

San José State University
Department of English and Comparative Literature
English 1A, Composition 1 (GE A2), Section 31, Fall 2013

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Office Hours:	MW 10:30-11:30, and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	MW 12:00-13:15
Classroom:	SH 240
Prerequisites:	EPT or approved substitute course
GE Category:	Written Communication A2

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 an awareness, implied or stated, 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).

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

SLO 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.

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

Information available online

You are responsible for reading the following information online at

HYPERLINK "http://www.sjsu.edu/english/comp/policyforsyllabi.html"

<http://www.sjsu.edu/english/comp/policyforsyllabi.html>

Course guidelines

Academic policies (academic integrity, plagiarism, ADA and DRC policies)

Adding and dropping classes

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Cohen, Samuel. *50 Essays*. 3rd ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martins, 2011.

Hacker, Diana and Nancy Sommers. *The Bedford Handbook*. 8th ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martins, 2010.

A college-level dictionary like *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*.

Classroom Protocol

Late Work

Unless you make arrangements prior to the class meetings in which they are due and cite compelling reasons, all out-of-class assignments must be turned in when indicated on the schedule, and you will be penalized one-third of a letter grade for each day they are late. I do not accept email submissions. No regular in-class work may be made up, including that missed because you were tardy. In-class essays may be made up only at my discretion.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Course Assignments and Grading Breakdown:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Percentage of Total</u>	<u>Minimum Word Count</u>
Analytical Essay	10%	1,000
Argumentative Essay	10%	1,000
Exploratory Essay	10%	1,000
Exploratory Essay Revision	10%	2,000
In-class essays	20% (5% for each)	2,000 (500 each)
Final Assignment	10%	1,000
Grammar	10%	n/a
In-class work (reading responses, quizzes, workshops)	20%	n/a

You must complete all essays and the final assignment in order to pass English 1A. The specifics of the essay assignments will be covered on the assignment sheets.

Final Assignment:

Instead of a final exam, you will write a critical reflection at the end of the class. Think of it as a scientific study of your progress as a writer over the next four months. Remember, writing is a *process*. Collecting your work and then reflecting on that work is part of the process. The final assignment is designed to get you thinking about your specific challenges, your strategies for improvement, your successes and failures, and your goals for the future. Every writer, no matter how accomplished, has room for improvement. This assignment is your culminating experience. This course does not have a final exam.

Grading:

A-F, in which A \geq 93%, A- \geq 90%, B+ \geq 87%, B \geq 83%, B- \geq 80%, C+ \geq 77%, C \geq 73%, C- \geq 70%, D+ \geq 67%, D \geq 63%, D- \geq 60%, and F $<$ 60%. This class must be passed with a C or better to satisfy the prerequisite for English 1B and move on to CORE GE Area C3. A passing grade in the course signifies that the student is a capable college-level writer and reader of English.

English 1A, Fall 2012, Course Schedule

This schedule is a plan. Since, as Robert Burns put it, "the best laid schemes o' mice an' men [and presumably women] gang aft a-gley," be prepared for changes. You are responsible for all material covered and assigned in class, whether it appears on the schedule or not. Keep in touch. Complete reading assignments for the class date on which they appear. Print out the reading assignments on Desire2Learn (D2L) and bring to class.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Aug 26-28	DIAGNOSTIC IN-CLASS ESSAY –bring green book (SLO 1,2,3,4). □ □ Reading: "Expectations for College Writing" (Lunsford 12-19) (SLO 3); "Rhetorical Situations" (Lunsford 48-59) (SLO 1); "Use Effective Methods of Development" (Lunsford 82-88) (SLO 1); ANALYTICAL ESSAY ASSIGNED; □ Grammar in <i>Lunsford</i> : 32 Verbs, 33 Subject-Verb Agreement (SLO 3).
2	Sep 2-4	Reading: Gloria Anzaldúa (50 Essays 33-45); □ Maxine Hong Kingston (50 Essays 221-233); □ Jonathan Swift (50 Essays 387-395); □ Ernest Hemingway (CANVAS) (print out; we will read in class) (SLO 3); □ Grammar in <i>Lunsford</i> : 34 Pronouns (SLO 3).
3	Sep 9-11	Reading: "Critical Reading" (Lunsford 129-143) (SLO 1);
4	Sep 16-18	Reading: Marie Winn (50 Essays 438-447); □ James Libby (CANVAS); Grammar Quiz #1 (SLO 3). □ □ ANALYTICAL ESSAY PEER-REVIEW WORKSHOP (SLO 1);

5	Sep 23-25	IN-CLASS ESSAY – bring green book (SLO 1,2,3,4); ANALYTICAL ESSAY DUE (SLO 1,2,3,4). IN-CLASS ESSAY – bring green book (SLO 1,2,3,4); Reading: "Constructing Arguments" (Lunsford 161-184) (SLO 1); ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY ASSIGNED (SLO 1,2,3,4); Grammar in Lunsford: 26 Consistency and Completeness (SLO 3).
6	Sep 30-Oct 2	Reading: Martin Luther King, Jr. (rhetoric) (50 Essays 203-220); Grammar in Lunsford: 27 Parallelism (SLO 3). Reading: Martin Luther King, Jr. (counterargument) (50 Essays 203-220); Clergymen's Letter (CANVAS); Grammar in Lunsford: 28 Shifts (SLO 3).
7	Oct 7-9	Reading: Plato (50 Essays 292-299) or Kolbert (CANVAS); "Letter" (Lunsford 658-660) (SLO 1); Grammar in Lunsford: 36 Modifier Placement (SLO 3). ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY PEER-REVIEW WORKSHOP (SLO 1); Grammar Quiz #2 (SLO 3).
8	Oct 14-16	IN-CLASS ESSAY – bring green book (SLO 1,2,3,4); ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY DUE (SLO 1,2,3,4). Reading: Sarah Vowell (50 Essays 412-419); EXPLORATORY ESSAY ASSIGNED (SLO 1,2,3,4).
9	Oct 21-23	Reading: James Baldwin (50

		Essays 50-71). □ Reading: Sherman Alexie (50 Essays 15-19); □ E. B. White (50 Essays 431-437).
10	Oct 28-30	Reading: "Reviewing and Revising" (Lunsford 104-116) (SLO 1); □ "Editing and Reflecting" (Lunsford 117-125) (SLO 1); □ FINAL REFLECTION ASSIGNED (SLO 1,2,3,4); □ Grammar Quiz #3 (SLO 3). □ □ Reading: "Workshop Etiquette" and "Workshop Logistics" (CANVAS) (SLO 1); □ EXPLORATORY ESSAY DUE (SLO 1,2,3,4).
11	Nov 4-6	WRITING WORKSHOP (SLO 1). □
12	Nov 11-13	VETERANS DAY □ WRITING WORKSHOP (SLO 1).
13	Nov 18-20	WRITING WORKSHOP (SLO 1). □
14	Nov 25-27	IN-CLASS ESSAY –bring green book (SLO 1,2,3,4); □ EXPLORATORY ESSAY REVISION DUE (SLO 1,2,3,4). □ □ Grammar Test (SLO 3).
15	Dec 2-4	Final Reflection preparation. □ □ FINAL REFLECTION ESSAY PEER-REVIEW WORKSHOP (SLO 1).
16	Dec 10	Post mortem on the semester; All graded work returned; □ FINAL REFLECTION DUE.

