

San José State University
Department of English & Comparative Literature
ENGL 1A: First-Year Writing, Section 89, Fall / 2017

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Robert F. James
Office Location:	FO 106
Telephone:	924.5038
Email:	Robert.James@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	M/W 1630-1755, T/R 1330-1455, and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	M/W 1800-1915
Classroom:	BBC 128
Prerequisites:	Reflection on College Writing
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	GE Area A2 Written Communication I

Course Management Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, and assignment instructions can be found on the English Department web page and directly through email. You are responsible for checking the messaging system through MySJSU to learn of any updates. It is a good policy to check your email prior to every class at the very least.

ENGL 1A Course Description

ENGL 1A is an introductory writing course that will help you understand the writing process and the goals, dynamics, and genres of written communication. Through interpretation and analysis of texts, you will learn to think clearly and write effectively as you give form and coherence to complex ideas. You will explore writing for various audiences and rhetorical situations.

This course has a heavy emphasis on collaboration and intelligent, informed discourse. As such, we will be reading The New York Times prior to each class, and we will come prepared to discuss current events as they pertain to our daily lives and our pursuit of The American Dream, however you choose to define it. This daily reading will inform our discussions while also providing you with an opportunity to develop a singular, scaffolded paper that you draft, revise, and write over the course of the semester and in completion of your final portfolio.

ENGL 1A Learning Outcomes (GELO)

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

- read actively and rhetorically;
- perform the essential steps in the writing process (prewriting, organizing, composing, revising, and editing) and demonstrate an awareness of said performance;

- articulate an awareness of and write according to the rhetorical features of texts, such as purpose, audience, context, and rhetorical appeals;
- integrate your ideas and those of others by explaining, analyzing, developing, and criticizing ideas effectively in several genres;
- demonstrate college-level language use, clarity, and grammatical proficiency in writing.

ENGL 1A Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, you 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.

Over the course of the semester, you will be developing a single paper on a topic of your choosing. This topic will come from an issue that interests you in The New York Times readings. This assignment will be built up from a rough outline/discussion topic into a formal essay over the course of the semester.

Your final portfolio will be a collection of assignments that shows the full process of reading, understanding, drafting, and writing. While the portfolio also will be used for an ungraded assessment of the class, there will be a graded portion of the portfolio to be discussed in class.

Assignment Word Count and Learning Goals

Assignment	Word Count	GELO
Reflection Revision and Responses	350-500	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Scaffolded Essay Draft 1	350-500	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Scaffolded Essay Draft 2	350-500	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Scaffoled Essay Final Draft	500+	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Short Writing Assessments (NYT) 4-6	<250 each	1, 3, 4, 5
Group Presentations	Various	4
Final Portfolio	Various	5

Required Texts

Textbook

Each student will be required to subscribe to The New York Times for this course. A Course Reader, available from Maple Press, will be available early in the semester.

Other Readings

Additional readings will be assigned as needed. They will be made available via Canvas, Email, or in-class handouts.

Grading Policy

- *All assignments will be graded according to the full grading scale of A to F, including +/- grades. Additional assignments may be graded as a simple indication of “check/check minus/minus” grades. Participation in the class also will be graded along a full grading scale. An “A” grade constitutes full participation, while an F indicates a lack of participation over the course of the semester.*
- *Extra Credit is not available in this class.*

- *List of the percentage weight [or point value] assigned to various class assignments*
- *Late assignments will not be accepted. All assignments must be completed, but late assignments will receive a “zero” for grading purposes.*
- *In order to pass English 1A, students are required to achieve at least a C- in the class.*

All essay grades will reflect the paper’s effectiveness, which is broken down into three major areas: content (this includes maturity and sophistication of thought), organization, and expression.

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

An “A” range 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” range 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” range 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” range 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

Please turn off all cell phones and place them out of site for the duration of the class.

Laptops are allowed during relevant conversations, such as discussion of current events.

Please make every effort to attend each class meeting. Late attendance is disrespectful. If you are less than 15 minutes late, please quietly seat yourself in the back of the room as discreetly as possible. In the event of class presentations or group discussions please remain in the hall until there is a lull in activity. Anyone arriving more than 15 minutes late will be asked to stay out of that session.

This class is conversational in nature. As such, we respect all ideas and points of view, even when they are in opposition to our own. Treat all voices with respect.

University Policies

University Policies: the link below contains university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc.: <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/index.html>.

English 1A, Fall 2017

Please note that the schedule is subject to change at the professor's discretion. In the event of a change to the assignments listed below, you will be notified either during the class discussion(s) prior, or else you will receive notice via email.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	August 23/24	Introduction Syllabus Handouts
2	Aug 28-31	In-Class Diagnostic Essay The Art and Craft of Persuasion Writing Essays Critical Thinking
3	Sept 5-7	September 4: Labor Day Research Analyzing Visual Arguments Group Presentations
4	Sept. 11-14	Identities "Join or Die" –Benjamin Franklin "Origins of Anglo-Americans" –De Tocqueville Identities "A Tapestry of Hope" –Jeanne Houston "The Cult of Ethnicity" – Arthur Schlesinger
5	Sept 18-28	American Dreams "Wealth" –Andrew Carnegie "Let America Be America Again" –Langston Hughes "Harlem" –Langston Hughes
6	Oct. 2-5	Images of Gender and Family "Rusk v. State" "Marriage is a Fundamental Right" –Thomas Stoddard "Reserve Marriage for Heterosexuals" –Bruce Fein
7	Oct. 9-12	Work and Play "Women and Economics" –Charlotte Perkins Gilman "Office Politics" –Ellen Lupton

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		Work and Play “The Mason” –Studs Terkel “Bricklayer’s Boy” –Alfred Lubrano
8	Oct. 16-19	Work and Play “Serving in Florida” –Barbara Ehrenreich Justice and Civil Liberties “Civil Disobedience” –Henry David Thoreau
9	Oct. 23-26	War and the Enemy “These Are the Times That Try Men’s Souls” –Paine “Gettysburg Address” –Abraham Lincoln “The War Prayer” –Mark Twain
10	Oct. 30 – Nov. 2	Essay Workshops
11	Nov 6-9	Social Media and Contemporary Discussions
12	Nov 13-16	Group Presentations
13	Nov. 20/21	Forensic Debates
14	Nov. 27-30	Portfolio Preparation Thanksgiving Break
15	Dec 4-7	Group Presentation Discussion Semester Wrap-up
16	Dec 11	Last Day of Instruction: Final Exam Prep and Assignments
Final Exam	Consult MySJSU	Final Exams are scheduled by class meeting day/time during December 13-19. You MUST be in attendance for the final exam. Do NOT ask to be excused.