

Critical Thinking and Writing Section 05

ENGL 2

Fall 2024 3 Unit(s) 08/21/2024 to 12/09/2024 Modified 08/19/2024

Contact Information

Contact Information

Instructor: Victoria Thorp

Office Location: FOB 116

Email: 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.

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 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

Course Theme: What Matters to YOU?

As you move past the first year of college and perhaps begin to envision your life after graduation, you may be starting to identify what is important to you in a new way.

But how would you explain your priorities and values to another person? How can you structure your argument to convince others to care about the art, culture, language, health, environmental, social, or economic concerns that matter to *you*? My goal for this this Engl 2 course is that you will learn new skills for explaining your argument to *your* audience.

The skills you gain here will allow you to not only achieve success in your college writing assignments, but also communicate effectively when talking, texting, what'sapping, etc. with friends, peers, coworkers, and family, and more.

As a bonus, you'll get to know other SJSU students, stretch your mind, and have some fun this semester (well, the school kind of fun, that is :).

Please bring your computer, textbook, and something to write with to every class.

Tuesday, Thursday, 10:30 AM to 11:45 AM, Sweeney Hall, Room 414

Please bring your computer, textbook, and something to write with to every class.

Course Description and Requisites

English 2 is a course that focuses on the relationship between language and logic in composing arguments. Students learn various methods of effective reasoning and appropriate rhetorical strategies to help them invent, demonstrate, and express arguments clearly, logically, and persuasively.

GE Area(s): A3. Critical Thinking and Writing

Prerequisite(s): Completion of GE Area A2 with a grade of "C-" or better.

Note(s): ENGL 2 is not open to students who successfully completed ENGL 1B.

Letter Graded

* Classroom Protocols

ENGL 2

This course is open to all students needing to fulfill GE Area A3 (Critical Thinking). It is not open to students who have successfully completed ENGL 1B.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1A or Stretch English (with a grade of C- or better)

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 equality) that generate meaningful public debate. Readings for the course will include writers of different ethnicities, genders, and socio-economic classes.

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.

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

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas Learning Management System course login website. You're responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU to learn of any updates. For help with using Canvas see Canvas Student Resources page.

Time Commitment

Success in ENGL 2 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, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Final Examination or Evaluation

In ENGL 2, our learning culminates in a digital Reflection and Portfolio Assignment. In this assignment, we will gather samples of our writing that demonstrate our learning; we will write a reflection essay that explains what we have learned, how we learned it, and how we will use it in future learning; and we will submit our portfolio for consideration to other people in the first-year writing program. This is our chance to identify and articulate what we've learned and what we'll take forward with us into future learning/writing experiences.

Program Policies

First-Year Writing policies are listed at the following website:

<https://www.sjsu.edu/english/frosh/program-policies.php>
(<https://www.sjsu.edu/english/frosh/program-policies.php>).

Participation

In class participation: Engl 2 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. Participation is worth about 20% of your final grade for this course. Engl 2 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.

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 late but 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.**

Policy 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.

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.

Program Information

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

As per the [SJSU Course Course Catalog](#), English 2 focuses on the relationship between language and logic in composing arguments. Students will learn various methods of effective reasoning and appropriate rhetorical strategies to help them invent, demonstrate, and express arguments clearly, logically, and persuasively.

Prerequisites: ENGL 1A, 1A-F/S (with a grade of C- or better)

Satisfies GE Area A3: Critical Thinking and Writing

Course Overview and Key Information

Our academic focus is: Identifying, analyzing, and forming arguments so you can explain, defend and persuade others about the issues that matter to you.

Want to convince your friend to choose Chipotle over In and Out?...Defend your favorite musician against people who lob negative comments?...Persuade someone to vote in this year's Presidential Election? To argue any of these perspectives effectively, you must identify your audience, frame an effective argument using evidence to back up your ideas, and choose the right context or platform in which to communicate. These are skills you will learn and practice in Engl 2.

Composing Text and Digital Arguments: In 2024, platforms for argument are often visual (meme, social media, YouTube, infographic), so you will practice analyzing visual arguments and presenting your argument in a visual format. But text is far from dead, so you will also practice writing essays and short answers.

Reading: You will read both alphabetic and visual text in Engl 2 every week and in almost every class.

Research: You will learn how to frame a research topic, search for sources, evaluate sources, read source material to gain insight on your ideas, and synthesize that research to support your argument.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

GE Area A3: Critical Thinking and Writing

Area A3 courses develop students' understanding of the relationship of language to logic. By engaging students in complex issues requiring critical thinking and effective argumentation, A3 courses develop students' abilities to research and analyze important topics and to construct their own arguments on issues that generate meaningful public debate and deliberation. Courses include explicit instruction and practice in inductive and deductive reasoning as well as identification of formal and informal fallacies of language and thought. Completion of Area A2 (Written Communication I) with a minimum grade of C- is a prerequisite for enrollment in Area A3. Completion of Area A3 with a grade of C- or better is a CSU graduation requirement.

