus at FOB 116. To schedule an in-person meeting, email me at [victoria.thorp@sjsu.edu](mailto:victoria.thorp@sjsu.edu).

**Zoom meetings:** I realize that SJSU students are juggling school, work, sports, family, and other commitments, so I'm flexible about setting up a time to meet that works for you. Email me at [victoria.thorp@sjsu.edu](mailto:victoria.thorp@sjsu.edu) to set up a Zoom appointment.

**Note:** I hope every student will utilize my help outside of class at some point in the semester. Whether you need individual tutoring, want to talk about an assigned reading or essay, or have grade concerns, please chat with me after class or set up a time to meet.

### Course Information

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#### Course Description and Requisites

English 1A is an introductory course that prepares students to join scholarly conversations across the university. Students develop reading skills, rhetorical sophistication, and writing styles that give form and coherence to complex ideas for various audiences, using a variety of genres. GE Area: A2

Prerequisite: Completion of Reflection on College Writing (RWC)

Letter Graded

#### ENGL 1A Course Content

Writing: Writing is at the heart of our class. Our exploration of writing will allow students to prepare for both academic and real-world writing scenarios. Assignments in Engl 1A will give students repeated practice in all phases of the writing process: prewriting, organizing, writing, revising, and editing. Students in Engl 1A are required to write a minimum of 8000 words, at least 4000 of which must be in revised final draft form. Specific descriptions and instructions for each assignment will be distributed in class and posted on Canvas.

Reading:

- The required text for Engl 1A Sect X is [Everyone's an Author, 4th Edition](#). Please rent or purchase this book from the SJSU Bookstore, or you can find used editions online. You may purchase or rent the physical or online version, but you **absolutely must have this book to succeed in Engl 1A this semester**.
- You will also need the SJSU Campus Reading Program selection, [The Displaced](#) by Viet Thanh Nguyen, which was distributed to all first year students.
- We will also use podcasts, videos, and other multi-media texts, which will be posted on Canvas.

Theme: Our theme is YOU and your ideas! After years of writing about exactly what teachers required in high school, this college writing course is designed to allow *you* to explore what is interesting to *you*. What story do you want to tell about yourself? What issue or problem do you want to write about? What do you think about AI? What is your response to the texts we explore this semester? How can *you* persuade *your* audience to care about the ideas that matter to *you*?

In class participation: Engl 1A is an in-person course and regular participation is essential to succeed. Attendance will be noted each day, and points will be assigned for the work we do in each class period. Engl 1A is an interactive class and in class work cannot be made up at home. Students who have specific conflicts that prevent attending class should email the teacher to discuss how to catch up.

Academic Integrity: As a SJSU student, your commitment is to learning. The [University Academic Integrity Policy](#) requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

Note about AI: My goal is that you engage with the exciting challenge of figuring out what *you* want to say in writing by doing the work yourself with academic integrity. AI cannot do your thinking for you, so it has limited use in this course. You will write your own personal ethical manifesto about AI at the start of the semester and be required to reflect and report on any AI use when submitting final drafts of your major assignments.

We will learn to use AI as a tool, but do not be tempted to use AI to *write* your essays in Engl 2. If I notice unauthorized use of AI in an assignment, I will require the student to meet with me individually or assign a zero grade.

Final Exam: There is no 'final exam' for Engl 1A. Instead, all SJSU students enrolled in Engl 1A are required to gather writing samples and write a portfolio essay at the end of the semester that is due on the date of the final exam as dictated by the SJSU schedule. For Section X, the portfolio will be due on X. The portfolio will include selected examples of your writing produced for Engl 1A, as well as materials from your RCW Canvas course and other SJSU courses. We will talk about the portfolio in detail later in the semester.

#### Time Commitment

Success in ENGL 1A is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

#### Diversity and class discussions

SJSU is a wonderfully diverse learning environment, and this course is designed to build on the strength of our different backgrounds. However, our readings and class discussions may raise sensitive and challenging questions, and in preparation we will create norms for how to deal with potential conflict or inappropriate comments during the first week of the semester. I hope we will try to interact with each other from a place of mutual respect and learning, which require both an open mind and an open heart. Although I doubt it will come to this, any behavior that threatens the learning environment and the safety of the classroom will not be tolerated.

#### Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

We will use Canvas extensively for Engl 1A, so it is critical that students check Canvas regularly, including messages from the instructor. Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas Learning Management System course login website. For help with using Canvas see Canvas Student Resources page.

Tuesday, Thursday, 3:00 PM to 4:15 PM, Sweeney Hall Room 411

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## Classroom Protocols

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## Policy for late work

**In class assignments, including journal posts, cannot be made up without explicit permission from the instructor.** Do not try to submit work for days that you missed class and assume that I won't notice you were absent.

Reader Responses and major assignments (including outlines and rough drafts) will lose 10% if handed in within a week of the original deadline. Assignments will not be accepted more than a week late without permission from the instructor.

