

San José State University
Department of English & Comparative Literature
ENGL 1A: First-Year Writing (“Getting into Higher Education”)
Section 38, Spring 2018

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Office Hours:	MW, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. or by appt
Class Days/Time:	Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:00 - 4:15 p.m.
Classroom:	Boccardo Business Center 122
Prerequisites:	Reflection on College Writing
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	GE Area A2 Written Communication I

What Will You Need for This Course?

In addition to textbooks, notebooks, and exam pamphlets, you will need a home computer with dependable Internet connectivity to turn in homework and writing assignments, keep up with course communications, and access some of the texts discussed in this class.

How Will Your Professor Communicate with You?

This class meets twice a week, and I hold office hours on the days I teach class. There will be plenty of opportunities to speak with one another in person, and I encourage you not to be shy. You can also reach me through email (see above.)

Most of our online interaction, however, will occur on the Canvas learning management system. On this site, you will find the course syllabus, homework assignments, essay guidelines, and grades. In addition, the class will use other functions on Canvas, such as its discussion boards and page-building tools. Lastly, I will communicate with the class-at-large by making announcements on Canvas. While I will use the MySJSU messaging system for critical, time-sensitive information, I will mostly communicate with the class through Canvas. Please check the Canvas course page before every class.

General Course Description

Below is the general course description for this course from SJSU’s catalog:

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.

Description of This Section of English 1A

Last summer, you began preparing yourself for the college experience by attending orientation and completing your Directed Self Placement course, among other requirements. Now that you are here at the university, what do you plan to do? How can you make the most of your time in college? What drew you to the university in the first place? What do you hope to get out of your college experience? These questions will form the basis of our investigation into what the university is, how it works, and how you can make it work for you this year.

On the surface, the topic of our course is fairly practical and straightforward. Together, we will seek to figure out how the university is organized and how it works so that you can navigate it more effectively. However, our investigation will also challenge us to think about more abstract questions. What is the purpose of a university education in the U.S. and in a global context anyway? What does the university, as an institution, value? What are the ideologies at work in the university about culture, difference, equality, gender, race, and socio-economic opportunity?

Finally, this class will involve some soul searching too. You will need to think about what you bring to the university and what the university can offer you in return. You will spend time reflecting on what kind of student you were in the past, what kind of student you are now, what you hope to accomplish, and how you can use the university to meet those goals.

English 1A Learning Outcomes — i.e. The Goals of This Course

Upon successful completion of this 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 an 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.

What You Will Be Doing in This Course

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. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S12-3 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Writing Assignments

Critical Reading and Reflection (CRR) essays: Both of these two in-class essays will begin a new course segment centered on a specific inquiry question. The first, CRR1, will ask you to consider your personal connection to higher education: What is higher education to me? What do I hope to achieve from it? And how does it differ from high school? The second, CRR2, will require you think to write and think about the university's connection to the outside world: What is the purpose of higher education in the 21st century, and what role do my peers, teachers, and myself play in creating it? While these in-class essays will be completed during class time, they will be submitted online, so please bring a laptop or mobile device to class on the days when in-class essays are scheduled. If you do not have one, rentals are available at the MLK Library and at the Instructional Resources Center.

Out-of-Class Essays: In addition to your three in-class essays, you will have a number of out-of-class writing assignments that will involve multiple drafts: The Personal Essay, Social Media Post, Profile, and Critical Essay. Each of these essays represents a different genre of writing, and you will share your early drafts with your classmates during Peer Review (see below). Important: Please submit hard copies of both your first and final drafts of these essays AND upload them to Canvas.

Ethnographic Presentation: This is a multi-modal group assignment in which you will work with a team of your peers to research and present upon one of the student organizations here at SJSU. By "multi-modal" I mean that this presentation will include more than just words, spoken or written: it will require you to include a visual component in the form of video, images, audio, or other multimedia elements using a platforms such as Power Point or Prezi.

Participation

In addition to the essays you write and the portfolios you produce, your overall grade will be influenced by your participation in the course. The following factors contribute to your Participation score: 1. Homework/Outside Activities, 2. Classroom Discussion, 3. Reading Exams and Quizzes, 4. Peer Review, and 5. Writing Portfolio.