GE Area A3 Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of an Area A3 course, students should be able to:

1. locate, interpret, evaluate, and synthesize evidence in a comprehensive way, including through library research; and integrate research findings into oral and written arguments through appropriate citation and quotation;
2. use a range of rhetorical and logical strategies to articulate and explain their positions on complex issues in dialogue with other points of view;
3. identify and critically evaluate the assumptions in and the contexts of arguments; and
4. use inductive and deductive logic to construct valid, evidence-supported arguments and draw valid conclusions.

Writing Practice: Students will write a minimum of 6000 words, at least 4000 of which must be in revised final draft form.

Course Materials

Required Texts:

- The required text for Engl 2 Sect 5 is [*Everything's an Argument*](#). Please purchase or rent this book from the SJSU Bookstore, or you can find used editions online. **You absolutely must have this book to succeed in Engl 2 this semester.** There will be in class reading responses to check that students are keeping up with course reading assignments.
- We will also use articles, podcasts, videos, and other texts that will be posted on Canvas.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Course Requirements and Assignments

This Engl 2 Course has three major assignments and a final portfolio project, along with other short assignments, journal writing, and reading responses throughout the semester.

The three major assignments are:

1. Visual text analysis (final product is an essay or digital composition)
2. Poem or Song text analysis (final product is an essay)
3. Visual argument composition (this is a group project; final product is a digital composition)

Plus, the culminating assignment required for all SJSU Engl 2 students: Final Portfolio (essay)

I will create a set of complete directions for each assignment, which will be posted on Canvas and discussed in class. Assignments will include reading, formal and informal writing, and, in some cases, research. Throughout both reading and writing, we will use multiple modes of communication (oral, written, digital, and visual).

My goal for Engl 2 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 2. If you are struggling, I am here to help you!

Success in Engl 2 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) Participate actively in group projects
- 4) Complete work on time
- 5) Get in touch with me if you fall behind or need help!

Classroom Participation

In class work and participation is worth about 20% of your final grade in Engl 2. As such, it is the easiest part of your grade to control and I hope you will come to class consistently all semester. 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.

✓ Grading Information

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 2. Please note that the cumulative grade that displays on Canvas does not reflect the grade that you will get in Engl 2 as it does not account for class participation.

	Due Date	Points Per	Point Total	% of Final Grade	GELOs covered
In class work					
In class assignments	Almost Every class	6	156		
Journals- reading check	Almost Every class	3	78		
Subtotal in class work			234	23%	GELO 1,2, 3, 4
Digital Text Analysis					
outline	9/5	15			
Rough Draft 1	9/17	15			

RD 2	9/19	15			
Final draft	9/26	100			
Reflection	9/26	20			
Subtotal Digital Text Analysis			165	16.5%	GELO 2, 3, 4
Argument Analysis of a poem or song					
Outline	10/17	15			
RD 1	10/22	15			
RD 2	10/24	15			
Final draft + reflection	10/29	75			
Reflection	10/29	20			
Subtotal Argument Analysis of a poem or song			140	14%	GELO 1, 2, 3, 4
Digital Argument Composition (group project)					
Draft proposal	10/10	15			
Revised proposal with research plan	10/31	15			
Annotated bibliography	11/13	40			

Draft outline and research plan	11/14	15			
Final Outline and plan for composition	11/19	15			
Presentation and submission	12/3 or 12/5	160			
Digital Argument Composition subtotal			250	25%	GELO 1, 2, 3, 4,
Individual Reflection on Digital argument project	12/6		60	6%	GELO 2, 4
Portfolio essay	12/13 at noon		60	6%	GELO 2, 4
Other Assignments					
Reading Responses	6 required See below	10	60	6%	GELO 2, 3, 4
What I care about intro project	8/27		10	1%	
Personal ethical statement about AI	8/29		15	1%	
Other Assignments Subtotal			25	10%	
Total Points: 1000					

Grading Information

Grade Scale

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 2, 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 2 to get the Area A2 GE credit toward their degree. Students who do not earn at least a C- in English 2 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 2 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.**

Grade Criteria

Requirements for each assignment will vary, but in all cases, grades will reflect the assignment's effectiveness, which is broken down into three major areas: content (this includes maturity and sophistication of thought), organization, and expression. Please see the rubrics for specific grading criteria for each assignment.

Extra credit

There are six assigned Reading Responses throughout the semester. Students can choose to do up to two additional Reading Responses from the bonus list on Canvas to gain extra points. Any extra Reading Responses are due by the date of the final exam: December 13 at noon.

Breakdown

Course grades will be using the following scale:

Grade	Points	Percentage
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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	

University Policies

Per [University Policy 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) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.