

San José State University

Humanities and Arts, Department of English and Comparative Literature

English 1A

A Semester In Transition: Moving to Higher Education

Fall 2019

Instructor: Bryan Hoffer, M.A.

Class Schedule:

- 1A-86, 10:30-11:45am, Engineering Building 301

Email: bryan.hoffer@sjsu.edu

Office Hours: FO 226, TR 1-2pm or by appointment

Prerequisite: Reflection of College Writing

GE/SJSU Studies Category: GE Area A2 Written Communication I

This course, *A Semester in Transition: Moving to Higher Education*, will be focused around the experience of acclimating to new academic and social communities. Through this exploration, you will define and make sense of your reasons for pursuing higher education, clarify and understand the new and existing communities that you are a part of, and learn how to use your voice to speak about issues that impact you and your communities within the realm of academics. We will pursue these topics through many different mediums and across many different genres.

Description

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 Learning Outcomes (GELO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. demonstrate the ability to read actively and rhetorically
2. demonstrate the ability to perform the essential steps in the writing process (prewriting, organizing, composing, revising, and editing) and demonstrate an awareness of said performance
3. articulate an awareness of and write according to the rhetorical features of texts, such as purpose, audience, context, and rhetorical appeals
4. demonstrate the ability to integrate their ideas and those of others by explaining, analyzing, developing, and criticizing ideas effectively in several genres
5. demonstrate college-level language use, clarity, and grammatical proficiency in writing

The Time You Will Spend on This Work

In a 3-unit course like this one, faculty expect that students will spend **a minimum** of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week). This time includes preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

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](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) 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.

Where to Access Accurate Information about Academic Writing

In Canvas you have access to an online copy of Andrea Lunsford's *Everyday Writer: Writer's Help 2.0*. As an SJSU student, you have access to the online text through student fees you have already paid.

Where to Access the Technology You Will Need to Do the Work of This Course

You will need an electronic device out of class that allows you to access the internet and Canvas, and to read the online texts. The University provides students access to technological resources at several locations on campus:

- **Academic Success Center (Clark Hall).** Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college.
- **Media Services (Martin Luther King Library).** Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD,

CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

How to Contact a Reference Librarian

English & Comparative Literature

Cabrera, Peggy

Phone: 408-808-2034

Email: peggy.cabrera@sjsu.edu

See [University Policy F13-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details on your right to understand your grades. In your section syllabus, your instructor outlines specifically our grading practices for the year: information on feedback practices, relative weights of assignments, and the grade calculations.

Where You Can Find Information About University Policies

The Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs (GUP) maintains university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. You may find all syllabus-related University Policies and resources information listed on GUP's [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

Readings/Textbooks

Please note: digital copies of any required text/book are a privilege, not a right in class. If technology is being misused in our classroom community to distract yourself or others, I will require new/used hard copies. If you have any concerns or requests, I would be glad to assess them.

Required Texts:

- College Rules!, 4th Edition: How to Study, Survive, and Succeed in College, 4th Edition by: Sherrie Nist-Olejnik and Jodi Patrick Holschuh **ISBN-13:** 978-1607748526

Recommended texts:

I will provide an online copy/selections via Canvas.

- The Curious Writer, Brief 4th Edition by Bruce Ballenger, ISBN-13: 978-0205876655
- The Elements of Style (Free Digital Download - Amazon)

Other Materials:

- Various works that will be provided to you via digital scanned copies, or online links: The same policy regarding digital copies above applies to these as well.

Two blank notebooks (8.5x11", spiral, college ruled) solely dedicated to classwork and homework free writing.

Courtesies

- Cell Phones and other electronic devices: *Neither seen, nor heard. Laptops for in-class formal composition writing and other authorized points only (e.g. peer review). Use of unauthorized electronics will result in 0 classwork credit for the day.*
- Email Protocol: *Proper emailing structure below.*

From: inquiringmind@email.com
To: isittimetogradealready@email.com
Subject: [title], [class and section]

Dear/Hello/Good Morning/Afternoon/Evening _____,

Body: [Polite banter about the weather or observational humor, followed by an insightful, well thought out question.]

