

SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND COMPARATIVE LITERATURE  
**ENGLISH 1A, COMPOSITION 1 (GE A2), SECTION 4**  
FALL 2012

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**Office Hours:** M + W 10:30 a.m.- 12 p.m., T 4:30-5:30 p.m., and by appointment  
**Class Days/Time:** M+W 7:30-8:45

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

English 1A is the first course in SJSU's two-semester lower-division composition sequence; it provides an introduction to baccalaureate-level composition, with attention to the "personal voice" and personal experience, on the one hand, and the more formal attitudes and demands of writing at the university (expository and argumentative essays), on the other. Students will develop college-level reading abilities, rhetorical sophistication, and writing styles that give form and coherence to complex ideas and feelings. **Prerequisites:** Placement by the English Proficiency Test (EPT), or passage of an approved substitute course for the EPT.

**COURSE GOALS AND STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

Students shall achieve the ability to write complete essays that demonstrate college-level proficiency in all of the following:

- Clear and effective communication of meaning.
- An identifiable focus, tailored to a particular audience and purpose (argumentative essays will state their thesis clearly and show implied or stated awareness of some opposing point of view).
- The ability to perform effectively the essential steps of the writing process (prewriting, organizing, composing, revising, and editing).
- The ability to explain, analyze, develop, and criticize ideas effectively.
- Effective use within their own essays of supporting material drawn from reading or other sources.
- Effective organization within the paragraph and the essay.
- Accuracy, variety, and clarity of sentences.
- Appropriate diction.
- Control of conventional mechanics (e.g., punctuation, spelling, reference, agreement).

**STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES (SLO):**

**1:** Students shall write complete essays that demonstrate the ability to perform effectively the essential steps in the writing process (prewriting, organizing, composing, revising, and editing).

**2:** Students shall write complete essays that demonstrate the ability to express (explain, analyze, develop, and criticize) ideas effectively.

**3:** Students shall write complete essays that demonstrate the ability to use correct grammar (syntax, mechanics, and citation of sources) at a college level of sophistication.

**4:** Students shall write complete essays that demonstrate the ability to write for different audiences.

## REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

- Online reading at [maranhas1a.blogspot.com](http://maranhas1a.blogspot.com)
- College-level dictionary
- Notebook for in-class exercises, blue books for in-class essays

## COURSE GUIDELINES

**Writing:** In-class exercises and a series of essays will give you practice in prewriting, organizing, writing, revising, editing, and proofreading. A series of in-class and out-of-class essays, including substantive rewrites, will total 8,000 words for the semester. This minimum requirement excludes the final exam, in-class writing exercises, and journals. Out-of-class essays must be typed (Times New Roman, 12).

**Reading:** Reading is an essential part of learning to write well. Throughout the semester, you will keep a journal to reflect on assigned readings. Prompts will be given before each assignment. Please come to class prepared to discuss the readings.

**Final Assignment:** This course does not have a final exam. Instead, you will write a critical reflection essay at the end of the semester, worth 10% of your grade. In this essay, you will reflect on the progress of your work over the course of the semester. A prompt and rubric will be provided.

## GENERAL CLASS POLICIES

Come to class on time and prepared. Participation in class discussions will affect your grade. You are responsible for all policies on syllabus, no exceptions. No cell phones.

## LATE WORK

**In-class essays:** may be made up during office hours if advance notice (24 hours) of absence or a doctor's note is provided. For advance notice less than 24 hours, in-class essays can be made up during office hours and will be deducted a full letter grade.

**Out-of-class essays:** Hard copies are due at the beginning of class on the due date. (Remember that printers jam and lines at computer labs can be long. Make arrangements to print your work the day before the deadline to avoid lateness.) **Any essays that are not turned in via hard copy at the beginning of class on the due date will be considered late.**

**Late deadlines:** For the first three out-of-class essays, an extended deadline will be offered, beginning after the collection of essays in class and ending at a designated time and date later in the week (see Course Schedule). Essays submitted during this period will be accepted only via email, with the subject line: LATE (ASSIGNMENT NAME). Late essays that meet these guidelines will be deducted a full letter grade. Late essays that fail to meet these guidelines or are not received by the extended deadline will receive an F grade. **Note:** Late essays will **not** be accepted for Revision and Final Reflection.

**Reading journal assignments:** cannot be made up or submitted after the deadline. Missed journal assignments will receive a "0" score.

## ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING POLICY

**Grading:** This class must be passed with a **C or better** to move on to CORE GE Area C3 and to satisfy the prerequisite for English 1B. (**C- or lower is not acceptable.**) A

passing grade in the course signifies that the student is a capable college-level writer and reader of English. Grades in English Department courses reflect the quality of student writing as well as the quality of ideas being conveyed. All student writing should be distinguished by correct grammar and punctuation, appropriate diction and syntax, and well-organized paragraphs. Participation is determined by demonstrated effort (showing up on time, meeting deadlines, adhering to guidelines and course policies).

