

English 1B: But Ain't That America: Our Customs and Traditions  
San José State University, Spring 2014



Instructor: Daniel Hendel De La O  
Course: Composition 2 (GE C3; 3 Units)  
Course Information: Section 3 (20344)  
Meetings: Mo/We 7:30 – 9:00 AM, Clark Hall 238  
Office: Faculty Offices 111  
Office Hours: Tu/Th 10:30 – 11:30 AM or by appointment  
Phone: 408.924.5019  
Email: dhdela0@gmail.com  
Web: eazone.blogspot.com

*Oh, but ain't that America for you and me  
Ain't that America, somethin' to see, baby  
Ain't that America, home of the free  
Little pink houses for you and me*

—John Cougar Mellencamp, “Pink Houses”

### Course Theme

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This semester's 1B course will examine America's unique customs and rituals. Because American society is pluralistic, it is not often thought of as being a ritualized culture. But from birth to death, Americans do indeed mark significant events and passages in their lives in collective ways. For instance, what do events, such as prom night and Super Bowl Sunday, say about us as a nation? While some human experiences transcend race, gender, nationality, and class to shape common practices, other rituals are as unique as the individuals who practice them. We will read a diverse assemblage of texts exploring how our customs and rituals define us as a people.

### Required Materials

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All books are available in an electronic edition (e.g. Kindle, Nook), though pagination may vary from print editions.

#### Books:

- *All Over but the Shoutin'* by Rick Bragg (ISBN: 0679774025)
- *One Perfect Day: The Selling of the American Wedding* by Rebecca Mead (ISBN: 0143113844)

#### Writing guide:

*The Everyday Writer with Exercises* (5th Edition) by Andrea A. Lunsford (ISBN: 1457612674)

### Course Description

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English 1B is the second course in SJSU's two-semester lower-division composition sequence. Beyond providing repeated practice in planning and executing essays, and broadening and deepening students' understanding of the genres, audiences, and purposes of college writing, English 1B differs from English 1A in its emphasis on persuasive and critical writing (with less attention paid to the personal essay), its requirement for fewer but longer essays, and its introduction to writing informed by research. Students will develop sophistication in writing analytical, argumentative, and critical essays; a mature writing style appropriate to university discourse; reading abilities that will provide an adequate foundation for upper-division work; proficiency in basic library research skills and in writing papers informed by research; and mastery of the mechanics of writing.

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Prerequisite:

Passage of Written Communication 1A (C or better) or approved equivalent.

### Course Goals

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Building on the college-level proficiencies required in English 1A, students shall achieve the ability to write complete essays that demonstrate advanced proficiency in all of the following:

- Clear and effective communication of meaning
- An identifiable focus (argumentative essays will state their thesis clearly and will show an awareness, implied or stated, of some opposing point of view)
- An appropriate voice that demonstrates an awareness of audience and purpose
- Careful attention to review and revision
- Effective and correct use of supporting materials, including independent research (e.g., quoting, paraphrasing, summarizing, and citing sources)
- Effective analysis, interpretation, evaluation, and synthesis of ideas encountered in multiple readings
- Effective organization and development of ideas at paragraph and essay levels
- Appropriate and effective sentence structure and diction
- Command of conventional mechanics (e.g., punctuation, spelling, reference, agreement)

### Student Learning Objectives

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Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) are as follows:

- SLO 1: Students shall write complete essays that demonstrate the ability to refine the competencies established in Written Communication 1A.
- SLO 2: Students shall write complete essays that demonstrate the ability to use (locate, analyze, and evaluate) supporting materials, including independent library research, and identify key concepts and terms that describe the information needed.
- SLO 3: Students shall write complete essays that demonstrate the ability to select efficient and effective approaches for accessing information utilizing an appropriate investigative method or information retrieval system.
- SLO 4: Students shall write complete essays that demonstrate the ability to synthesize ideas encountered in multiple readings.
- SLO 5: Students shall write complete essays that demonstrate the ability to incorporate principles of design and communication to construct effective arguments.
- SLO 6: Students shall write complete essays that demonstrate the ability to identify and discuss issues related to censorship and freedom of speech.

### SJSU Academic Policies

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You are responsible for reading SJSU's academic policies which are available online @[www.sjsu.edu/english/comp/policyforsyllabi.html](http://www.sjsu.edu/english/comp/policyforsyllabi.html).

### Estimation of Per-Unit Student Workload

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Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practice. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

### Recording Policies

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Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes

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only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.

Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.

