

San José State University
Department of English and Comparative Literature
English 1A, Composition 1 (GE A2), Section 27, Fall 2014

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Office Hours:	MW 10:30-11:30, and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	MW 13:30-14:45
Classroom:	BBC 122
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

Students shall

- 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.

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*. 4th ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martins, 2014.

Lunsford, Andrea. *The Everyday Writer w/ Exercises*. 5th ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2013.

Kolbert, Elizabeth. *The Sixth Extinction*. New York: MacMillan, 2014.

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.

Attendance

According to University policy F69-24, "Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class." It is simple: If you do not attend class regularly, you will not do well.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Course Assignments and Grading Breakdown

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Percentage of Total</u>	<u>Minimum Word Count</u>
Exploratory Essay Workshop Draft		1,000
Exploratory Essay Revised Draft	20%	2,000
Argumentative Essay Workshop Draft		1,000
Argumentative Essay Revised Draft	20%	2,000
Rhetorical Paragraphs	10%	1,000
In-class essays	15% (5% for each)	1,500 (500 each)
In-class work	20%	n/a
Final Exam	15%	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.

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, Sec 27, Fall 2014, 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 25-27	DIAGNOSTIC IN-CLASS ESSAY—bring green book (SLO 1,2,3,4,5).
2	Sep 1-3	<i>LABOR DAY</i> Reading: "The Top Twenty" (Lunsford 3-12) (SLO 5);
3	Sep 8-10	Reading: Al Young (both essays) (CANVAS) (SLO 1); NARRATIVE PARAGRAPH ASSIGNED; Top 20 in <i>Lunsford</i> : 5) Spelling, 6) Quotation Error, 7) Unnecessary Comma, 8) Capitalization (SLO 5). Reading: Langston Hughes (50 Essays 182-184) (SLO 1); Zora Neale Hurston (50 Essays 185-189) (SLO 1); DESCRIPTION PARAGRAPH ASSIGNED; Top 20 in <i>Lunsford</i> : 9) Missing Word, 10) Faulty Sentence Structure, 11) Missing Comma (nonrestrictive), 12) Shift in Verb Tense (SLO 5).
4	Sep 15-17	Reading: E. B. White (50 Essays 458-464); NARRATIVE PARAGRAPH DUE (SLO 2,3); Top 20 in <i>Lunsford</i> : 13) Missing Comma (compound sentence), 14) Apostrophe, 15) Fused Sentence, 16) Comma Splice (SLO

		5). Reading: Julia Wheatley (CANVAS); DESCRIPTION PARAGRAPH DUE (SLO 2,3); Top 20 in <i>Lunsford</i> : 17) Pronoun Agreement, 18) Poorly Integrated Quotation, 19) Hyphen Error, 20) Fragment (SLO 5).
5	Sep 22-24	Grammar and Mechanics Quiz (SLO 5). Reading: "Workshop Etiquette" and "Workshop Logistics" (CANVAS) (SLO 1); EXPLORATORY ESSAY WORKSHOP DRAFT DUE (SLO 1,2,3,4,5).
6	Sep 29-Oct 1	EXPLORATORY ESSAY WORKSHOP (SLO 1,3).
7	Oct 6-8	EXPLORATORY ESSAY WORKSHOP (SLO 1,3).
8	Oct 13-15	EXPLORATORY ESSAY WORKSHOP (SLO 1,3). IN-CLASS ESSAY—bring green book (SLO 1,2,3,4,5). EXPLORATORY ESSAY REVISION DUE (SLO 1,2,3,4,5).
9	Oct 20-22	Viewing: Elizabeth Colbert interviewed on Daily Show (elizabethkolbert.com); Reading: The Sixth Extinction (1-46); ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY ASSIGNED; EXAMPLE PARAGRAPH ASSIGNED. Reading: The Sixth Extinction (47-91); DEFINITION PARAGRAPH ASSIGNED.
10	Oct 27-29	Reading: The Sixth Extinction (92-110); Joan Didion (50 Essays 111-117); Verlyn

		Klinkenborg (50 Essays 240-244); EXAMPLE PARAGRAPH DUE. Reading: Elizabeth Kolbert (1) (CANVAS);
11	Nov 3-5	Reading: The Sixth Extinction (148-192); CAUSE/EFFECT PARAGRAPH DUE; COMPARISON/CONTRAST PARAGRAPH ASSIGNED. Reading: The Sixth Extinction (193-216);
12	Nov 10-12	Nov 10 Reading: The Sixth Extinction (217-269);
13	Nov 17-19	ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY WORKSHOP (SLO 1,3).
14	Nov 24-26	ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY WORKSHOP (SLO 1,3).
15	Dec 1-3	ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY WORKSHOP (SLO 1,3). IN-CLASS ESSAY—bring green book (SLO 1,2,3,4,5).
16	Dec 8-10	ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY REVISION DUE (SLO 1,2,3,4,5). FINAL EXAM PREP; Grammar and Mechanics Quiz (SLO 5). Post mortem on the semester.
	Dec 16	FINAL EXAM Section 27, 12:15-14:30.