

**San José State University**  
**Department of English & Comparative Literature**  
**ENGL 1A: First-Year Writing, Section #61, Fall 2017**

**Course and Contact Information**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Sara Cook
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Tuesdays & Thursdays, noon – 1pm
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:30am – 11:45am
<b>Classroom:</b>	BBC, room 122
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	Reflection on College Writing
<b>GE/SJSU Studies Category:</b>	GE Area A2 Written Communication I

**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.

**ENGL 1A Learning Outcomes (GELO)**

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

1. read actively and rhetorically;
2. 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. integrate your 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.

**ENGL 1A Course Content**

Writing: Writing assignments will give you 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. Because in-class writing is valued and you should be able to perform well in

timed writing situations, at least two essays will be written in class. In addition, ENGL 1A classes require multiple out-of-class essays.

Essays will correspond to the readings and will increase in difficulty as we move through the semester. In-class essays will be written in large blue books or yellow books; please bring at least one blue or yellow book the day of an in-class essay along with pens and your dictionary. **In-class essays cannot be made up.** If extenuating circumstances apply, please see me well in advance (at least one week) of the date of the in-class essay. All out-of-class essays must be in MLA format, as detailed in *The Everyday Writer*, and are due in class. Unstapled papers will not be accepted.

**Reading:** In addition to being an intensive writing course, ENGL 1A is also a reading course. Reading is a crucial component of the class, as one must read effective writing to become an effective writer. During the semester, you will read a variety of rhetorical and professional works on the art and craft of persuasive language.

Class discussions and activities are based on the reading. It is pertinent that you have the reading completed on the corresponding date on the schedule – I cannot emphasize the importance of this enough. I expect you to read slowly, attentively, and to annotate your text with a pen or pencil.

**Rough Drafts & Workshops:** Essay/major assignments require rough drafts. Rough drafts must be turned in with your final draft. If you only turn in one draft of an assignment where multiple drafts are due, you will receive an “F” for that assignment.

Workshops are a chance for you to test drive your essay and are very important to the writing process. You must attend! If you miss a peer editing workshop, you must still turn in a rough draft with your final draft, and you will forfeit one letter grade on the assignment.

**Other work:** You will have various other homework and in-class assignments. These cannot be made up.

**Participation:** This is a **seminar** course; oral participation is necessary: your thoughts and questions are important to the discussion and our communal growth as writers. The potency of our class depends upon our commitment to reading, discussing, and writing with conscientiousness and consistency. You are expected to participate with flawless preparation and awe-inspiring enthusiasm.

Your participation will be assessed through in-class writing assignments, group work, and class discussion.

**Attendance:** Regular attendance is crucial to your success in this class. Remember, there are no “excused” absences in college. If you fail to attend a class, you are still expected to turn in the assignments due that day, get details on whatever topics were covered in class, and complete the homework for the next meeting. It is your responsibility to contact me or a classmate to see what you missed.

## **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. 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>.

## Assignment Word Count and Learning Goals

Assignment	Word Count	GELO
Essay 1: In-class reflection	500	3 + 5
Essay 2 (3 drafts): Persuasive essay	1200	1 - 5
Essay 3: In-class reflection	500	3 - 5
Essay 4 (3 drafts): Ethnography project	1500	1 - 5
Essay 5 (2 drafts): Critical essay	1200	1 - 5
Final Project	1200	1 - 5
Homework, in-class writing, and other work	2000	1 - 5

*Final drafts = 6,100 words*

*Rough drafts = 5,700 words*

*Total = 11,800 words*

### Required Texts

#### Textbooks / Materials

- *The Everyday Writer* by Andrea Lunsford
  - All students have a free electronic copy of this in their Canvas accounts (named *Writer's Help*).
- *Course Reader* compiled by Sara Cook
  - This is available for purchase at Maple Press (330 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St. #200).
  - You must bring this to class every day.
- *Moment*, a smart phone app (free)
- Recommended online dictionary: Oxford

#### Other Readings

Other readings will be posted on Canvas throughout the semester. **You will be responsible for printing these articles from Canvas, and reading and annotating them. Other readings may be added; notice of any additions will be sent via Canvas.**

#### Grading Policy

**Grading:** A-F. To receive credit for GE Area 2, you must receive a C- or higher in ENGL 1A. If you are UGRM in English, you must earn a D- or higher in ENGL 1A to clear remediation. This class must be passed with a C- or better as a CSU graduation requirement. A passing grade in the course signifies that the student is a capable college-level writer and reader of English.

Essay 1 (in-class)	5%
Essay 2 (out of class)	15%
Essay 3 (in-class)	5%
Essay 4 (out of class)	20%
Essay 5 (out of class)	15%
Final project	15%
Other Work	15%
Participation	10%

## Grade Calculation:

A+ = 100-97%	A = 96-93%	A- = 92-90%
B+ = 89-87%	B = 86-83%	B- = 82-80%
C+ = 79-77%	C = 76-73%	C- = 72-70%
D+ = 69-67%	D = 66-63%	D- = 62-60%
F = 59-0% Unsatisfactory		

Requirements for particular assignments will vary, but in all cases 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

In this class I expect you to:

1. Commit yourself. Academic work is what you make of it.
2. Come to class on time. Tardiness is disruptive and disrespectful.
3. If you are not using your cell phone for a class activity, it should be silenced and **stowed**. If you are engaging in electronic activity during class that I have not directed, I will ask you to leave. Headphone use is prohibited during class time.
4. Engage yourself in our class. If you are doing anything other than being present in our class work I will ask you to leave.
5. Take responsibility for your actions, positive and negative. Remember teachers do not "give" grades, you earn them.
6. Communicate with me. I am here to help you, but I have no way of knowing if you are unclear about an assignment or otherwise need help unless you tell me. If you have questions about the work, speak up in class, come to see me in my office, or send an email.

