

San José State University Syllabus
Department of English
Course: ENGL 1A

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Ben Vevoda
Office Location:	(FO 214)
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Office Hours:	(Monday 11:15pm-1:15)
Class Days/Time:	(Monday and Wednesday 1:30pm -2:45pm)
Prerequisites:	(Reflection on College Writing)

GE/SJSU Studies Category: (Area A2: Written Communication IA)

Course Format

This course uses an in class delivery format. Online Canvas access required as well. Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, and assignment instructions can be found on the [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](#). You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [One.SJSU](#) to learn of any updates.

Course Description

English 1A is an introductory writing course that helps students understand the writing process and the goals, dynamics, and genres of written communication. Through interpretation and analysis of texts, students learn to think clearly and write effectively as they give form and coherence to complex ideas. Students practice these skills by writing for various audiences and rhetorical situations

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this GE course, students will be able to:

1. Read actively and rhetorically.

2. Perform essential task in the writing process (prewriting, organizing, composing, revising, and editing) and demonstrate an awareness of said performances
3. Articulate an awareness of and write according to the rhetorical features of text, such as purpose, audience, context and rhetorical appeals
4. Integrate the ideas of yours and others by explaining, analyzing, developing, and criticizing ideas effectively in several genres.
5. Demonstrate college-level language use, clarity, and grammatical proficiency in writing.

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>. Make sure to review these university policies and resources.

Required Texts/Readings

Prendergast, Catherine, *Can I Use I?*

Other Readings

Articles of your choice. Various optional readings and videos on Canvas, as well as *The Republic of Nature*. [MLA Online Style Guide](https://owl.purdue.edu) located at <https://owl.purdue.edu>

Course Requirements and Assignments (Required)

Small, low-stakes, in class writing: speaking and listening are really important skills to exercise in order to improve your writing skills, so we will be doing regular, smaller, writing exercises in class that will range from three to five sentences long. These writing tasks will be graded according to effort and completion, but are generally low stakes. We use these writings at the beginning of class to focus on the reading that we have done to prepare for class, as well as to help organize our ideas going into class discussions. These short writings and class discussions are a good way for me to figure out how you guys are doing, and if I need to make adjustments to my teaching. These writings will be about 1000 words throughout the whole semester.

Medium Papers: These are two page essays that will result in a total of 2000 words throughout the semester, and will require revision. These are exploratory papers for you to test out your skills and interests with articles of your choice to discuss.

Longer Paper: This paper is longer, 1000 word paper, that you will be required to revise. This is your culminating task for the semester and you will have a lot of opportunities to plan in class with your peers through group brainstorming activities. You get to decide your subject through a process of small group discussions. This is your passion piece.

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities.

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. This class will include in-class writing as well as out-of-class writing.

Reading: In addition to being writing intensive, ENGL1A is also a reading course. I will provide some reading material that will support you in your writing, but other readings will be your choice. Don't worry, you won't be on your own. There will be a process for finding articles that interest you.

At the end of the semester you will compile a portfolio of your writing that documents how you met the learning goals of the course.

Final Evaluation

Quickwrite Journal (revised)

Portfolio: Long Paper (revised) + Reflection

Grading Information

- There will be extra credit for additional entries in your journal.
- Participation will require that you speak to a classmate in class.
- This course must be passed with a C- or better as a CSU graduation requirement.

Determination of Grades

Assignment	Words	Weight	CLO
Medium Paper	500	10%	1-5
Medium Paper	500	10%	1-5
Medium Paper	500	10%	1-5
Medium Paper	500	10%	1-5
Longer Paper	1000	25%	1-5
Journal (daily writing exercises)	1000	15%	1,3
Participation	In Class	10%	1,3
Portfolio Bibliography and Reflection	Final	10%	1-5

Grade	Point	Percentage
A+	960 to 1000	96 to 100%
A	930 to 959	93 to 95%
A-	900 to 929	90 to 92%
B+	860 to 899	86 to 89 %
B	830 to 829	83 to 85%
B-	800 to 829	80 to 82%
C+	760 to 799	76 to 79%
C	730 to 759	73 to 75%

C-	700 to 729	70 to 72%
D+	660 to 699	66 to 69%
D	630 to 659	63 to 65%
D-	600 to 629	60 to 62%

Classroom Protocol

The expectations for this course are that you attend each class, or let me know. Please arrive on time, behave appropriately for an academic environment, pay attention to fire alarms or other emergency protocols, think about how cell phone use impacts the class environment, participate in class discussions and partner activities.

University Policies

Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading according to [University Policy F-69-24](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf) located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf>

“ATTENDANCE: 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. If a student has been out of school for one or more days, he should report to his instructors upon his return to inquire about making up the work. Students who know in advance that they will miss one or more classes should inform their instructors about their plans.”

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs’ Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>. Make sure to review these university policies and resources.

