

San José State University
Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Sciences
SOCI 100W-5 Writing Workshop, Spring 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor(s):	Dr. Johanna Massé
Office Location:	DMH 211
Email:	johanna.masse@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesdays 5:00 p.m.-5:45 p.m. or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Tuesdays 6:00 p.m.-8:45 p.m.
Classroom:	DMH 339
Prerequisites:	Completion of Core GE, WST, and junior class standing
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	Area Z: Written Communication Minimum of 8000 written words

Course Description

Practice in improvement of writing and research skills appropriate to the field of sociology, including formal reports, journals and articles. GE Area: Z; Prerequisite: Required for Sociology Majors, SOCI 1, A3 or equivalent second semester composition course (with a grade of C- or better); Completion of core GE, satisfaction of Writing Skills Test and upper division standing. Note: All SJSU Studies courses require completion of the WST and upper division standing. Must be passed with C or better to satisfy the CSU Graduation Writing Assessment requirement (GWAR).

According to a survey reported in *Inc.*, 73 percent of employers want to hire candidates with strong written communication skills (Moore 2016). Good writing is an essential skill for sociologists, but it also carries over into other domains of life, including work and personal communications.

The purpose of this course is to help students become confident and effective writers. Students will develop skills essential for any writer, but we will focus specifically on sociological writing conventions and applications. We will examine and implement rhetorical strategies that are appropriate for specific purposes and audiences through a series of formal writing assignments. In addition to these formal assignments, our class will be organized around continuous informal writing assignments, some completed in class and others outside of class.

Our objective will be continuous improvement of writing skills, which will involve regular reflection on the writing process (through informal assignments, discussions, and completion of multiple drafts) and reliance on one another to provide and evaluate models of writing (through discussions, group activities, and peer review).

MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](http://sjsu.instructure.com) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU](http://one.sjsu.edu) on [Spartan App Portal](http://one.sjsu.edu) <http://one.sjsu.edu> (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor) to learn of any updates

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

Students will develop proficiency in college writing, focusing on: See L01 and L02 below.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to: See L03, L04, L05, and L06 below.

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

Learning Objective	Assignment or Activity
LO 1: Produce discipline-specific written work that demonstrates upper-division proficiency in language use, grammar, and clarity of expression	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Research paper and drafts● Book review and drafts● Grammar and writing workshops
LO 2: Explain, analyze, develop, and criticize ideas effectively, including ideas encountered in multiple readings and expressed in different forms of discourse	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Research paper and drafts● Annotated bibliography● Book review and drafts
LO 3: Organize and develop essays and documents for both professional and general audiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Research paper and drafts● Resume workshop● Book review and drafts● Vlog presentation
LO 4: Organize and develop essays and documents according to appropriate editorial and citation standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Research paper and drafts● Annotated bibliography● Peer reviews● ASA workshops
LO 5: Locate, organize, and synthesize information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose and to communicate that purpose in writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Research paper and drafts● Journal article synopsis● Annotated bibliography
LO 6: Read from sociological and popular literature from different sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Research paper and drafts● Annotated bibliography● Book review and drafts

Required Texts/Readings

American Sociological Association. 2019. *American Sociological Association Style Guide*. 6th ed. Washington, DC: American Sociological Association. ISBN 978-0-9127764-55-9. **You cannot use an earlier edition.**

Jones, Jennifer, Sarah Quinn, and Hana Brown. *Writing for Sociology*. 2011. 2nd ed. Berkeley, CA: Department of Sociology, University of California, Berkeley. **On Canvas (WfS).**

Other Readings

Additional readings and videos will be posted on Canvas. Students are expected to read or view assigned material before coming to class.