Thank you/Best/Sincerely,

Name
(Contact: email)

- Office Appointments: *Come see me during office hours (see top), or kindly request another appointment time using the email structure (above). **I want to help you. Please ask questions. Come to me before you are struggling and confused.***
- Readings/Homework Assignments: *Everything will be completed before the date on the schedule. This is very important as we will be discussing it during class time.*
- Late Policy: *I am always glad to help you plan and organize your time. All out of class assignments will be due by the start of the class. All in class assignments will be due by the end of class. Formal Out-of-Class late papers will be docked points per. day. No Informal writing assignments will be accepted late.*
- Attendance: *Come on time and be prepared to learn. I expect you to participate in class discussions and ask questions if something is not clear. Doing the work is not enough. In terms of learning, the material and active class participation makes the class more enjoyable. Because of this, attendance is very important, since missed class time is a missed opportunity to learn and have issues resolved. Please bring all of your books/literature to the class discussions.*
- Absences: *If you will miss class for a university sanctioned reason, e.g. a religious holiday, please let me know **ahead** of time using the proper protocol. If you are sick, you will need to make sure that your assignments will be submitted as normal.*

Writing Assignments

Informal Assignments:

Informal assignments will consist of classwork and homework assignments that will be completed individually or in groups depending on the assignment. Some will be submitted in class via spiral notebooks and others will be submitted via Canvas.

Please note that no late work will be accepted on the informal writing assignments. That being said, I am always glad to talk to you regarding your circumstances before assignments are due, so that we can discuss my recommended plan of action.

Formal Assignments:

Formal Writing Assignments, which are essays and major projects, must be submitted online via Canvas. If I suspect plagiarism, I will manually input it into Turnitin.com. Feel free to check for plagiarism on your own using the Turnitin.com tool before submitting your work.

Standard MLA/APA Formatting for all papers:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/13/>

Formal Assignment Types for the Academic Year:

Critical Reading and Reflection	CRR1, CRR2, CRR3
Data-driven Analyses	Personal Essay, Interview Project
Major Essays	Public Forum Essay (Blog), Critical Essay
Portfolio/Self-reflection Essays	Final Semester Portfolio

Late papers will be docked 10% per day

Please note that grading and other policies are approached holistically and reflective of the department's philosophy and goals. You can refer to details noted here:

http://www.sjsu.edu/english/frosh/program_policies/index.html

From SJSU:

Grading: 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.

The formal, major writing assignments will be graded holistically. These program policies will be incorporated and tailored with consideration of each assignment’s goals and objectives as well as how it helps the reader to achieve their purpose and understanding. It will additionally evaluate how well the writer is able to present writing that has been integrated with consideration to the relevant readings.

Grading for the academic year

Total ~2000 pts possible:

Assignment	Points	Word Count	In-Class/Out of Class	GELOs for
Critical Reading and Reflection 1	50	600	In-Class	GELO 1, 2, 3,4, 5
Personal Essay	250	1250	Out of Class	GELO 2, 3, 5
Blog	300	1500	Out of Class	GELO 2, 3, 5
Critical Reading and Reflection 2	200	750	In-Class	GELO 1, 2, 3,4, 5
Critical Reading and Reflection 3	200	750	In-Class	GELO 1, 2, 3,4, 5
Profile Interview and Critical Essay	400	2000	Out of Class	GELO 2, 3, 4, 5
Self-Reflection/Final Portfolio	400	1500	Out of Class	GELO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
General Assignments -	~200	N/A	N/A	N/A

Homework and Classwork (~40x)				
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Total for Fall: ~2000 points

Move the decimal place once to calculate your percent, whole numbers, no rounding.

Traditional Scale by %: 93--100=A, 90--92=A--, 87--89=B+, 83--86=B, 80--82=B--, 77--79=C+, 70--76=C, 67--69 = D+, 63--66 = D, 60--62 + D--, below 60 = F

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is never acceptable. Never copy your own work, or someone else's. Citations and proper notation are very important in the academic world. All protocol on plagiarism and academic integrity can be referred to in your student handbook. Plagiarism can result in your expulsion from the class and/or the school.