1. Homework/Outside Activities: You will need to complete much of the work for this course outside of the classroom. At times this work will be required of the whole class. For example, I may assign a reading response as homework, or I might require the class to post items in the discussion boards on Canvas. Other times, however, you may choose to do homework or participate in outside activities of your own choosing. For example, you may complete additional, unassigned exercises from *Writer's Help*. When I assess your level of engagement with Homework/Outside Activities, I will consider both your completion of required assigned as well as your demonstrated willingness to take initiative and develop a sense of ownership over your own writing.

2. Classroom Discussion: Your contributions to class discussions help me determine whether you've done your required reading. Moreover, such contributions foster a deeper understanding of the text at hand for *all* of us. For this reason, you will be expected to come to class prepared to

discuss the assigned reading for the day. Moreover, you should strive to contribute to most class discussions, demonstrating an ability and willingness to listen to myself and your peers as well as the capacity to bring yourself and your experiences to the reading assignment.

3. Reading Exams and Quizzes: In addition to shorter reading quizzes based on assigned readings, there will be two reading exams.

4. Peer Review: We will be conducting peer review sessions both through Canvas and during class time. The process will begin with Canvas, where I will be assigning you into small groups. Please upload your respective first drafts to Canvas by the date listed on the schedule and submit a hard copy to me at the beginning of class. Once you and your fellow group members have uploaded your essays, you will be able to review and respond to one another's drafts. Both the individual who wrote a particular essay and myself will be able to review your feedback via Canvas. Please provide feedback 24 hours prior to the scheduled in-class peer review session. On the class day devoted to peer review, you will have opportunity to give one another additional feedback and to ask follow-up questions. Please bring an additional hard copy of your draft to the peer review session so that you and your peers can mark up your manuscript. **Failure to attend or to participate adequately in a peer revision session (both online and in class) will result in a lowering of your essay's grade by one full letter.**

5. Writing Portfolio: The Spring 2018 semester will culminate in the creation of a writing portfolio. For this assignment, you will be assembling representative examples of the work you have produced throughout the semester. In addition, your portfolios will include a reflective essay in which you assess your own progress meeting the General Education Learning Outcomes (GELOs) for this course.

Overview of Assignments

Grades in the fall are based on measured progress toward proficiency in the learning objectives outlined above. To earn credit in the course, you will need to have completed **all** of the assigned work.

Item	Word Count*	Type of Assignment	GELOs
Critical Reading/ Reflections 1 and 2	1,500	in-class essay	1,3,4,5
Personal Essay	2,000 (two drafts)	out-of-class essay	1-5
Social Media Post	1,500 (two drafts)	out-of-class essay	1-5
Profile Essay	2,000 (two drafts)	out-of-class essay	1-5
Ethnographic Presentation	500	multimedia group presentation	1-5
Critical Essay	2,500 (two drafts)	out-of-class essay	1-5
Writing Portfolio	750	out-of-class essay	1-5

Item	Word Count*	Type of Assignment	GELOs
Participation	N/A	N/A	1,3,5

Total Word Count: 10,750 words

Required Texts

Important Notice about Textbooks: Since laptops will rarely be used during class, please purchase print versions of the following texts. In addition, please be sure that you select the correct editions of each book. Older editions of these texts will not include everything that we will be covering in the class.

- Harris, Malcolm. *Kids These Days: Human Capital and the Making of Millennials*. Hachette. ISBN 978-0-31-6510868 Available online and at Spartan Bookstore.
- Sherrie Nist-Olejnik and Jodi Patrick Holschuh. *College Rules! How to Study, Survive, and Succeed in College*. Ten Speed Press. ISBN 978-1-60-7748526 Available online and at Spartan Bookstore.
- Lunsford, Andrea. *The Everyday Writer*, included (as *Writer's Help*): There is a digital edition, available in Canvas, that is free to all SJSU students. Please inform me if you encounter difficulty accessing *Writer's Help*.