### ***The Everyday Writer and LearningCurve***

The new fifth edition of Andrea A. Lunsford's *The Everyday Writer with Exercises* contains an access code for LearningCurve (<http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/beta/everydaywriter5e/learningcurve/92533>) an online adaptive quizzing program. LearningCurve quickly deciphers what you already know and helps you practice what you don't yet understand. It also provides you immediate feedback after each question, as well as cross references to additional instruction in *The Everyday Writer*.

Purchasing options:

- Print editions may be purchased at the Spartan Bookstore (ISBN: 9781457600043) or from Bedford/St. Martin's online (<http://bedfordstmartins.com>)
- To purchase an electronic edition (which includes access to LearningCurve), visit the Spartan Bookstore (ISBN: 9781457633423) or Bedford/St. Martin's online (<http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/everydaywriter5e/>)
- If you own a used copy of *The Everyday Writer*, a new LearningCurve access code must be purchased from either the Spartan Bookstore (ISBN: 9781457643637) or Bedford/St. Martin's online (<http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/everydaywriter/lc>)
- If you own an edition older than the 5th, you will need to purchase a new LearningCurve access code from either the Spartan Bookstore (ISBN: 9781457643637) or Bedford/St. Martin's (<http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/everydaywriter/lc>)

If you have any questions or problems logging in, please contact Bedford/St. Martin's Technical Support. You may reach a representative via:

- Phone: 1.800.936.6899—*for fastest service*
- Email: [BFW.TechnicalSupport@macmillan.com](mailto:BFW.TechnicalSupport@macmillan.com)
- Online: <http://www.macmillanhighered.com/techsupport>

### **SJSU Writing Center**

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 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 numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website @ <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>.

### **Next Generation Learning Spaces**

This semester, we are fortunate to have as our home, Clark Hall 238. This room is one of only a few "Next Generation Learning Spaces" on campus. These classrooms come specially equipped with state-of-the-art audio, visual, and lecture capture technology. This technology facilitates better collaboration and communication between students and instructors/speakers, on and off campus. As there is a presentation component to this class, you are highly encouraged to take full advantage of these tools.

## MLA Style

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As is standard in American English classes, all typed work must be submitted in MLA Style. Samples are located in both *The Everyday Writer* and online at EauZone. Again, unstapled work will never be accepted. Please follow this sample heading for all typed work:

Name

1B: Section number

Assignment

Date

## Class Protocols

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- In an effort to make you a better editor of your own work, I will sometimes make sentence-level corrections to only one page or paragraph of your essay. You should assume that the corrections I've made are applicable to your entire essay.
- All writing assignments are due on the dates indicated on EauZone, which contains the most up-to-date schedule and information.
- In order to assist you in keeping track of your grade, I have provided you with a blank grading log. It can be found inside the chart under the “Course Work” section of this syllabus.
- I will not accept *any* assignments that are unstapled.
- Late assignments must be emailed to me no later than the following class after the due date. However, they will be lowered one letter grade—I *will not accept an assignment beyond this point*.
- Assignments submitted via email, will be graded as any other. However, no marked-up hard copy will be returned to you.
- Without prior notification, missed in-class essays and presentations cannot be made up. If you must miss your presentation date, make prior arrangements with a classmate to switch days.
- You will automatically be docked 5 points off your final draft grade for coming to class on a writers workshop day without an essay.
- There is a participation component to your grade. Though only 10 points, it could mean the difference between letter grades. To receive all or most of these points, it is important that you actively engage in the classroom experience (e.g. frequently asking questions and/or commenting). Simply attending class is not sufficient to garner full points, as they are based on active participation, not attendance.
- *If extra-credit is offered, it will only be once, so please stay up-to-date on your assignments.*
- The use of laptops during class is restricted to note taking only—*absolutely no social media during class time*.
- I consider it highly disrespectful to sleep in class. If you fall asleep in class, you will be awoken and asked to leave.
- If you come to class after the first 15 minutes, please wait for an appropriate moment to enter so as not to disturb the class. Likewise, please do not pack up before our class time is over—I'll be sure to get you out of class on time.
- I am always happy to correspond via email. However, please:
  - Indicate your section number in the subject line or somewhere in the body. This helps me reply to your email more quickly.
  - Email me individually rather than as a reply to a group message because I can easily miss these responses.
  - Note that due to the high volume of email I receive daily, it may take me a day (or two) to respond.

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- Do not message me to ask what happened in class on the day you were absent. As soon possible, obtain the email addresses of at least two other members of the class. They should be able to fill you in on any relevant information.
- Do not contact me if you miss class unless it affects an in-class essay or presentation.