Note: Life happens and we all need help sometimes meeting our deadlines. I'm willing to be flexible, but only if you let me know ahead of time. I don't want to hear the day after an assignment is due that you need an extension. It is my experience that letting work drag out leads to continued missed deadlines and increases the odds of a student not passing. **Come talk to me if you are overwhelmed so we can figure out a plan to get you back on track.**

**\* Any assignment in Engl 1A can be revised and resubmitted if a student wants to try and improve their grade. I highly recommend meeting with the instructor before revising to ensure that you have a plan for how to make progress from the original grade.**

## A note about grammar and Standard English rules

Every writer comes with their own unique voice, background, language skills and knowledge of grammar rules and conventions. In our exploration of language, voice, and rhetoric this semester, we will consider when and how to use different forms of English depending on the genre and purpose of your writing. For formal essays, we will be learning the rules and conventions of college writing and will review grammar and punctuation together as needed. If you struggle with issues such as grammar, essay structure, or punctuation, you are not alone. I'm happy to can set up time to go over any specific questions you have.

## Classroom Participation

In class work and participation is worth about 20% of your final grade in Engl 1A. As such, it is the easiest part of your grade to control. It will be difficult to pass Engl 1A this semester without coming to class, but if you attend, actively participate, and do the required work, you will have no trouble doing well!

However, life happens: If you have extenuating circumstances that prevent you from coming to class (illness, family emergency, etc.), please let me know as soon as possible. (See F15-12, University Policy, Attendance and Participation for more information about SJSU policy on attendance). If you choose not to come to class and do not contact me to explain why you are absent, it will negatively impact your grade.

## Points and Grades

Below is a breakdown of the number of words per assignment, the points per assignment and how the assignment relates to your final grade for the course. In addition, you can see how each assignment contributes to the course goals or "General Learning Outcomes" (GELO) for Engl 1A. Please note that the cumulative grade that displays on Canvas does not reflect the grade that you will get in Engl 1A, as it does not account for attendance, class participation, or journals.

# Program Information

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Welcome to this General Education course.

SJSU's General Education Program establishes a strong foundation of versatile skills, fosters curiosity about the world, promotes ethical judgment, and prepares students to engage and contribute responsibly and cooperatively in a multicultural, information-rich society. General education classes integrate areas of study and encourage progressively more complex and creative analysis, expression, and problem solving.

The General Education Program has three goals:

**Goal 1:** To develop students' core competencies for academic, personal, creative, and professional pursuits.

**Goal 2:** To enact the university's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and justice by ensuring that students have the knowledge and skills to serve and contribute to the well-being of local and global communities and the environment.

**Goal 3:** To offer students integrated, multidisciplinary, and innovative study in which they pose challenging questions, address complex issues, and develop cooperative and creative responses.

More information about the General Education Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) can be found on the [GE website \(https://sjsu.edu/general-education/ge-requirements/overview/learning-outcomes.php\)](https://sjsu.edu/general-education/ge-requirements/overview/learning-outcomes.php).

## Course Goals

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### General Education Learning Outcomes (GELOS)

GE Area A2: Written Communication

Written Communication I courses cultivate an understanding of the writing process and the goals, dynamics, and genres of written communication, with special attention to the nature of writing at the university. A grade of C- or better designates that a student has successfully oriented reading and writing practice in English to support college level research and learning and to share learning with C- or better is a CSU graduation requirement.

GE Area A2 Learning Outcomes (GELOS)

Upon successful completion of an Area A2 course, students should be able to:

1. demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the content, context, effectiveness, and forms of written communication;
2. perform essential steps in the writing process (prewriting, organizing, composing, revising, and editing);
3. articulate an awareness of and write according to the rhetorical features of texts, such as purpose, audience, context, and rhetorical appeals;

4. integrate their ideas and those of others by synthesizing, explaining, analyzing, developing, and criticizing ideas effectively in several genres; and
5. demonstrate college-level language use, clarity, and grammatical abilities in writing.

Writing Practice:

Students will write a minimum of 8000 words, at least 4000 of which must be in revised final draft form.

## Course Materials

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Reading:

- The required text for Engl 1A Sect X is [Everyone's an Author, 4th Edition](#). Please rent or purchase this book from the SJSU Bookstore, or you can find used editions online. You may purchase or rent the physical or online version, but you **absolutely must have this book to succeed in Engl 1A this semester**.
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## Course Requirements and Assignments

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This Engl 1A Course will have four major writing assignments and a final portfolio project, along with other short assignments, journal writing, and reading responses throughout the semester.

The four major assignments are:

1. Personal narrative essay
2. Rhetorical analysis multimedia composition
3. Persuasive essay
4. Multi-modal persuasive argument

Plus, the culminating assignment required for all SJSU Engl 1A students: Final Portfolio

A note about college writing: Every student has the capacity to succeed in this class if they put in the work, regardless of the writing skills or experience they had prior to enrolling at SJSU. In short, you all belong in the college writing classroom, and we will be tackling this thing called college writing together. If you are here, you can do this!

My goal for Engl 1A Section 50 is that every student will succeed and pass the course. If you come to class and do the work, you can get at least the C- grade required to earn credit for Engl 1A. If you are struggling, I am here to help you!

