Critical Thinking and Writing Section 06
ENGL 2

Spring 2025   Sections 06, 22   In Person   3 Unit(s)   01/23/2025 to 05/12/2025   Modified 01/20/2025

🕐 Course Information

"Learn, by my example, how much happier that man is who believes his native town to be the world than he who aspires to become greater than his nature will allow." -Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (1818)

Our English 2 course will center around readings and writing assignments that discuss the impact of recent advances in science and technology on contemporary culture. Through an analysis of readings on this topic from a variety of different genres, some questions we will consider include: What is the difference between biology and technology? How are rapidly-developing advances in science and technology impacting various domains of society today, such as medicine, school, work, and social relationships? Should we be concerned or hopeful about these advancements and their future impact on society? We will also apply these questions to our own experience with technology, allowing us to reflect on the technology we use every day and its impact on our personal, academic, and professional lives.

🖥 Course Description and Requisites

English 2 is a course that focuses on the relationship between language and logic in composing arguments. Students learn various methods of effective reasoning and appropriate rhetorical strategies to help them invent, demonstrate, and express arguments clearly, logically, and persuasively.

GE Area(s): A3. Critical Thinking and Writing

Prerequisite(s): Completion of GE Area A2 with a grade of "C-" or better.

Note(s): ENGL 2 is not open to students who successfully completed ENGL 1B.

Letter Graded

✳ Classroom Protocols

Assessment:

You must receive at least 70% (a letter grade of C-) as a final grade to pass this course, distributed as follows:

- 20% In-class activities (including warm-ups!)
- 35% Critical analysis essay assignments
- 35% Critical synthesis essay assignments
- 10% Final self-reflection essay (Note: This assignment will count as your final exam)

Assignments:

- **In-class activities** (CLOs 1, 2, 3, 4): We will be conducting daily in-class activities, including warm-up activities in the beginning of each class, which will count towards your final grade; if you are late or absent, you will not be allowed to make up these activities.
- **Essay assignments** (CLOs 1, 2, 3, 4): You will be asked to write two main essays that include smaller scaffolding assignments: a rhetorical analysis, a reasoning analysis, & an argument analysis that will prepare you to write your critical analysis essay (approx. 2000 words for each draft) and a synthesis chart & synthesis assignment that will prepare you to write your critical synthesis essay (approx. 2000 words for each draft). The critical synthesis will also include an oral presentation component as well.
- **Self-reflection essay** (CLOs 1, 4). For your final exam, you will be asked to write a final self-reflection essay.

Attendance & Participation Policy:

- We will be conducting **in-class activities**, including **warm-up activities** in the beginning of each class, which will count towards your final grade; if you are late or absent, you will not be allowed to make up these activities.
- Each student will be allowed to **miss up to two classes** without deductions for missing the in-class activities in order to account for unexpected events.
- *Note: Exceptions are made to this policy only in rare circumstances. Please contact me if you need to miss a class and be ready to provide proof of illness or other unexpected event.*

Late Assignments Policy:

- You can submit assignments **up to three days (72 hours)** past their due date and time. No assignments will be accepted after this final deadline.
- If an assignment is **marked incomplete** due to missing requirements, you have **one chance to redo the assignment within 7 days** (with a late deduction of 1 point if completed within the 7 day period).
- *Note: Exceptions are made to this policy only in rare circumstances. Please contact me if you need an extension on an assignment and be ready to provide proof of illness or other unexpected event.*

Plagiarism Policy:

- Plagiarism will result in a **zero grade** for the assignment. This includes any assignments that receive a score of 50% or higher using the Turn it in plagiarism tool in Canvas, **as well as any assignments that copy & paste full sentences & paragraphs from generative A.I. writing tools like ChatGPT.**

Contacting Your Instructor:

- The best way to reach me is via email at raina.levesque@sjsu.edu (I will respond within 48 hours).
- You can also visit me during my office hours on Fridays 3:00-5:00pm (or by appointment) in my Zoom office room.

Technology Requirements:

- You will need access to the following technology: a laptop/tablet, Microsoft Word or a compatible word processing program, & reliable internet access.
- To prepare for the course: 1) Visit SJSU IT Software Installation Page (https://www.sjsu.edu/it/services/collaboration/software/instructions.php) and download Microsoft Word (for PC and Mac); 2) Download the free Grammarly grammar checker app found here: Grammarly.com (http://www.grammarly.com/)

Important Dates:

- First day of instruction: Thursday, 1/23/25
- Waitlist ends: Monday, 2/3/25
- Instructor permission required to add a class: Tuesday, 2/4/25
- Last day to add a class via MySJSU: Tuesday, 2/18/25
- Last day to drop a class without a "W" (Withdrawal) on transcript: Tuesday, 2/18/25
- Spring break: 3/31/25-4/4/25
- Last day to petition for withdrawal without an "F" (Failing grade) on transcript: Monday, 4/22/25
- Last day of instruction: Monday, 5/12/25

Program Policies:

First-Year Writing policies are listed at the following website: https://www.sjsu.edu/english/frosh/program-policies.php (https://www.sjsu.edu/english/frosh/program-policies.php)

Program Information

Welcome to this General Education course.