Other Readings

In addition to the above texts, there will be other readings from books, magazines, newspapers, websites, and other sources. These readings will be distributed via Canvas. I will provide you with advance notice whenever you are assigned an additional reading.

How I Will Evaluate Your Work and Assign Grades

Late Policy

Unless you contact me in advance and provide a valid excuse – problems with your printer don't count as one – I will deduct one-half-letter from an essay's overall grade for every day late. This includes first drafts.

Instructor Feedback

All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades. I will post the results of your graded work on Canvas and will provide written feedback on the hard copies of the essays you submit to me.

Your Stretch colleagues and I will provide you feedback on your work to help you apply lessons learned in classroom work to complete assignments and transfer lessons learned from one assignment to the next. In this process, grades are a tool for assessment and course correction within your journey to become an independent writer: they report outcomes during a course of instruction.

My grading practices respect your right to feedback within a reasonable time so that you may not only know your scores, but also understand the criteria applied to the evaluation of your work. Ultimately, we will work together to make you your own best critic.

With each essay assignment, I will distribute a scoring guide specific to that particular essay. While requirements for particular assignments will vary, essay grades, in all cases, 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. In general, the following are the criteria by which essays are typically evaluated in first-year writing courses:

“A” work will be well-organized and well-developed, demonstrating a clear understanding and fulfillment of the assignment. It will show the student's ability to use language effectively and construct sentences distinguished by syntactic constructions at the college level and appropriate to the work's intended audience and purpose. Such work will be essentially free of grammatical, mechanical, and usage errors. Whether written or oral, “A” work succeeds in communicating ideas clearly and effectively to the target audience.

“B” work will demonstrate abilities in the same categories as “A” work. The chief difference is that “B” work will show notable weaknesses in one of these categories. It may inadequately fulfill parts of the assigned tasks, show less facility of expression and communication, or contain some grammatical, mechanical, usage, or delivery flaws that do not impede clear transmission of meaning.

“C” work will be generally competent and attempt to complete all tasks set by the assignment but show weaknesses in fundamentals, usually development or clarity, with barely enough specific information to illustrate the subject being addressed. The sentence construction, language, and/or delivery may be less effective and correct than “B” work, but will not seriously impede clear transmission of meaning.

“D” work will neglect one of the assigned tasks or directions and be noticeably superficial in development—that is, too brief or simplistic. The work may reveal some problems of development, detail, and/or audience. It will contain grammatical, mechanical, usage, and/or delivery shortcomings that are frequent and/or serious enough to impede clear transmission of meaning.

“F” work shows a disconnection with the course and a lack of understanding of the task and the writing conventions that are being taught. The writing is incoherent and riddled with sentence level errors. It is clear in this essay that the writer is not engaged in the class and/or the assignment.

Letter grades will be translated into the following percentages:

Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage
A+	98-100	B	84-87	C-	70-73
A	94-97	B-	80-83	D+	68-69
A-	90-93	C+	78-79	D	56-67

Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage
B+	88-89	C	74-77	F	64-0

Note: In order to receive A2 General Education credit for Stretch English, you must pass the course with a C- or higher.

See University Policy F13-1 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details on your right to understand your grades.

Weighted Assignments

Item	Percentage of Course Grade
Critical Reading/Reflections 1 and 2	10%
Personal Essay	15%
Social Media Post	10%
Profile Essay	20%
Ethnographic Presentation	5%
Critical Essay	30%
Participation	10%

Classroom Do's and Don'ts

To help foster a classroom environment in which everyone feels comfortable enough to participate, I will not tolerate blatant displays of disrespect towards your peers or towards me. There are ways to disagree with others respectfully and sincerely. In fact, we will be studying the art of effective communication throughout this two-semester course and learning how to debate with others in a spirit of honest and respectful inquiry. In the unlikely event that a student might exceed the bounds of civility, he or she will be asked to leave for the remainder of the class session. Behavior that fits this description include offense comments directed at your peers or myself, sleeping during class, talking with your peers about things unrelated to the class, or focusing your attention on electronic equipment rather than the class activity or discussion.

Stepping out During Class

If you need to visit the restroom or otherwise leave the room during a class discussion, please ask my permission first. This will prevent unnecessary disruptions. During group work, you may take care of any necessary but brief business without asking for permission.