Success in Engl 1A requires five simple things:

- 1) Do the reading and homework
- 2) Come to class and participate (see below for more details)
- 3) Engage in the writing process by drafting, revising and re-writing each major assignment
- 4) Complete work on time
- 5) Get in touch with me if you fall behind or need help!

Grading in Engl 1A Sect 1A

*Focus on the writing process:* A central goal of Engl 1A Sect 50 is for students to learn the writing process, so most major assignments will require drafting, writing, revising, and re-writing to earn full credit. A significant percentage of your final grade for major assignments will be based on revision, so engaging in the writing process is critical to getting a good grade in Engl 1A. We will spend time in class reviewing each other's writing and I will provide extensive comments on rough drafts in Canvas. All final drafts must reflect revision from initial drafts and show that the student has incorporated feedback received from peers and the instructor. (See University Grading System Policy F18-5 for more information about grading at SJSU).

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	# of words	# required	Points Per	Point Total	% of Final Grade	GELOs covered
<b>In class work</b>						
In class assignments	varies	Almost Every class	5	135		GELO 1, 2
Journals	varies	Almost Every class	3	81		GELO 1, 2
<b>Subtotal in class work</b>	<b>varies</b>			<b>216</b>	<b>21%</b>	
<b>Personal Narrative</b>						
outline	500	9/5	15			



Rough Draft 1	1000	9/12	15			
RD 2	1000	9/19	15			
Final draft	1000	9/24	120			
Reflection	300	9/24	20			
<b>Subtotal Personal Narrative</b>	<b>3800</b>			<b>185</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>GELO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5</b>
<b>Rhetorical analysis multimodal composition</b>						
Outline	500	10/8	15			
RD 1	500	10/15	15			
Final draft	500	10/22	100			
Reflection	300	10/22	20			
<b>Rhetorical analysis Subtotal</b>	<b>1500</b>			<b>150</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>GELO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5</b>
<b>Persuasive essay</b>						
Outline	500	10/29	15			
RD 1	1000	10/31	15			
RD 2	1000	11/5	15			
Final draft	1000	11/12	120			

Reflection	300	11/12	20			
<b>Persuasive Essay Total</b>	<b>3800</b>			<b>185</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>GELO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5</b>
Persuasive Argument in Multimodal Genre						
Proposal	250	11/14	15			
Rough draft		11/19	15			
Submission	500	12/3 and 12/5	75			
Reflection	300	12/6	20			
<b>Persuasive Multimodal Subtotal</b>	<b>1050</b>			<b>125</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>GELO 2, 3, 4,</b>
Portfolio essay	600	FILL IN		60	6%	GELO 2, 5
<b>Other Assignments</b>						
Reading Responses	250-300 each	6 required See below	10	60	6%	GELO 1, 2, 3, 5
Mood Board	100	8/27		10	1%	

Personal ethical statement about AI	300	8/29		10	1%	
Other Assignments Subtotal				80	8%	
Total words: Over 8,000						
Total Points: 1000						

\*= There will be seven Reader Responses assigned for Engl 1A, but students can skip one at any time in the semester to reach the required total of six. There is also an opportunity to do extra credit by choosing up to two readings from the bonus list and writing responses to them. points. Any additional Reader Responses must be turned in by the date of the final exam for Engl 1A Section X. Readings will be available on Canvas.

Class Flow and Assignment Due Dates: see Canvas

## ✓ Grading Information

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### Grading Information

Your final grade in the course will be recorded as a letter grade, ranging from A to F. I will use + and – grades to refine the evaluation within the letter-grade categories. The cumulative grade that displays on Canvas may not reflect the grade that you will get in Engl 1A, as there is some discretion for class participation and attendance.

**Please note:** As a GE course, students must receive a C- or higher in Engl 1A to get the Area A2 GE credit toward their degree. Students who do not earn at least a C- in English 1A must retake it. As a result, it is my highest goal that every student who comes to class regularly and submits their work will pass this Engl 1A course. **If you are falling behind and worried about failing, don't ghost me! Instead, reach out and let's find a path forward towards successful completion.**

Course grades will be using the following scale:

Grade	Points	Percentage
A	940 to 1000	94 to 100%
A -	900 to 939	90 to 93.9%
B +	870 to 899	87 to 89.9%
B	840 to 869	84 to 86.9%
B -	800 to 839	80 to 83.9%
C +	770 to 799	77 to 79.9%
C	740 to 769	74 to 76.0%
C -	700 to 739	70 to 73.9%
D +	670 to 699	67 to 69.9%
D	640 to 669	64 to 66.9%
D -	610 to 639	61 to 63.9%
F	BELOW 610	

### Grade Criteria

Requirements for each assignment will vary, but in all cases, grades will reflect the assignment's effectiveness, which is broken down into four major areas: content, organization, revision, and language/style. Please see the rubrics for specific grading criteria for each assignment.

### Extra credit

There are several assigned Reading Responses throughout the semester but only six are required to gain full credit. Students may earn extra credit for by choosing up to two readings from the Bonus List and writing responses to them. All bonus Reading Responses must be turned in by the date of the final exam to gain extra points.

## University Policies

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Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

## Course Schedule

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Please see Canvas for detailed information about assignment due dates and in class work.