

San José State University
Department of English & Comparative Literature
ENGL 1A: First-Year Writing, Section #40, Fall 2015

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Office Hours: MW 10:30-11:45, and by appointment
Class Days/Time: TTh 7:30-8:45 am
Classroom: Boccardo Business Center (BBC) #124
Prerequisites: English Placement Test
GE/SJSU Studies Category: GE Area A2 Written Communication

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, and assignment instructions can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. You are responsible for checking the messaging system through MySJSU to learn of any updates.

ENGL 1A Course Description

English 1A is an introductory writing course that will help students understand the writing process and the goals, dynamics, and genres of written communication. Through interpretation and analysis of texts, students will develop clear thinking and effective writing that give form and coherence to complex ideas. Students will practice these skills by writing for various audiences and rhetorical situations.

ENGL 1A Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to

1. communicate meaning clearly and effectively;
2. identify focus, tailored to a particular audience and purpose;
3. perform effectively the essential steps of the writing process (prewriting, organizing, composing, revising, and editing);
4. explain, analyze, develop, and criticize ideas effectively;
5. use within an essay supporting material drawn from primary and secondary sources, including appropriate citations;

6. organize individual paragraphs and entire essays;
7. construct sentences with accuracy, variety, and clarity;
8. use appropriate diction and tone;
9. control conventions of written English (e.g., punctuation, spelling, reference, agreement).

GE Area A2 Course Description

ENGL 1A fulfills the written communication general education requirement. Courses in GE Area A2 cultivate an understanding of the writing process and the goals, dynamics, and genres of written communication, with special attention to the nature of writing in the university. Students will develop college-level reading abilities, rhetorical sophistication, and writing styles that give form and coherence to complex ideas and feelings. A passing grade of C or better signifies that the student is a capable college-level writer and reader of English.

GE A2 Learning Outcomes (GELO)

In addition to the learning objectives stated above, ENGL 1A also measures the learning goals of GE Area A2. Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to

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.

ENGL 1A Course Content

Diversity: SJSU studies include an emphasis on diversity. Students will engage in integrated reading and writing assignments to construct their own arguments on complex issues that generate meaningful public debate. Readings for the course will include writers of different genders and from different socio-economic classes.

Writing:

Writing assignments shall give students repeated practice in all phases of the writing process: prewriting, organizing, writing, revising, and editing. This class requires a minimum of 8000 words, at least 4000 of which must be in revised final draft form. Because in-class writing is valued and students should be able to perform well in timed writing situations, at least two essays shall be written in class. In addition, ENGL 1A classes require multiple out-of-class essays.

Reading:

The reading is a crucial component of the class, as you must read effective writing to become an effective writer. All readings must be completed by the beginning of each class session, and all discussions and assignments will be based on the reading material. It will be impossible to be a successful student in this course IF YOU NEGLECT to complete the reading assignments.

Final Experience:

By the end of this course you will be a stronger reader AND writer. You will grow in the skills of analysis, comprehension, research/exploration, creativity, and other abilities such as attention-to-detail, minimalism, multi-tasking, time management, dedication and commitment.

Required Texts

Textbook

Steinbeck, John. *The Grapes of Wrath* (order online—paperback/hardcopy ONLY. No PDFs.)

Steinbeck, John. *Working Days: The Journals of the Grapes of Wrath* (order online)

Excerpts from Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood* and various articles for analysis will be posted on Canvas. Print and bring each to class.

ENGL 1A Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Oral Presentations:

1. Students will be paired and interview one another.
2. Each student will present a multimodal essay based upon the out-of-class essay. (I will explain in class.)

Out-of-Class Essays will have a specific theme (to be given by me in class). I expect strong research, use of evidence, MLA format, etc. (Read sections regarding CLO and GELO!)

Grammar & Reading Quizzes: I reserve the right to give pop quizzes, which will test your completion and comprehension of the required reading assignments, and can alter and/or add assignments at any time. So, be ready. ☺

Participation: The act of taking part or sharing in something.

Therefore, attending class and sitting speechless at your desk does NOT constitute participation. Offering insight, asking questions, encouraging classmates, etc. IS participation.

Final Exam: There will be a comprehensive final exam on grammar, punctuation, research, citation, and will include a short essay.