**Final grade will be determined as follows:**

At-home and revised essays	50%
In-class essays	20%
Participation and Reading Journal	20%
Final Critical Reflection Essay	10%

Essays will be graded by the following criteria:

An “**A**” 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.

A “**B**” essay demonstrates competence in the same categories as an “A” essay, but it may show slight weakness in one of these areas. It will respond to the topic suitably and may contain some grammatical, mechanical or usage errors.

A “**C**” essay will complete the requirements of the assignment, but it will show weaknesses in fundamentals, such as development. It may show significant weakness in mastery of grammar, mechanics, usage, or voice.

A “**D**” essay will neglect to meet all the requirements of the assignment or may be superficial in its treatment of the topic. It may lack development or fail to stay on topic. It may contain grammatical, mechanical, and/or usage errors that interfere with reader comprehension.

An “**F**” essay does not fulfill the requirements of the assignment.

**Letter grade to percentage scale**

A+	97-100	
A	93-96	
A-	90-92	
B+	87-89	
B	83-86	
B-	80-82	
C+	77-79	
C	73-76	Satisfies requirement for 1B
C-	70-72	Does not satisfy requirement for 1B
D+	67-69	
D	65-66	
D-	60-64	
F	59 or lower	

### **WRITING AND ACADEMIC RESOURCES**

The **SJSU Writing Center** is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. The Writing Center website is located at [www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/).

**Peer Connections** The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) and the Peer Mentor Program have merged to become Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring. Areas of assistance include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals. Peer Connections is located in SSC 600 (10th Street Garage), at the first floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. See the Peer Connections website for more information at [www.peerconnections.sjsu.edu](http://www.peerconnections.sjsu.edu).

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM**

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University's Academic Integrity policy, located at [www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm), 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 [www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial\\_affairs/index.html](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html).

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

### **ADDING AND DROPPING CLASSES**

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's Catalog Policies section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found at [www.sjsu.edu/academic\\_programs/calendars/academic\\_calendar/](http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/). The Late Drop Policy is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes/ Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at [www.sjsu.edu/advising/](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/).

### **CAMPUS POLICY IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICAN DISABILITIES ACT**

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must

register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/> to establish a record of their disability.

**IMPORTANT SJSU DATES FALL 2012**

Wednesday	August 22	First Day of Instruction
Monday	September 3	Labor Day (Campus Closed)
Tuesday	September 4	Last Drop Day
Tuesday	September 11	Last Day to Add Courses & Register Late
Monday	November 12	Veteran’s Day (Campus Closed)
Thurs/Fri	November 22/3	Thanksgiving Break
Monday	December 10	Last Day of Instruction

**ENGLISH 1A, FALL 2012, GENERAL COURSE SCHEDULE**

WK	DATE	ASSIGNMENTS
		Weekly readings and journal assignments will be posted on <a href="http://maranhas1a.blogspot.com">maranhas1a.blogspot.com</a>
	8/22	Course Introduction
1	8/27	<b>Unit I: Finding Your Voice</b> [SLO 1, 2] Prewriting Techniques, First Drafts, Experimenting with Style, Observing + Using Detail
	8/29	IN-CLASS ESSAY 1
2	9/3	LABOR DAY — CAMPUS CLOSED
	9/5	
3	9/10	<b>NARRATIVE ESSAY DUE (Late deadline: 8 a.m. on 9/14)</b>
	9/12	
4	9/17-19	Unit I Review, Strategies for Revision [SLO 1, 2]
5	9/24-26	<b>Unit II: Developing Ideas</b> [SLO 1, 2, 4] Identifying Purpose and Audience, Rhetorical Strategies, Thinking and Reading Critically
6	10/1	IN-CLASS ESSAY 2
	10/3	
7	10/8	<b>CAUSE + EFFECT ESSAY DUE (Late deadline: 8 a.m. on 10/12)</b>
	10/10	

(CONTINUED)

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
8	10/15-17	Unit II Review, Strategies for Revision [SLO 1,2,4]
9	10/22-24	<b>Unit III: Writing with Style</b> [SLO 1, 2, 3, 4] Focus on Grammar + Revision, Being Clear and Concise
10	10/29 10/31	IN-CLASS ESSAY 3
11	11/5 11/7	<b>ESSAY (TBA) DUE (Late deadline: 8 a.m. on 11/9)</b>
12	11/12 11/14	VETERAN'S DAY — CAMPUS CLOSED
13	11/19-21	Reflective Essay Prep [SLO 1, 2, 3, 4]
14	11/26 11/28	REFLECTIVE ESSAY DEADLINE TBA ( <b>No late deadline</b> )
15	10/3 10/5	Unit III Review [SLO 1, 2, 3, 4] <b>REVISION ESSAY DUE (No late deadline)</b>
16	10/10	<b>Last Day of Instruction</b>