SJSU's General Education Program establishes a strong foundation of versatile skills, fosters curiosity about the world, promotes ethical judgment, and prepares students to engage and contribute responsibly and cooperatively in a multicultural, information-rich society. General education classes integrate areas of study and encourage progressively more complex and creative analysis, expression, and problem solving.

The General Education Program has three goals:

Goal 1: To develop students' core competencies for academic, personal, creative, and professional pursuits.
Goal 2: To enact the university's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and justice by ensuring that students have the knowledge and skills to serve and contribute to the well-being of local and global communities and the environment.
Goal 3: To offer students integrated, multidisciplinary, and innovative study in which they pose challenging questions, address complex issues, and develop cooperative and creative responses.

More information about the General Education Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) can be found on the GE website (https://sjsu.edu/general-education/ge-requirements/overview/learning-outcomes.php).

📶 Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

GE Area A3: Critical Thinking and Writing

Area A3 courses develop students' understanding of the relationship of language to logic. By engaging students in complex issues requiring critical thinking and effective argumentation, A3 courses develop students' abilities to research and analyze important topics and to construct their own arguments on issues that generate meaningful public debate and deliberation. Courses include explicit instruction and practice in inductive and deductive reasoning as well as identification of formal and informal fallacies of language and thought. Completion of Area A2 (Written Communication I) with a minimum grade of C- is a prerequisite for enrollment in Area A3. Completion of Area A3 with a grade of C- or better is a CSU graduation requirement.

GE Area A3 Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of an Area A3 course, students should be able to:

1. locate, interpret, evaluate, and synthesize evidence in a comprehensive way, including through library research; and integrate research findings into oral and written arguments through appropriate citation and quotation;
2. use a range of rhetorical and logical strategies to articulate and explain their positions on complex issues in dialogue with other points of view;
3. identify and critically evaluate the assumptions in and the contexts of arguments; and
4. use inductive and deductive logic to construct valid, evidence-supported arguments and draw valid conclusions.

Writing Practice: Students will write a minimum of 6000 words, at least 4000 of which must be in revised final draft form.

📘 Course Materials

Everything's an Argument

Author: Lunsford and Ruszkiewicz (Ed.).
Publisher: New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2022.
Edition: 9th
ISBN: 978-1319244484
Availability: Provided

Artificial Unintelligence: How Computers Misunderstand the World

Author: Meredith Broussard
Publisher: Boston: MIT Press, 2018
ISBN: 9780262346733
Availability: Provided/Online

DOI: [https://doi.org/10.7551/mitpress/11022.001.0001 (https://doi.org/10.7551/mitpress/11022.001.0001)](https://doi.org/10.7551/mitpress/11022.001.0001)

✔ Grading Information

Grading Policy:

This class uses a labor-based grading model, according to which grades are determined based on the amount of labor (i.e. time and work) involved. As a result, most assignments are graded credit/no credit, and you will only receive numerical point values for your Activities (in-class), the revisions you make on your Final Drafts, and your final Self-Reflection Essay. *Note: Please see [Labor-Based Grading (https://barnard.edu/labor-based-grading#:~:text=Labor-based%20grading%20(also%20known,course%20and%20the%20course's%20instructor.)](https://barnard.edu/labor-based-grading) to learn more about this grading model.*

Grading Contract:

In this course, you are guaranteed a B if you:

1. attend class regularly, missing no more than two weeks of classes;
2. participate in all in-class exercises and activities;
3. meet main criteria and due dates for all major assignments;
4. make substantive revisions when the assignment is to revise;
5. submit your Final Portfolio at the end of the semester.

In this system, you can earn the grade of B entirely on the basis of what you do—on your conscientious effort and participation. The grade of B does not derive from my judgment about the quality of your work with the exception that your work must meet my expectations for the quality of "baseline" engagement.

Grades higher than B, however, do rest on my judgment of quality. To earn higher grades you must complete the assignments at both a higher level of (1) effort and participation and (2) quality.

As an instructor, I commit to:

1. providing clear and reasonable criteria for all main assignments;
2. providing thoughtful, formative feedback for all assignments where revision is required in a timely manner;
3. creating availability for meetings with individual students who want to confer on drafts;
4. providing oral or written feedback to explain judgments of quality as necessary & seriously reconsidering judgements of quality if requested as part of a one-on-one meeting;
5. considering upon request extenuating circumstances to raise (but never lower) grades that do not meet students' expectations based on the above contracts;
6. re-evaluating contract criteria in consultation with class members, if requested.

🏛 University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 (PDF) (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information (https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php)](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.