ENGLISH 1A / Title, Semester, Course Schedule

The schedule is subject to change, but I will let you know in advance if there are any changes. Where it says, “Article,” there will be different articles every week based on your choice.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/21	Syllabus, warm-up activity, journal and discussion protocols
2	8/26	Journal/Discuss Reading Due: Prendergast, Intro, CH1-2 Optional Enrichment: <i>The Republic of Nature</i> + “Field Critique: The Republic of Nature: Rediscovering the Environmental Origins of American History”
2	8/28	Journal/Discuss Reading Due: Prendergast CH 3-4 Optional Enrichment: <i>The Republic of Nature</i>
	9/2	NO CLASS

3	9/4	Journal/Discuss Reading Due: Prendergast CH 5-7 Bring your own article to discuss OR “Is ‘Environmentalism’ Still a White Phenomenon?” (Located in Canvas Week 2 Module) Optional Enrichment: <i>The Republic of Nature</i> Optional Enrichment: <i>The Republic of Nature</i>
3	9/9	Journal/Discuss Reading Due: Prendergast CH 8 Bring your own article to discuss OR <i>On the Edge of American History</i> CH 4 “A Sense of American Culture” Optional Enrichment: <i>The Republic of Nature</i>
4	9/11	Journal/Discuss Reading Due: Prendergast CH 9-10 Medium Paper Assigned Optional Enrichment: <i>The Republic of Nature</i>
4	9/16	Journal/Discuss Reading Due: Prendergast CH 11 Bring your own article to discuss OR <i>Land Grants in California</i> CH 4 “Minerals on Private Land Claims” Medium Paper Draft 1 Revision Session Optional Enrichment: <i>The Republic of Nature</i>
5	9/18	Journal/Discuss Reading Due: Prendergast CH 12-13 Assignment Due: Medium Paper (Revised) Optional Enrichment: <i>The Republic of Nature</i>
5	9/23	Journal/Discuss Reading Due: Prendergast CH 13-14 Optional Enrichment: <i>The Republic of Nature</i>
6	9/25	Journal/Discuss Reading Due: Prendergast CH 15-16 Optional Enrichment: <i>The Republic of Nature</i>
6	9/30	Journal/Discuss Reading Due: Prendergast CH 17 Bring your own article to discuss OR “Terry Tempest Williams Introduction to Crossing to Safety” + “Wilderness Letter” Medium Paper Assigned Optional Enrichment: <i>The Republic of Nature</i>
7	10/2	Journal/Discuss Reading Due: Prendergast CH 18-19 Optional Enrichment: <i>The Republic of Nature</i>
7	10/7	Journal/Discuss Reading Due: Prendergast CH 20-21 Bring your own article to discuss OR “Death and Life of Monkeywrenching” Optional Enrichment: <i>The Republic of Nature</i>
8	10/9	Journal/Discuss Reading Due: Prendergast CH 22-23

		Medium Paper Revision Session Optional Enrichment: <i>The Republic of Nature</i>
8	10/14	Journal/Discuss Reading Due: Prendergast CH 24 Assignment Due: Medium Paper (Revised) Optional Enrichment: <i>The Republic of Nature</i>
9	10/16	Journal/Discuss Reading Due: Prendergast CH 25-26
9	10/21	Journal/Discuss Reading Due: Prendergast CH 27 Bring your own article to discuss OR “Majora Carter: 3 Stories of Local Eco-Entrepreneurship” + “Greening the Ghetto Majora Carter” Medium Paper Assigned Optional Enrichment: <i>The Republic of Nature</i>
10	10/23	Journal/Discuss Reading Due: Prendergast CH 28 Optional Enrichment: <i>The Republic of Nature</i>
10	10/28	Journal/Discuss Reading Due: Prendergast CH 29 Medium Paper Revision Session Optional Enrichment: <i>The Republic of Nature</i>
11	10/30	Journal/Discuss Reading Due: Prendergast CH30 - end Assignment Due: Medium Paper (Revised)
11	11/4	Journal/Discuss Optional Enrichment: <i>The Republic of Nature</i>
12	11/6	Journal/Discuss Reading Due: Bring your own article to discuss OR Jeff Speck: The Walkable City” + “Jeff Speck 4 ways to make a city more walkable” Medium Paper Assigned Optional Enrichment: <i>The Republic of Nature</i>
	11/11	NO CLASS
12	11/12	Journal/Discuss Medium Paper Revision Session Optional Enrichment: <i>The Republic of Nature</i>
13	11/18	Journal/Discuss Reading Due: Bring your own article to discuss OR “10 Things We’re Talking About” + “Helping Those Hurt Most by Climate Change” Assignment Due: Medium Paper (Revised) Optional Enrichment: <i>The Republic of Nature</i>
13	11/20	Journal/Discuss Longer Paper Assigned Optional Enrichment: <i>The Republic of Nature</i>
14	11/25	Journal/Discuss

		Reading Due: Bring your own article to discuss OR “How Majora Carter, South Bronx Booster, Spends Her Sundays” OR “Soil, Communities, and Climate Change, and Interview With Nikki Silvestri” OR “The Green New Deal” (https://www.gp.org/gnd_full) Workshop: Long Paper, Research and Deliberation Optional Enrichment: <i>The Republic of Nature</i>
14	11/27	NO CLASS Homework: Long Paper, Research and Deliberation (On your own)
15	12/2	Journal/Discuss Workshop: Long Paper, Writing and Deliberative Collaboration Optional Enrichment: <i>The Republic of Nature</i>
15	12/4	Journal/Discuss Workshop: Long Paper, Revising and Sharing Out Optional Enrichment: <i>The Republic of Nature</i>
16	12/9	Journal/Discuss Workshop: Long Paper, Revising and Sharing Out Optional Enrichment: <i>The Republic of Nature</i>
Final Exam	12/11	Assignment Due: Longer Paper (Revised) Assignment Due: Journal (Revised) Assignment Due: Portfolio Bibliography + Reflection