"Smart" Phone Usage

Attendance is both a physical AND mental state of being. Smart phone usage, during recent years, has become so prevalent that, in my view, it is hindering students' ability to get the most out of classroom activities. To address this issue, I am asking everyone -- myself included -- to leave their phones in a basket in the front of the class. In the event that a student violates this policy and indulge in inappropriate phone usage, I will ask him or her to leave class for the day. In addition, I will lower your overall Participation grade (20% of course total) for the course by one full letter.

Laptops, Mobile Devices, and Headphones

You do NOT need to bring your laptop or mobile device to every class. On the rare occasions (such as an in-class essay) where you will need a computer or mobile device, I will give you advance notice prior to class.

Headphone use is prohibited during class. There is, however, one exception: you listen to them during in-class writing activities.

University Policies

The [link](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/index.html) below contains university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc.: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, Spring 2018, Course Schedule

Below is the tentative schedule for the class this semester. Please keep in mind that as the course unfolds, there will be inevitable changes to it. Whenever any changes are made, I will notify the class on Canvas and will provide at least one week's advance notice.

*Please note that the due dates for major assignments are in **bold face and italics**.*

Week 1

Wednesday, January 24th

Today, on our first day of class, we will go over the syllabus and introduce ourselves to one another. I will also assign your first two homework assignments: 1) to create a "What my friends think I do" meme about college, and 2) to read chapter 4 of *College Rules!*.

Week 2

Monday, January 29th

What to do prior to class: Complete your meme assignment and read chapter 4 of *College Rules!*

What we will be doing during class: Group work involving meme assignment, discussing chapter 4 of *College Rules!*, and going over the assignment sheet for your first two essays: Critical Reading and Reflection 1 and Personal Essay.

Wednesday, January 31st

What to do prior to class: Read and reflect on the writing prompt for Critical Reading and Reflection 1 (CRR1).

What we will be doing during class. Write Critical Reading/Reflection Essay 1. You may choose to write this in-class essay on a laptop/mobile device (yes, today is an acceptable day to use a laptop in class). If you prefer, you may also use a pen and paper.

Week 3

Monday, February 5th

*What to do prior to class: **Complete the first draft of your Personal Essay and submit it to Canvas.***

What we will be doing during class: Assigning Peer Review partners, learning about *Writer's Help*, working on an editing exercise, and more.

Wednesday, February 7th

Week 4

Monday, February 12th

What to do prior to class: Read and respond to your peer's drafts online on Canvas; this includes completing the Peer Response form provided to you for this assignment. Bring a hard copy of your first draft to class.

What we will be doing during class: Holding our **first Mandatory Peer Review Session** — did you remember to bring a printout of your first draft? Please note that failure to participate in Peer Review — both online and in-class — will result in a lowering of your essay’s grade by one full letter.

Wednesday, February 14th

What to do prior to class: **Complete and submit final draft of Personal Essay on Canvas. (Please note that you will be submitting a hard copy in addition to your online submission.)**

What we will be doing during class: After I collect the final drafts of the Personal Essay, we will discuss your next writing assignment: your Social Media Post.

Week 5

Monday, February 19th

What to do prior to class: Find a news article from the *Washington Post*’s “Grade Point” and post a 2-part response (summary; analysis) online.

What we will be doing during class: Group activity: sharing responses to readings.

Wednesday, February 21st

What to do prior to class: Complete the first draft of your Social Media Post and submit it to Canvas.

What we will be doing during class: Assigning Peer Review groups for your Social Media Posts.

Week 6

Monday, February 26th

What to do prior to class: Read and respond to your peer’s drafts online on Canvas; this includes completing the Peer Response form provided to you for this assignment. Bring a hard copy of your first draft to class.

What we will be doing during class: Holding our **second Mandatory Peer Review session**.

Wednesday, February 28th

What to do prior to class: **Complete and submit the final draft of your Social Media Post.**

What we will be doing during class: More higher education memes.

Monday, March 5th

What to do prior to class: Read “Introduction” to Malcolm Harris’ *Kids These Days*.