Technology Resources

Computer labs and other resources for student use are available in:

- [Associated Students Print & Technology Center](http://as.sjsu.edu/asptc/index.jsp) at <http://as.sjsu.edu/asptc/index.jsp> on the Student Union (East Wing 2nd floor Suite 2600)
- [The Spartan Floor](https://library.sjsu.edu/services/services) at the MLK Library at <https://library.sjsu.edu/services/services> (Fourth floor)
- [Student Computing Services](https://library.sjsu.edu/student-computing-services/student-computing-services-center) at <https://library.sjsu.edu/student-computing-services/student-computing-services-center>
- [Computers at the Martin Luther King Library](https://www.sjpl.org/wireless) for public at large at <https://www.sjpl.org/wireless>
- Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from [Collaboration & Academic Technology Services](http://www.sjsu.edu/it/services/academic-tech/equipment-loaning/index.php) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/it/services/academic-tech/equipment-loaning/index.php>) located in IRC Building. 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.

Course Resources

The Writing Center: “The San José State University Writing Center offers a variety of resources to help students become better writers, and all of our services are free for SJSU students. Our mission is to enhance the writing skills of SJSU students so they can communicate clearly in any setting (informal, academic, or professional). We accomplish this goal through creating original writing resources, offering workshops, and conducting one-on-one and small-group tutoring sessions.

The SJSU Writing Center has two locations: We conduct drop-in tutoring sessions in Clark Hall, Suite 126; we conduct scheduled appointments on the second floor of the MLK Library. We also offer online tutoring sessions using the Zoom web conferencing platform. All appointments can be made online at sjsu.mywconline.com.

All our writing tutors have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment, register for a workshop, or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>.”

Peer Connections: “Peer Connections is your campus-wide resource for mentoring (time management, note taking, study skills, getting involved, etc.), tutoring (undergraduate writing, lower division Math, Science,

History, Humanities, etc.), and supplemental instruction (review and study sessions for select courses). Peer Connections also has a study space, desktop computers, and success workshops on a wide variety of topics. For more information on services, hours, locations, or a list of current workshops, please visit the website at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.”

Library Liaison

The subject librarian for Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Sciences is Jane Dodge. You can contact her with any questions or to set up a research consult at jane.dodge@sjsu.edu or (408) 808-2321.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Unless otherwise noted, assignments are due at the beginning of class. Papers are considered late after I collect them even if you submit later in the class period.

Extra credit opportunities may be offered at my discretion.

REQUIREMENT	DUE DATE	PERCENT OF FINAL GRADE
Participation and in-class assignments	Continuous	10%
Research and book proposal	February 11	3%
Plagiarism quiz	February 18	2%
Journal article synopsis	February 18	3%
Annotated bibliography	February 25	10%
Critical book review first draft	March 10	7%
Critical book review final draft	March 24	15%
Research paper first draft	April 14	15%
Amazon/Goodreads review	Due at conference	5%
Vlog and comments on vlogs	May 5 by 6:00 p.m. (Comments due by May 8 at 5:00 p.m.)	10%
Research paper final draft	May 19 by 6:00 p.m.	20%

Writing Assignments

Writing assignments include short and long essays in a variety of genres totaling at least 8000 words.

In-Class Activities

In-class writing assignments are included in the 8000-word total, so it is critical that you attend class regularly. You will not be able to make up in-class activities, but your lowest score will be dropped. Even though class is held in a computer lab, please bring paper and writing implements (color is great!) to class every session.

Final Paper and Vlog Presentation

The final paper must meet the criteria outlined by the Goals and Objectives of Area Z, Advanced Writing. If the paper does not meet the standards, then a failing grade will be assigned. You will also be required to create a 5-7 minute oral vlog presentation summarizing your research.

Participation

Participation comprises discussion, engagement in class activities, and submission of thoughtful in-class writing assignments. Active participation is important for success in this course. I will be monitoring your engagement with the course sessions' objectives, and you will be penalized for inappropriate behaviors like going off-task, surfing the web, texting, etc.

Workload and Credit Hour Requirements

“Success in this course 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.”

