

SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND COMPARATIVE LITERATURE
ENGLISH 1A, COMPOSITION 1 (GE A2), SECTION 32
SPRING 2013

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Office Hours: M + W 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. and by appointment
Class Days/Time: F 9:00 – 11:45 a.m.

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.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE

You are responsible for reading the following information online at <http://www.sjsu.edu/english/comp/policy/index.html>

- Course guidelines
- Academic policies (academic integrity, plagiarism, ADA and DRC policies)
- Estimation of Per-Unit Student Workload
- Recording policies
- Adding and dropping classes

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

- Online reading at maranhas1a.blogspot.com
- Notebook for in-class exercises, green 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 information, assignments, and deadlines from missed classes—no exceptions. No cell phones.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

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 only and will be deducted a full letter grade.

Out-of-class essays: We will be using turnitin.com for assignments. Class ID is **6016159** and the password is **maranhas**. For each essay, you will be given a cover sheet of assignment and submission guidelines. Failure to follow guidelines will affect grade.

Late deadlines: Essays received after the posted deadline will be penalized by one letter grade (up to one week after deadline) or two letter grades (between one and two weeks after deadline). Any essay that is not submitted within two weeks of deadline will receive an F. **Note:** Late Revision or Final Reflection essays will **not** be accepted.

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	

TUTORING AND MENTORING SERVICES



The **SJSU Writing Center** is located in Clark Hall, Room 126. All Writing Specialists 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 one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the Writing Center's numerous online resources, visit <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.

Peer Connections The Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) and the Peer Mentor Program have merged to become Peer Connections. Peer Connections is the new campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring. Our staff is here to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. Students are encouraged to take advantage of our services which include 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.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three 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 at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

IMPORTANT SJSU DATES SPRING 2013

Wed	January 23	First Day of Instruction – Classes Begin
Mon	February 4	Last Day to Drop Without Entry on Permanent Record
Mon	February 11	Last Day to Add Courses & Register Late
Tues	February 19	Enrollment Census Date
Week	March 25-29	Spring Recess
Mon	April 1	Cesar Chavez Day Observed - Campus Closed
Mon	May 13	Last Day of Instruction – Last Day of Classes
Tues	May 14	Study/Conference Day (no classes or exams)
Sat	May 25	End of Academic Year - End of Spring Semester
Sat	May 25	Commencement
Mon	May 27	Memorial Day - Campus Closed (M)

ENGLISH 1A, SPRING 2013, COURSE SCHEDULE

WK	DATE	ASSIGNMENTS Weekly readings and journal assignments will be posted on maranhas1a.blogspot.com
1	1/25	Course Introduction
2	2/1	Intro to Unit I: Finding Your Voice [SLO 1, 2, 4] Prewriting Techniques, First Drafts, Experimenting with Style, Observing + Using Detail IN-CLASS ESSAY 1
3	2/8	Telling a story; “On the Fringes” [SLO 2, 4] Prewriting + drafts; “Let’s Not Get to Know Each Other” [SLO 1, 2]
4	2/15	Showing with detail; “My Drop-out Boyfriend” [SLO 1, 2, 4] “MODERN LOVE” NARRATIVE ESSAY DUE [SLO 1, 2, 4]
5	2/22	Personal style; “The Catch,” “Hair Like Sadness” [SLO 2, 4] Unit I Review, Strategies for Revision [SLO 1, 2, 3, 4]
6	3/1	Unit II: Developing Ideas [SLO 1, 2, 4] Identifying Purpose and Audience, Thinking and Reading Critically Purpose and audience; “Song for the Special,” [SLO 2, 4]
7	3/8	Examining cause + effect; “The Good Daughter,” [SLO 2, 4] IN-CLASS ESSAY 2 [SLO 2, 4]
8	3/15	Choosing what matters; “Finding My Marathon Legs” [SLO 2, 4] “Dancing with Papa” [SLO 2, 3, 4]
9	3/22	Unit II Review, Strategies for Revision [SLO 1,2,4] “LIVES” CAUSE + EFFECT ESSAY DUE
	3/25-3/29	S P R I N G B R E A K
10	4/5	Unit III: Writing with Style [SLO 1, 2, 3, 4] Editing + Polishing Language; “Duck Blind Lessons”
11	4/12	“Always Go to the Funeral,” “Thanks to My Ghosts” [SLO 1, 2, 3] IN-CLASS ESSAY 3
12	4/19	Common grammar workshop, “Remembering All the Boys,” “Marking the World One Patient at a Time” [SLO 1, 2, 3] “BELIEVE” ESSAY DUE [SLO 1, 2, 3, 4]
13	4/26	Short + Sweet, “Diary” and “Complaint Box” readings [SLO 2, 3, 4] Polishing Your Words [SLO 2, 3]
14	5/3	Reflective Essay Prep [SLO 1, 2, 3, 4] Unit III Review [SLO 1, 2, 3, 4]
15	5/10	REVISION ESSAY DUE Last Day of Instruction FINAL CRITICAL REFLECTION DUE 5/13 (MON)