What we will be doing during class: Discuss “Introduction” to Malcolm Harris’ *Kids These Days*.

Wednesday, March 7th

What to do prior to class: Read chapter 3 of *College Rules!*

What will we be doing during class: Class activity: “Charting the University”

Week 8

Monday, March 12th

What to do prior to class: Read chapter 1 of *Kids These Days*.

What we will be doing during class: Group work related to reading; Profile essay assigned.

Wednesday, March 14th

What to do prior to class: Read chapter 18 of *College Rules*, “Active Reading.”

What we will be doing during class. Assigning groups for the Ethnographic project and going over the assignment.

Week 9

Monday, March 19th

What to do prior to class: Read and respond to your peer’s drafts online on Canvas; this includes completing the Peer Response form provided to you for this assignment. Bring a hard copy of your first draft to class.

What we will be doing during class: Holding our ***third Mandatory Peer Review Session*** — did you remember to bring a printout of your first draft? Please note that failure to participate in Peer Review — both online and in-class — will result in a lowering of your essay’s grade by one full letter.

Wednesday, March 21st

What to bring prior to class: ***Complete and submit final draft of your Profile on Canvas.*** (Please note that you will be submitting a hard copy in addition to your online submission.)

What we will be doing during class: ***Submitting a hard copy of your Profile essay***

SPRING BREAK — MARCH 26 -30

Week 10

Monday, April 2nd

What to do prior to class: Read chapter 2 of *Kids These Days*.

What we will be doing during class. Group activities.

Wednesday, April 4th

What to do prior to class: Complete study questions.

What we will be doing during class. First Reading Exam.

Week 11

Monday, April 9th

What to do prior to class: Read chapter 3 of *Kids These Days*.

What we will be doing during class: Group activity.

Wednesday, April 11th

What to bring prior to class: Read chapter 17 of *College Rules!*

What we will be doing during class: diction exercise.

Week 12**Monday, April 16th**

What to do prior to class: Read chapter 4 of *Kids These Days*.

What we will be doing during class: Class discussion: What is the purpose of higher education in the 21st century?

Wednesday, April 18th

What to do prior to class: Read and reflect on the writing prompt for Critical Reading and Reflection 3 (CRR3).

What will we be doing during class: **Writing Critical Reading/Reflection Essay 2.** You may choose to write this in-class essay on a laptop/mobile device (yes, today is an acceptable day to use a laptop in class).

Week 13**Monday, April 23rd**

What to do prior to class: Read chapter 5 of *Kids These Days* and chapter 21 of *College Rules!*

What we will be doing during class. Class activity: summarizing, paraphrasing, and quoting.

Wednesday, April 25th

What to do prior to class: Read chapter 6 of *Kids These Days*.

What we will be doing during class. Creating KWL+ reading logs.

Week 14**Monday, April 30th**

What to do prior to class: Read and respond to your peer's drafts online on Canvas; this includes completing the Peer Response form provided to you for this assignment. Bring a hard copy of your first draft to class.

What we will be doing during class: Holding our **final Mandatory Peer Review Session** — did you remember to bring a printout of your first draft? Please note that failure to participate in Peer Review — both online and in-class — will result in a lowering of your essay's grade by one full letter.

Wednesday, May 2nd

What to do prior to class: **Complete and submit final draft of your Critical Essay on Canvas.** (Please note that you will be submitting a hard copy in addition to your online submission.)

What we will be doing during class: **Submitting a hard copy of your Critical Essay and assembling the elements of your Writing Portfolio.**

Week 15

Monday, May 7th

What to do prior to class: Read Conclusion and Final Word of *Kids These Days*.

What we will be doing during class: group work and reading discussion based on Harris' book.

Wednesday, May 9th

What to do prior to class: Complete Study Questions.

What we will be doing during class: Second Reading Exam.

Week 16

Monday, May 14th

What to do prior to class: Complete Self-Reflection assignment.

What we will be doing during class: Creating ePortfolios on Canvas, returning final draft of Critical Essay.

Final Exam; or Culminating Activity: Please submit the link to your Canvas Writing Portfolio by 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 17th.