### Editing Marks Guide

Here is a guide to some of the editing symbols (some standard, some my own) you'll be seeing on your papers this semester.

Symbol	Meaning	Symbol	Meaning
^	<i>Insert</i>	AWK	<i>Ankward phrasing</i>
↑	<i>Fix spacing issue—usually when text is not properly double-spaced</i>	ITL	<i>Either add or remove italics</i>
→	<i>Indent 1x</i>	FRAG	<i>Fragment</i>
→ →	<i>Indent 2x</i>	HEAD	<i>Issue with page header</i>
+	<i>Good point</i>	CS	<i>Comma splice</i>
?	<i>Meaning unclear</i>	RO	<i>Run-on sentence</i>
#	<i>Add space</i>	SP	<i>Spelling</i>
" "	<i>Add quotation marks</i>	SV	<i>Subject-verb agreement</i>
¶	<i>Start new paragraph</i>	TC	<i>Title case</i>
@	<i>Delete</i>	TNR	<i>Change font to Times New Roman</i>
2x	<i>Double-space</i>	WC	<i>Word choice</i>

### EauZone

I maintain the EauZone ([eauzone.blogspot.com](http://eauzone.blogspot.com)) as a centralized location for assignments, reminders, documents, important dates, links, and general class information. It also contains an easy-to-reference archive of the course work. In addition, this website will be the location of the course's eReader (eR). These Web articles are required to complete some assignments.

On the homepage, click on “English 1B: But Ain’t That America” under “Spring 2014 Courses” to be routed to our page. Feel free to use the “Comments” function in each posting; it is often a helpful way to communicate with classmates.

### Grading Criteria

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.

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**Course Work**

Class sessions will employ a combination of lectures, group discussions, presentations, and writing workshops that will cover a range of activities, including analyzing, interpreting, outlining, revising, and editing.

All typed essays are approximately three full pages (750 words) and must be in MLA Style. Also, unless otherwise noted, all typed essays must always include a works cited page. Your semester's coursework is comprised of:

Item	Description	SLO	Word Count*	Writers Workshop	In-class Essay	Point Value	Grade Log
<i>Diagnostic</i>	This in-class essay will be my first opportunity to evaluate your writing.	1-4	400		✓	0	
<i>Formal Email</i>	After reading about American business etiquette, you will write a professional email thanking a prospective employer after an interview.	2-4	100			10	
<i>Comparative Analysis</i>	In this in-class comparative analysis, you will compare and contrast our readings about life and death customs and rituals.	2-4	400		✓	20	
<i>Persuasive</i>	Utilizing Rebecca Mead's <i>One Perfect Day</i> , you will argue against the consumerism and commercialization of contemporary American weddings.	1-4	750	✓		20	

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Item	Description	SLO	Word Count*	Writers Workshop	In-class Essay	Point Value	Grade Log
<i>Close Reading</i>	For this essay you will conduct a close reading of a photograph depicting a unique American pastime.	2-4	400		✓	20	
<i>Expository</i>	You will write an expository essay based upon Rick Bragg's <i>All Over but the Shoutin'</i> .	1-5	750			20	
<i>Annotated Works Cited</i>	For this assignment, you will organize and evaluate the sources for your research paper.	2	200			15	
<i>Research Paper</i>	In a 10-page research paper, you will explore and—embed yourself inside of—a unique American subculture, such as surfers or gamers.	1-5	2,500	✓		60	
<i>Process Analysis</i>	Your 4-page final assignment asks you to reflect on your growth as a writer and thinker over the course of English 1B.	1-4	1,000	✓		30	
<i>Multimedia Presentation</i> **	You and two classmates will create a 10-minute multimedia presentation based upon an American-related topic.	1-5				15	

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Item	Description	SLO	Word Count*	Writers Workshop	In-class Essay	Point Value	Grade Log
<i>Reflections</i>	You will write 6 two-page reflections based upon a variety of topics related to American customs and traditions.	2-6	3,000			60 [6x10]	1.
							2.
							3.
							4.
							5.
							6.
<i>Participation</i>	Note that points are garnered by active participation in class, not attendance.					10	
Total word count: 9,300			Total points: 300				/300

*\*One typed page in MLA Style is approximately 250 words; one handwritten page is approximately 200 words.*

*\*\*You must provide your own laptop; Macs will require an Apple-specific adaptor to connect to the university's projection system.*

Final grade calculations:

A+	300 - 290	B+	268 - 260	C+	238 - 230
A	289 - 281	B	259 - 251	C	229 - 221*
A-	280 - 269	B-	250 - 239	No Pass	220 - 0

*\*At least 221 points must be earned to receive course credit*

### ***Course Schedule***

Note that this schedule is subject to change. Always consult EauZone for the most up-to-date information and schedule. Consider any hard copy of this syllabus only a rough guide and out-of-date.