Grading Information

All assignments will be given point scores rounded to the nearest whole number. These scores will be turned into percentages and weighted according to the table to determine your final course grade. The course percentages will then be assigned a letter grade as follows:

PERCENTAGE	LETTER GRADE	PERCENTAGE	LETTER GRADE
93-100%	A	73-76%	C
90-92%	A minus	70-72%	C minus
87-89%	B plus	67-79%	D plus
83-86%	B	63-66%	D
80-82%	B minus	60-62%	D minus
77-79%	C plus	Below 60	F

You must receive a C or higher to pass the course as an SJSU requirement. You must also submit at least 8000 words (approximately 32 pages) in order to pass. It is your responsibility to monitor your word count across your assignments and adjust your minimum word counts as necessary to meet the 8000-word requirement.

A note about Canvas and grades: Canvas is an online tool to help you organize your learning and assignments. While I will post grades for individual assignments on Canvas, you should not trust the automatic calculations for your final grade. Participation, for example, is not factored into your grade until the end of the course. Additionally, missed or late assignments are not reflected until the grade is adjusted manually. I suggest estimating your grade by using assignment weights and points per assignment. Due to the Family Educational Rights to Privacy Act (FERPA), I am not allowed to email or discuss grades through email. If you plan to discuss your grades during office hours, you must email me 24 hours in advance. If you do not provide me with advance notice, I will not be able to provide a grade estimate.

Late Assignment Policy: Late penalties are applied regardless of circumstance. All late assignments will receive a 10 percent penalty per 24 hours the assignment is late. After 48 hours, you will receive a 0 for the assignment. Note: NO late submissions will be accepted for the final paper and vlog project. You may turn in assignments early.

Classroom Protocol

Attendance: Attendance is not required for this course. However, participation and in-class writing activities account for 10 percent of your grade and cannot be made up. Frequently missing class will have a negative impact on your final grade.

Punctuality: Besides common courtesy to your professor and fellow students, being on time is critical to participation in classroom activities. Many in-class writing assignments will occur at the beginning of class. I will not repeat information provided at the start of class.

Notetaking: With some exceptions, I do not post my PowerPoints or lecture slides to download. I strongly urge you to TAKE NOTES BY HAND on actual paper, as research has shown that students learn better when they take notes in longhand (Mueller and Oppenheimer 2014).

Peer Review: While writing can be a solitary activity, a writing workshop is an opportunity for a collective learning experience. A goal for this class is for all students to help each other improve their writing. We will do this by frequently sharing and workshopping your writing. I will, on occasion, share samples of your writing with the class as a learning exercise. All work shared in this manner will remain anonymous unless the writers choose otherwise. There may also be opportunities for you to volunteer to workshop your projects for extra credit.

We will create guidelines for workshop etiquette as a class, but at a minimum I expect you to respect your classmates. All critique should be offered with the goal of helping each other improve. A hostile classroom environment will not be tolerated.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material: My lectures, slides, assignments, and rubrics are my intellectual property and cannot be shared publicly without approval. You may not publicly share instructor-generated material such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent. I do not allow students to audio or video record my lectures without first seeking written permission.

Electronic Devices: Please silence your cell phone and computer notifications before class begins.

Staying on Task: This is a writing workshop, which means you will have opportunities to work on your projects with access to me and your peers for support. However, that also means that you are expected to work on 100W assignments during class time. A piece of writing is never finished. There is always more revising or editing that can be done before writing the “perfect” paper. If you feel you have finished the activity for the day, I expect you work on your next class project. If I observe you using class time to engage in non-class activities (e.g., surfing the web, chatting with friends, working on homework for other classes, etc.) I will ask you to leave the class for the day. Leaving the class early either by choice or by request will negatively affect your participation grade.

Paper Format: Format your major assignments according to ASA standards except *papers should have 1-inch margins on all sides*. Your papers must follow ASA conventions for citations and references. All assignments must be typed, printed double-sided, and stapled. Formal assignments must include an ASA-style title page (including word count). Most assignments will be submitted as both hard copy and through Turnitin on Canvas. *Read each assignment carefully, as requirements for submission vary*. Canvas submissions should be in .doc or .pdf formats.

