

**San José State University**  
**Department of English and Comparative Literature**  
**English 1A, Composition 1 (GE A2), Sections 8 & 22, Fall 2014**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Edwin Sams
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	8:30-9:00 a.m., 10:30-11:30 (MW), 9-9:30 (F)
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	9:00-10:15 a.m., Noon-1:15 p.m. (MW)
<b>Classroom:</b>	BBC 122, SH 413
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	EPT of 147 or higher, passage of LLD 1 or 2
<b>GE Category:</b>	Written Communication A2

**Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging (Optional)**

Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, etc. may be found on my faculty web page at [http://www.sjsu.edu/people/Ed Sams](http://www.sjsu.edu/people/Ed_Sams) or accessible through the Quick Links>Faculty Web Page links on the SJSU home page. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor).

**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**

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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

### **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**

*The Bedford Handbook* (ISBN 978-1-4576-0803-2)

*Patterns for College Writing* (ISBN 978-0-312-67684-1)

## **Other equipment / material requirements**

Good collegiate dictionary, four exam booklets

## **Library Liaison for English courses**

Toby Matoush, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library

Voice: 408-808-2096

Email: [Toby.Matoush@sjsu.edu](mailto:Toby.Matoush@sjsu.edu)

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

## **Classroom Protocol**

Students are expected to be in class on time with their books and homework ready to answer questions on the assigned reading. Please no text-messaging, phoning, or any non-class related use of computers. There is no provision for late work. Should you be absent from class, contact me immediately by phone or email.

## **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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

## **Assignments and Grading Policy**

English 1A requires 4000 words in finished drafts, 8000 words total. Writing assignments will give repeated practice in all phases of the writing process: prewriting, organizing, writing, revising, and editing.

English 1A is a reading-intensive course. You will have reading assignments to complete for almost every class period, and readings will be accompanied by some form of writing. It is therefore imperative that you complete the readings prior to each class and come with your book prepared to discuss them in class.

In the English Department courses, instructors will comment on and grade the quality of student writing as well as the quality of the ideas being conveyed. All student writing should be distinguished by correct grammar and punctuation, appropriate diction and syntax, and well-organized paragraphs.

This is an A, B, C, D, F course. You must earn at least a C in order to pass. Any student with a final grade below a C must repeat the course.

## **Grading Scale**

A=excellent (correct, persuasive, informative prose) A+=100, A=95, A-=90

B=good (clear, well-developed, well-organized writing) B+=89, B=85, B-=80

C=satisfactory (clear thesis, coherent sentences, complete essay) C+=79, C=75, C-=70

D=unsatisfactory (unclear, incorrect, incomplete effort) D+= 69, D=65, D-=60

F=failure (off-topic, plagiaristic, late) F=50

## **Final Average**

3 in-class essays=30%, 3 out-of-class essays=30%, 1 final exam=10%, 4 drafts=10%, 10 quizzes (from *The Bedford Handbook*) =10%, Participation (outlines, drafts, classroom collaborative writing) =10%.

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 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 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Clark Hall and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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

(All assignments marked with an asterisk indicate works of fiction.)

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines	
1	Aug 25	Syllabus, <b>Diagnostic Essay</b> (SLO 3, 4)	<i>Bedford</i> 19, <i>Patterns</i> 2 (SLO 1, 3, 5)
2	Sept 1	HOLIDAY	Quiz, <i>Patterns</i> 3, 4 (SLO 5, 2)
3	Sept 8	<i>Patterns</i> 6, <i>Bedford</i> 20 (SLO 1, 3, 4, 5)	Quiz, <i>Bedford</i> 21, <i>Patterns</i> 7 (202*) (SLO 5, 4, 3, 2, 1)
4	Sept 15	<b>Journal due</b> (SLO 3, 4, 5)	Quiz, <i>Bedford</i> 27 (a-d), <i>Patterns</i> 8 (240) (SLO 5, 3, 2, 1)
5	Sept 22	Quiz, <i>Patterns</i> 9 (281)	<b>In-class Narrative</b> (SLO 2, 3, 4, 5)
6	Sept 29	<i>Patterns</i> 10 (339, 361, 466) (SLO 1, 2, 3)	<i>Bedford</i> 27 (e-g), outlines due (SLO 5, 2, 3)
7	Oct 6	<i>Patterns</i> 11(393, 404, 410), Quiz (SLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)	<i>Bedford</i> 32 (a-e), drafts (SLO 5, 2, 3, 4)
8	Oct 13	<b>Causal Analysis due</b> (SLO 2, 3, 4, 5)	Quiz, outlines due, <i>Pat</i> 12 (460), <i>Bed.</i> 32 (SLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
9	Oct 20	Dictionary, <i>Pat</i> 13, <i>Bed</i> 26 (SLO 1, 2, 3, 5)	Quiz, drafts, <i>Pat</i> 13 (507, 516, 511) (SLO 2, 3, 4, 5)
10	Oct 27	<b>In-class Comparison essay</b> (SLO 2, 3, 4, 5)	outlines due, Quiz (SLO 2, 3, 5)
11	Nov 3	<i>Patterns</i> 14 (553-566) (SLO 1, 2, 3)	<i>Patterns</i> 14, drafts (SLO 1, 2, 3, 4)
12	Nov 10	<b>Definition essay due</b> , <i>Patterns</i> 14 (SLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)	outline due, <i>Patterns</i> 14 (SLO 1, 2, 3, 4)
13	Nov 17	<i>Patterns</i> 14 (582) (SLO 1, 3, 4)	<i>Patterns</i> (593), drafts (SLO 1, 2, 3, 4)
14	Nov 24	<b>Argumentative essay due</b> (SLO 2, 3, 4, 5)	<i>Bedford</i> 36 (SLO 5)

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
15	Dec 1	Quiz, <i>Patterns</i> 15 (685) (SLO 1, 3, 4, 5) <i>Patterns</i> 15 (664), outlines due (SLO 1, 2, 3, 4)
16	Dec 8	<i>Patterns</i> 15 (680), <i>Bedford</i> 45 (SLO 1, 3, 4, 5)      Quiz (SLO 5)
Final Exam	Dec 16, 17	English 1A (8) on Tuesday (Dec 16) from 7:15-9:30 English 1A (22) on Wednesday (Dec 17) from 9:45-noon

### 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)