All assignments, including in-class essays, are due or take place on Wednesdays.

Key:

eR (eReader)

PERFECT (*One Perfect Day*)

SHOUTIN' (*All Over but the Shoutin'*)

January	
Week 01: Mo 27/We 29	Class: Syllabus review; Introductions

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February	
Week 02: Mo 03/We 05	Class: Lectures—"Engaging Writing as a Process 2.0" "Next Generation Learning Spaces: A Guide" Due: REFLECTION 1
Week 03: Mo 10/We 12	Readings: eR—"Job Seekers: No, the Interview Thank You Note is Not Dead" ( <i>Forbes</i> ), "Beverly Hills and Silicon Valley Share Etiquette Shortfalls" ( <i>San Francisco Chronicle</i> )," "15 Vital Business Etiquette Rules" (OPEN Forum), "American Business Etiquette (New York International)," "How Smooth Are You? Take the Business Etiquette Quiz" (Business Insider), "Being a Gentleman at the Office: The Dos and Don'ts of Business Etiquette" (The Art of Manliness) Class: DIAGNOSTIC; Multimedia presentation assignments; Lecture—"Building a Better Multimedia Presentation" Due: FORMAL EMAIL
Week 04: Mo 17/We 19	Readings: eR—"American Way of Birth, Costliest in the World" ( <i>New York Times</i> ), "Delivering Lily" by Phillip Lopate, "Why My Kids Watched Me Give Birth" (Salon) Class: Reading discussion, Watch— <i>The Business of Being Born</i> (2008); Lecture—"Essay Outlines 101" Due: REFLECTION 2
Week 05: Mo 24/We 26	Readings: eR—"Behind the Formaldehyde Curtain" by Jessica Mitford, "How Social Media is Changing the Way We Approach Death" ( <i>Atlantic</i> ), "The Love of My Life" by Cheryl Strayed Class: COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS; Reading discussion; Multimedia presentations; Library research session (Details TBA); Lecture—"Twelve Essential Grammar Rules"

March	
Week 06: Mo 03/We 05	Readings: PERFECT—"One: Weddings 101" – "Three: Inventing the Traditionalesque" Class: Reading discussion; Multimedia presentations; Lecture—"On Wordiness" Due: REFLECTION 3
Week 07: Mo 10/We 12	Readings: PERFECT—"Four: The 'Oh, Mommy' Moment" – "Six: God and the Details" Class: Reading discussion; Multimedia presentations Due: REFLECTION 4
Week 08: Mo 17/We 19	Readings: PERFECT—"Seven: Love Me Tender" – Epilogue Class: Writers workshop; Reading discussion; Multimedia presentations; Lecture—"The Fundamentals of Rhetoric" Due: PERSUASIVE—DRAFT 1: BRING 2 COPIES
Week 09: Mo 24/We 26	No Class—Spring Break
Week 10: Mo 31	No Class—Cesar Chavez Day

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April	
Week 10: We 02	Readings: SHOUTIN’—“1: The Widow’s Mite” Class: Reading discussion; Multimedia presentations; Lectures—“On the Fringes: Subcultures in America” and “Constructing a Research Paper: A How-To” Due: PERSUASIVE—FINAL DRAFT: ATTACH DRAFT 1 TO BACK; REFLECTION 5
Week 11: Mo 07/We 09	Read: SHOUTIN’—“2: Lies to My Mother” Class: CLOSE READING; Reading discussion; Multimedia presentations; Due: ANNOTATED WORKS CITED; REFLECTION 6
Week 12: Mo 14/We 16	Read: SHOUTIN’—“Getting Even with Life” Class: Reading discussion; Multimedia presentations Due: EXPOSITORY
Week 13: Mo 21/We 23	Class: Writers workshop; Multimedia presentations Due: RESEARCH PAPER (UP TO PAGE 4; BRING TWO COPIES)
Week 14: Mo 28/We 30	Class: Writers workshop; Multimedia presentations Due: RESEARCH PAPER (UP TO PAGE 8; BRING TWO COPIES)

May	
Week 15: Mo 05/We 07	Class: Multimedia presentations Due: RESEARCH PAPER (FINAL DRAFT)
Week 16: Mo 12	Class: End-of-class review Due: PROCESS ANALYSIS