Informal and most in-class assignments should include a header at the top of the first page with your name and **word count** for the assignment.

Academic Integrity: You are required to be honest in all of your academic coursework. The SJSU catalog states that plagiarism is “the act of representing the work of another as one’s own without giving appropriate credit, regardless of how that work was obtained, and/or submitting it to fulfill requirements. Plagiarism at SJSU includes but is not limited to: (1) The act of incorporating the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs, or parts of, and/or the specific substance of another’s work without giving appropriate credit, and/or representing the product as one’s own work; and (2) Representing another’s artistic/scholarly works such as musical compositions, computer programs, photographs, paintings, drawings, sculptures, or similar works as one’s own.” Note that I am required to report all infractions to the Office of Student Conduct & Ethical Development.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](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 [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>), which is hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Education. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

SOCI 100W: Writing Workshop, Spring 2020, Course Schedule

Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change. Whenever possible, I will provide at least one week advance notice of any changes.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings/Videos/Websites	Assignment(s) Due
1	1/28	Course overview, introductions, and workshop etiquette	
2	2/4	Library Week – Meet in Room 213 on the second floor of the King Library Read: Yellin Chapters 1 & 5 Watch: The Art of Topic Development (https://vimeo.com/68862655)	
3	2/11	Read: <i>WfS</i> Chapter 1 - Thinking and Reading for College Read: How to Read a Journal Article Read: Goffman – On the Run	Research and book proposal Bring to class: Article for journal article synopsis assignment
4	2/18	Read: Harris and Tyner-Mullings - <i>The Sociology Student's Guide to Writing</i> pp. 61-68; 127-130 Read: <i>WfS</i> 6.1.1 - 6.3.3 (pp. 66-73) Read: Your book	Library plagiarism quiz Journal article synopsis Bring to class: Articles for annotated bibliography
5	2/25	Writing Center Presentation Read: Edwards - Writing a Book Review Read: Yellin - Writing a Book Review	Annotated bibliography
6	3/3	Career Center Week	Bring to class: Your résumé
7	3/10	Read: Edwards - Peer Review Read: Revising Drafts (https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/revising-drafts/)	Book review draft
8	3/17	Read: The Sociology of Writing Sociologically (https://www.everydaysociologyblog.com/2013/07/the-sociology-of-writing-sociologically.html)	Bring to class: Articles from annotated bibliography plus any additional sources you have found

Week	Date	Topics, Readings/Videos/Websites	Assignment(s) Due
9	3/24	Read: <i>WfS</i> 3.3.1 - 3.4 pp. 30-33 - Outlining Read: <i>WfS</i> Chapter 5 pp. 57-64 - Thesis statements and argument	Final draft of book review Bring to class: Hard copy of Kao et al. - "Asian American Men in Romantic Dating Markets" Bring to class: Literature review grid and/or working draft of final paper
10	3/31	Spring Break!	
11	4/7	Read: <i>WfS</i> 4.4-4.7 (pp. 49-55) Read: Yellin - How to Write an Abstract Read: Abstracts (https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/abstracts/)	Bring to class: Working draft of final paper
12	4/14		First draft of final paper
13	4/21	Student Conferences	Amazon review due at Conference
14	4/28	Student Conferences	Amazon review due at Conference
15	5/5	Online Presentations	Vlog due by 6 p.m. - No late submissions accepted Comments due by 5 p.m. on 5/8/20
16	5/12	No Class	
17	5/19		Final Paper due uploaded to Canvas by 6 p.m. - No late submissions accepted

References

- Moore, Kayleigh. 2016. "Study: 73% of Employers Want Candidates with This Skill." <https://www.inc.com/kaleigh-moore/study-73-of-employers-want-candidates-with-this-skill.html>
- Mueller, Pam A., and Daniel M. Oppenheimer. 2014. "The Pen is Mightier Than the Keyboard: Advantages of Longhand over Laptop Note Taking" *Psychological Science* 25(6):1159-1168.