Important Dates:

<http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/docs/Final%2006.25.2018.pdf>

Tentative Schedule

Please note that this schedule is subject to shift with the ebb and flow of the class. Please check our Canvas course for the most up to date information. Other articles will be added to the schedule via Canvas based on current events and discussion.

Fall 2019

Guiding Inquiry: What does it mean to transition successfully from high school to college? How is writing a part of that transition?

Introduction	
Week (First date of that week)	Readings and Major Assignments (Due and discussed on the week listed, see Canvas for exact dates.)
Week 1 (8/19)	<i>Read College Rules: Ch. 14 Syllabus and Introduction</i>

Module 1:	<i>Who am I as a college student and as a writer? What are my goals?</i>
Week 2 (8/26)	<i>Read College Rules: Introduction, Ch. 1-2</i> <i>Read The Curious Writer: "Writing as Inquiry" Ch.1</i> Establishing your reading and writing goals. Major Assignment: Introduce CRR 1 In Class
Week 3 (9/2)	(9/2), Labor Day, SJSU Closed <i>Read College Rules: Ch. 4 (pages 43-50)</i> <i>Read The Curious Writer: "Writing as Inquiry" Ch. 2</i> Discuss Planning and Structure of Writing Major Assignment: Complete CRR 1 In Class
Week 4 (9/9)	<i>Read The Curious Writer Ch. 3</i> <i>"Four Steps to Choosing a College Major"</i> Major Assignment: Introduce the Personal Essay
Week 5 (9/16)	<i>Read Smartphone Generation Article</i> Major Assignment: Peer Review Draft of the Personal Essay
Week 6 (9/23)	<i>Read College Rules: Ch. 7 and 8</i> Major Assignment: Personal Essay Due Introduce Blog Post Reflections on the current state of your reading and writing goals.
Week 7 (9/30)	<i>Read The Curious Writer Ch. 14</i> Major Assignment: Post an Introduction and your topic on your blog site.
Week 8 (10/7)	<i>Read College Rules: Ch. 17 and 18</i> <i>Read The Curious Writer Ch. 7</i> <i>Read The Misguided Student Crusade Against Fascism</i> by: Michael H. Schill Major Assignment: Blog Draft Peer Review

Module 2:	<i>What is the culture of our university? How does the university work?</i>
Week 9 (10/14)	<i>Read College Rules: Ch. 17 and 18</i>
Week 10 (10/21)	Major Assignment: Blog Due Introduce CRR2 Complete CRR2
Week 11 (10/28)	Read (Part 1+2) <i>The Subtle Ways Colleges Discriminate Against Poor Students, Explained with a Cartoon by Alvin Chang</i> Create College Rules for Social Change
Module 3:	What is the purpose of the 21st century university? How can I use the university to reach my goals?
Week 12 (11/4)	Read <i>Where Are All the High-School Grads Going?</i> By Alia Wong Read <i>Some College Students Choose a School Where They Don't Fit, on Purpose</i> By Kyle Spencer Reflections on the current state of your reading and writing goals. Major Assignment: Introduce CRR3 Complete CRR3
Week 13 (11/11)	(11/11), Veteran's Day, SJSU Closed Read <i>The Curious Reader</i> Ch. 8 Major Assignment: Introduce Profile Interview and Critical Essay Create Interview Questions
Week 14 (11/18)	Introduce Portfolio

<p>Week 15 (11/25)</p>	<p>(11/27-29), Thanksgiving Holiday, No Classes</p> <p>Read <i>College Rules</i> Ch. 23 Read <i>The Curious Writer</i> Appendix A: The Writing Portfolio</p>
<p>Week 16 (12/2)</p>	<p>Major Assignment: Prepare Portfolio and Complete Reflections</p>
<p>Week 17 (12/9)</p>	<p>(12/10), No Classes Major Assignment: Portfolio Due Finals</p>
<p>Week 18 (12/16)</p>	<p>Finals</p>