Assignment Word Count and Learning Goals

Assignment	Word Count	GELO	CLO
2 out-of-class essays	1500 each	1-5	1-9
Oral Presentations based on interviews		1-5	1,2,4,7-9
2 formal In-class essays		1-5	1,2,4,6-9
Video/Power Point/Audio presentation		1-5	1-9
Reading analyses		1-5	1,2,4,6-9

Grading Policy

Total point value for the course is 100. At the end of the semester, your overall course grade will be calculated as follows:

In-class Diagnostic: 0

Grammar quizzes and reading analyses	10	(2 pts. each)
Oral presentation based on interviews	5	
In-class/Out-of-class essays	20	(5 pts. each)
Video/Audio/Power Point Presentation	15	
Participation	25	
Final exam	25	

Course Grade Point Values

100-93	A
92-90	A-
89-87	B+
86-83	B
82-80	B-
79-77	C+
76-73	C
72-70	C-
69-67	D+
66-63	D
62-60	D-
59-0	F

- **Note: This course must be passed with a C or better as a CSU graduation requirement.**

Requirements for particular assignments will vary, but in all cases essay grades will reflect the paper's effectiveness, which are broken down into three major areas: content (this includes maturity and sophistication of thought), organization, and expression. All assignments, quizzes, and exams are graded on a traditional A-F scale.

The following are the criteria by which essays are typically evaluated in first-year writing courses:

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 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.

Classroom Protocol

Attendance: 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 ensure maximum benefit for all members of the class." Thus, do NOT be later than 5 minutes (unless you have contacted me with a legitimate reason), or you will be asked to leave. Showing up late disrupts the class. Be

considerate of your classmates.

Cell Phones: If I see you texting or listening to music, you will be asked to leave class, resulting in a 0 for that day's class participation.

Essays: Hardcopies of all formal essays are required and must be typed and in MLA format. Handwritten essays are not acceptable. Drafts are required of each major essay assignment. I will not grade an essay unless I have first seen a draft.

Late assignments: If you are unable to attend class (this includes illnesses) the day an essay or homework assignment is due, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to have a friend or classmate print and deliver the assignment to me DURING your regular class time. In addition, you are to upload your work to Canvas at least six hours prior to class. I will not accept email submissions, period.

Except in extreme cases of illness or emergencies, there will be NO make-up quizzes or exams unless you have arranged other accommodations with me before the exam date.

Canvas: <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/canvas/index.html>. All course materials will be posted on Canvas: syllabus, readings, grammar/editing assignments, etc. Class announcements will be made through Canvas as well. Be sure to check your account daily.

University Policies

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU's policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See University Policy S90-5 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf>. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the SJSU catalog, at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html>. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

Dropping and Adding

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 on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. 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 <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

University Policy S12-7, <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- “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 this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”
 - It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor’s process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
 - In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- “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.”

Academic integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See [University Policy S14-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf>.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their 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](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

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) at <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.

SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit [Counseling Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

Course Number / Title, Semester, Course Schedule

List the agenda for the semester. Indicate the schedule is subject to change with fair notice and how the notice will be made available. **The Offices of Faculty Affairs and the Education Accessibility Center ask that instructors use the following table when creating their course calendar.**

Course Schedule (subject to change with fair notice verbally or posted on Canvas)

Week 1	Orientation/diagnostic essay/academic writing Reading <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> and <i>Working Days: The Journals of the Grapes of Wrath</i>
Week 2	Critical thinking/research/citations Reading <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> and <i>Working Days: The Journals of the Grapes of Wrath</i>
Week 3	Critical thinking/research/citations/grammar Reading <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> and <i>Working Days: The Journals of the Grapes of Wrath</i>
Week 4	Out-of-class essay #1(1,500 words): first draft and final draft due.
Week 5	Studying the use of photography, videography, poetry, collages, drawings, and other elements accompanying the academic essay.
Week 6	Multimodal writing cont'd
Week 7	Multimodal writing cont'd/English Department Assessments Film excerpts
Week 8	Reading and analysis of <i>Fast Food Nation</i>
Week 9	Reading and analysis of <i>Fast Food Nation</i> Film excerpt (compare/contrast)
Week 10	In-class essay #2 (excluding diagnostic from beginning of semester)
Week 11	Fallacies
Week 12	In-class essay #3
Week 13	How to interview/Interview presentation
Week 14	Out-of-class essay #2 (1,500 words): first draft and final draft due.
Week 15	Preparation and beginning of oral presentations
Week 16	Oral presentations
Week 17:	Begins Finals Week (Date and location TBA)