## My Professional Policies

1. I do not accept late work. (See the last page of this syllabus for the one exception to this policy)
2. I do not accept work via email.
3. In class work cannot be made-up (this includes in-class essays, workshops, and "other work").
4. I reserve the right to publish your work to the class as part of our workshop activities.
5. Please come to my office hours for any help you want; that is what I am here for.

## University Policies

The link below contains university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc.

[http://www.sjsu.edu/english/frosh/program\\_policies/index.html](http://www.sjsu.edu/english/frosh/program_policies/index.html)

## A Few Last Words

Once you graduate with your Bachelor's degree, you will be among the top 1% educated people in the world. From this fact I would like you 1) take pride in this, and 2) don't take this opportunity for granted. Don't slack. Enjoy your time at SJSU and work hard.

Writing well is difficult, and like anything else you have to work at it. Don't sit back and wait for your brain to effortlessly absorb the material. Engage yourself and you may discover that your writing reveals things to you that you didn't know *and* that your writing is better than you thought. Lastly, please ask me about any assignment if it is unclear to you. And, please do not hesitate to come talk to me about anything – assignments or otherwise. I am here to help you, and look forward to working with you this semester.

## English 1A: First-Year Writing, Fall 2017, Course Schedule

*This schedule is subject to change. All scheduled readings and assignments need to be completed by the time you come to class on the day they are listed.*

*CR = Course Reader*

*Canvas = These readings are posted on Canvas. **You are responsible for printing these articles, as well as reading and annotating them.***

## Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/24/17	Introduction
1	8/29/17	<b>Essay #1:</b> Diagnostic. Bring an essay booklet to write in.
2	8/31/17	“Shitty First Drafts” (Canvas) Reading + Writing rhetorically Paraphrasing
2	9/5/17	“Thresholds of Violence” by Malcolm Gladwell (Canvas)
3	9/7/17	Argumentation + Evidence “Shootings” by Adam Gopnik (Canvas)
3	9/12/17	“Toxic Masculinity and Murder” by James Hamblin (Canvas)
4	9/14/17	“School Shootings: An American Problem?” by Samarth Gupta (Canvas)
4	9/19/17	Essay #2: Pre-writing and theses

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
5	9/21/17	Essay #2: Revising workshop. Complete 1 <sup>st</sup> draft due. Submit on Canvas AND bring a hard copy to class.
5	9/26/17	Essay #2: Editing workshop. Complete 2 <sup>nd</sup> draft due. Bring a hard copy to class.
6	9/28/17	<b>Essay #2 due</b> (hard copy) Start Ethnography project (essays 3 + 4)
6	10/3/17	“Have Smartphones Destroyed a Generation?” by Jean Twenge (Canvas)
7	10/5/17	Selections from <i>Irresistible</i> by Adam Alter (Canvas)
7	10/10/17	“Small Change: Why the Revolution Will Not be Tweeted” by Malcolm Gladwell (Canvas)
8	10/12/17	<b>Essay #3: In-class</b>
8	10/17/17	Interviews (this is a mandatory day)
9	10/19/17	Visualizing Data <b>*Meet in Sweeney Hall 229*</b>
9	10/24/17	Organizing, analyzing and employing primary research
10	10/26/17	Results of primary research due. Library Training <b>*Meet in the King Library - room TBA*</b>
10	10/31/17	Secondary research Pre-writing essay #4
11	11/2/17	Essay #4: Partial draft due. Submit on Canvas AND bring a hard copy to class.
11	11/7/17	Essay #4: Complete draft due. Bring a hard copy to class.
12	11/9/17	<b>Essay #4 due</b>
12	11/14/17	<i>The Other Wes Moore</i> (Intro-45)
13	11/16/17	<i>The Other Wes Moore</i> (46-107)
13	11/21/17	Essay #5: Pre-writing

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
14	11/23/17	Thanksgiving break – no class
14	11/28/17	<i>The Other Wes Moore</i> (108-145)
15	11/30/17	<i>The Other Wes Moore</i> (146-183)
15	12/5/17	<b>Essay #5: Complete draft due for a peer evaluation workshop</b>
16	12/7/17	<b>Essay #5 due</b> Begin reflection for final project.
Final Exam		Final project due. Portfolios due on Canvas. Venue and Time TBA

*The one-time-only*

## Emergency Pass

Guidelines: With this pass, you may turn in one *out of class essay* up to one week (7 days) late. *This pass may **not** be used for homework, the final project, or any other assignments.* I highly suggest you save this pass for an actual emergency (i.e. car accident on the way to school, relative dying, etc.)

Directions: Staple this pass to the top of your essay. You must turn in your late essay in class, within the one-week timeframe.

Other pertinent info:

- Essays slipped under my office door will not be accepted.
- Essays that are emailed will not be accepted.
- Essays that are more than one week (7 days) late will not be accepted.