

San José State University
Department of English and Comparative Literature
English 1A, Composition 1 (GE A2), Section 81, Fall 2015

Instructor:	Robert F. James
Office Location:	FOB 106
Telephone:	(408) (924- 5039)
Email:	Robert.James@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesday/Thursday Noon-1:30 and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	T/Th 3:00-4:15
Classroom:	SH 238
Prerequisites:	EPT of 147 or higher, passage of LLD 1 or 2
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. Students will be introduced to citing sources.

Prerequisites: Placement by the English Proficiency Test (EPT), or passage of an approved substitute course for the EPT, such as LLD 2.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

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, including appropriate citation.
- Effective organization within the paragraph and the essay.

- Accuracy, variety, and clarity of sentences.
- Appropriate diction and tone.
- Control of conventional mechanics (e.g., punctuation, spelling, reference, agreement).

Student Learning Objectives for GE Area A2

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

Course Goals and Learning Objectives will be achieved through the following assignments:

In-class essays

Out-of-class essays

Short-answer quizzes

Class presentations

Small-group, peer workshops

Essay revisions

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 AEC policies)
- Estimation of Per-Unit Student Workload
- Recording policies
- Adding and dropping classes

Required Texts/Materials

SJSU Campus Handbook: *The Everyday Writer* by Andrea Lunsford

Print ISBN: 9781457667121 Available at the Spartan Bookstore

Electronic edition ISBN: 9781457633423 or Bedford/St. Martin's online
(<http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/everydaywriter5e/>)

Online: <http://www.macmillanhighered.com/techsupport>

Other Textbook

Course Reader available from Maple Press

A college-level dictionary

Library Liaison for English courses

Toby Matoush, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library

Voice: 408-808-2096

Email: Toby.Matoush@sjsu.edu

Website: <http://libguides.sjsu.edu/profile.php?uid=14949>

Classroom Protocol

Participation is vital in completing this course. As such, students are expected to come to class having read the day's assignments and prepared to discuss them in a rigorous and academic setting. Multiple readings of a single assignment may be required to fully comprehend the meanings within it. Students are expected to be on time for class. If a student will miss a class for any reason, please email the instructor as early as possible. Use of cell phones and other electronic devices not previously authorized must be off at the start of instruction. Discussions are fast-paced and highly interactive. Students do not need to raise a hand to add to the lecture. However, common courtesy still applies.

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, students are expected to 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](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Essays: There are two types of essays in this course: in-class/timed and out-of-class. Each assignment type must be a complete essay adequately covering the topic using proper tone, diction, vocabulary, and structure. These essays fulfill SLO 2-5

Readings/Quizzes: You are required to come to class prepared to discuss in a meaningful way the reading for that day. The quality of the conversation is incumbent on student participation. These assignments fulfill SLO 1.

Final Exam: A culminating experience will take place during our final-exam period. Attendance is mandatory, as is full completion of the final exam. This culminating experience will include short-essay, revision, and grammar exercises to demonstrate a thorough knowledge and application of all learning objectives.

Participation: 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. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.”

Grading: A-F.

I require of you a workable understanding of all assigned readings and grammar exercises. The true test of your comprehension, however, will come in the form of the essays — in-class (the first will be an ungraded diagnostic essay) and out-of-class essays due at the **beginning** of class on the date the assignment is due. I will not accept any essay that isn't **TYPED AND DOUBLE-SPACED. Late papers will NOT be accepted.** Students must complete all essays to pass this course. In-class essays may not be made up without instructor permission before class. In addition to the readings and essays, there may be, at my discretion, short-answer quizzes covering reading assignments. The quizzes will count toward your participation grade and cannot be made up.

Readings: You will be assigned readings from the course reader. You are expected to have read the selection(s) prior to the class period. Come to class ready to offer your opinions and ask questions. I expect full class participation with regard to the course readings.

Grading:

3 in-class essays w/Revisions	10% each	(30%)
4 outside essays w/Revisions	10% each	(40%)
Final exam	20%	
Participation (oral and written)	10%	

Each essay will be accompanied by a revision exercise of equal length in which the student demonstrates progress toward correcting the common errors at both sentence- and essay-level.

Final grades will be computed by averaging the above percentages. CR/NCR assignments are worth a full letter grade on the research paper’s revised draft. The class grading scale is as follows:

99-100: A+
93-98: A
90-92: A-
88-89: B+
82-87: B
80-81: B-
78-79: C+
72-77: C
70-71: C-
65-69: D
<65: F

No late papers will be accepted under any circumstances.

Under certain circumstances, and regardless of the percentage points listed above, a student's contributions and academic curiosity (or lack thereof) may influence that student's final grade beyond the listed scope. In other words, students who do not come to class and regularly participate in discussions may find their final grade significantly reduced to reflect the full scope of class involvement. An "A" grade requires more than good essay-writing.

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. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading."

Assignments and Grading Policy

Grading: A-F.

In English Department courses, instructors will comment on and grade 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.

Grading Policy: The Department of English reaffirms its commitment to the differential grading scale as defined in the official SJSU catalog ("The Grading System"). Grades issued must represent a full range of student performance: A=excellent; B=above average; C=average; D=below average; and F=failure.

In this class, a "C" grade is writing to the minimum expectations of the professor. Each student begins with a "C" grade at the beginning of the semester. That grade may increase or decrease depending on the quality of work presented over the course of the semester.

Papers handed in late will receive “credit” for completing the assignment, but the grade will be averaged as a zero for that assignment.

Grading Policy

Grading: A-F. This class must be passed with a C or better to move on to CORE GE Area A3 and to satisfy the prerequisite for English 1B. A passing grade in the course signifies that the student is a capable college-level writer and reader of English.

This course must be passed with a C or better as a CSU graduation requirement.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and 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 digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

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): <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 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.

English 1A, Fall 2014, Course Schedule

Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date listed. Assignments are subject to change at the discretion of the professor to suit the needs/progress of the class. In the event of a class cancellation, written notice will be sent via MySJSU email, and a posted notice from the English Department will be left on the door of the class.

Table 1 Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/20	Introduction Syllabus Handouts In-Class Diagnostic Essay 1 (Ungraded) Discussion: Description
2	8/25 8/27	No Class Monday: Labor Day Reading: Annie Dillard, "Mantis"
3	9/1 9/3	Reading: Virginia Woolf, "The Death of the Moth" In-Class Essay 2: Description
4	9/8 9/10	Discussion: Narration Reading: Willa Cather, "A Wagner Matinee"
5	9/15 9/17	Reading: Edgar Allan Poe, "The Tell-Tale Heart"
6	9/22 9/24	Due: Out-of-Class Essay 1: Narration Discussion: Exemplification Reading: Barbara Tuchman, "The Black Death"
7	9/29 10/1	Reading: William Zinsser, "Clutter" Reading: Gwendolyn Brooks, "We Real Cool" Reading: Barbara Ehrenreich, "What I've Learned From Men"
8	10/6	In-Class Essay 3: Exemplification

	10/8	Discussion: Process Analysis
9	10/13 10/15	Reading: Jessica Mitford, "Behind the Formaldehyde Curtain" Reading: Lorrie Moore, "How to Become a Better Writer"
10	10/20 10/22	Due: Out-of-Class Essay 2, Process Analysis Discussion: Causal Analysis
11	10/27 10/29	Reading: Kate Chopin: "The Story of an Hour" Reading: Jack London, "To Build a Fire"
12	11/3 11/5	Reading: George Orwell, "Why I Write" Discussion: Argumentation and Persuasion
13	11/10 11/12	Due: Out-of-Class Essay 3, Causal Analysis Reading: Jonathan Swift, "A Modest Proposal" Reading: Martin Luther King, Jr, "I Have a Dream"
14	11/17 11/19	Reading: Anton Chekhov, "A Marriage Proposal" Reading: Jane Smiley, "The Case Against Chores"
15	11/24 T-Giving	Reading: Franz Kafka, "The Judgment"
16	12/1 12/3	Out-of-Class Essay 4: Argumentation and Persuasion Discussion: Final Exam Reading: Mark Twain, "The War Prayer" Final Discussion, Semester Wrap-Up

Final Exam	12/8	Semester Wrap-up Discussion Consult MySJSU for day/time.
------------	------	---

Important dates for Fall 2014

Thursday	August 21	Academic Year Begins – Fall Semester Begins
Thurs– Friday	August 21-22	Orientation, Advisement, Faculty Meetings and Conferences (P)
Monday	August 25	First Day of Instruction – Classes Begin
Monday	September 1	Labor Day - Campus Closed (L)
Friday	September 5	Last Day to Drop Courses Without an Entry on Permanent Record (D)
Friday	September 12	Last Day to Add Courses & Register Late (A)
Monday	September 22	Enrollment Census Date (CD)
Tuesday	November 11	Veteran's Day - Campus Closed (V)
Wednesday	November 26	Classes that start at 5:00 PM or later will not meet.
Thursday	November 27	Thanksgiving Holiday - Campus Closed (T)
Friday	November 28	Rescheduled Holiday - Campus Closed (RH)
Wednesday	December 10	Last Day of Instruction - Last Day of Classes
Thursday	December 11	Study/Conference Day (no classes or exams) (SC)
Friday	December 12	Final Examinations (exams)
Mon-Thursday	December 15-18	Final Examinations (exams)
Friday	December 19	Final Examinations Make-Up Day (MU)
Monday	December 22	Grade Evaluation Day (E)
Tuesday	December 23	Grades Due From Faculty - End of Fall Semester (G)