Critical Thinking and Writing Section 20
ENGL 2

Spring 2025   In Person   3 Unit(s)   01/23/2025 to 05/12/2025   Modified 01/27/2025

🕐 Course Information

Course Theme: PERSUASION

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We are bombarded with messages through social media to buy products, listen to music, try the latest dance craze, make the coolest recipe trend, incorporate a workout solution, copy a lifestyle hack, and more.

But what do we know about WHO is trying to persuade us and WHAT they want us to do or believe? And HOW are they persuading us to pay attention and follow, click, download, or share their content/products/ideas and more?

These are questions we will explore this semester as we learn to 'unpack' persuasive arguments and make our own in both text and visual composition. Engl 2 will help you become a more informed consumer and citizen. In addition, you will gain critical thinking, organization, and writing skills that will be helpful throughout your academic career and beyond.

Along the way, you'll get to know other SJSU students, stretch your mind, and have some fun this semester (well, the school kind of fun, that is :).

Seminar

Tuesday, Thursday, 3:00 PM to 4:15 PM, Sweeney Hall Room 348

Attendance will be taken at every class. You must attend this course regularly to reach a passing grade.

🖥 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

ENGL 2

This course is open to all students needing to fulfill GE Area A3 (Critical Thinking). It is not open to students who have successfully completed ENGL 1B.
Prerequisite: ENGL 1A or Stretch English (with a grade of C- or better)

Course Content

Course Overview and Key Information

Engl 2 Theme and Focus: Identifying, analyzing, and forming effective arguments so you can explain, defend and persuade others about the issues that matter to you.

Want to convince your friend that the Warriors are better than the Lakers? ...Defend your favorite musician against people who lob negative comments?...Persuade your roomate to choose Chipotle over In and Out? To argue any of these perspectives effectively, you must identify your audience, frame an effective argument using evidence to back up your ideas, and choose the right context or platform in which to communicate. These are skills you will learn and practice in Engl 2.

Composing Text and Digital Arguments: In 2025, platforms for argument are often visual (meme, social media, YouTube, infographic), so you will practice analyzing visual arguments and presenting your argument in a visual format. But text is far from dead, so you will also write essays and short answer text responses in class and for homework.

Reading: You will read short articles, research papers, and other forms of written and visual text in class and for homework. There are no assigned textbooks for Engl 2. All required reading will be posted on Canvas.

Research: You will learn how to frame a research topic, search for sources, evaluate sources, read source material to gain insight on your ideas, and synthesize that research to support your argument.

Required Texts: None- we will be using free texts and readings that will be posted on Canvas.

In class participation: Engl 2 is an in-person course and regular participation is essential to succeed. Attendance will be noted each day, and points will be assigned for the work we do in each class period. Engl 2 is an interactive class and in class work cannot be made up at home. Students who have specific conflicts that prevent attending class should email the teacher to discuss how to catch up.

Academic Integrity: As a SJSU student, your commitment is to learning. The [University Academic Integrity PolicyLinks to an external site. (https://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf)](https://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at [http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/Links to an external site. (http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/)](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/).

My Policy about AI Use

We are surrounded by AI tools that can do writing for you, but these tools cannot form thoughts for you and relying on AI-generated text will not lead to a passing grade in this course. We will learn to use AI as a tool for brainstorming, research, and other aspects of pre-writing in this course, but do not be tempted to use AI to *write* your essays in Engl 2.

However, it is ultimately up to you to decide whether to shortcut your own learning process through technology. To help you think about your own boundaries with AI, you will write a short personal AI ethics manifesto at the start of the semester and be required to reflect and report on any AI use when submitting final drafts of your major assignments.

If I notice unauthorized use of AI in an assignment, I will require the student to meet with me individually or assign a zero grade.

The SJSU Writing Center has put together this [AI Writer Toolbox for StudentsLinks to an external site. (https://comm.sjsu.edu/NjYzLVVLUS05OTgAAAGXUSGD0nM9YHt1wFy8RV_63xSt8HKG0Y95J6h-bwpxrZO9kcLRs7NPt4VRCE0gQPzDTjQMGgA=)](https://comm.sjsu.edu/NjYzLVVLUS05OTgAAAGXUSGD0nM9YHt1wFy8RV_63xSt8HKG0Y95J6h-bwpxrZO9kcLRs7NPt4VRCE0gQPzDTjQMGgA=) and I encourage you to use this resource throughout the semester.

Policy for late work

In class assignments, including journal posts, cannot be made up without explicit permission from the instructor. Do not try to submit work for days that you missed class and assume that I won't notice you were absent.

Reader Responses and major assignments (including outlines and rough drafts) will lose 10% if handed in late but within a week of the original deadline. Assignments will not be accepted more than a week late without permission from the instructor.

Note: Life happens and we all need help sometimes meeting our deadlines. I'm willing to be flexible, but only if you let me know ahead of time. I don't want to hear the day after an assignment is due that you need an extension. It is my experience that letting work drag out leads to continued missed deadlines and increases the odds of a student not passing. **Come talk to me if you are overwhelmed so we can figure out a plan to get you back on track.**

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Final Exam: There is no 'final exam' for Engl 2. Instead, all SJSU students enrolled in Engl 2 are required to gather writing samples and write a portfolio essay at the end of the semester that is due on the date of the final exam as dictated by the SJSU schedule. For Engl 2 Sect 5, the portfolio will be due at 5pm on 5/15. We will talk about the portfolio in detail later in the semester.

Diversity: SJSU studies include an emphasis on diversity. You will engage in integrated reading, Writing, and oral assignments to construct your own arguments on complex issues (such as diversity and ethnicity, class and social equality) that generate meaningful public debate. Readings for the course will include writers of different ethnicities, genders, and socio-economic classes.

Writing: You will write a series of essays informed by research and articulating fully developed arguments about complex issues. Assignments emphasize those skills and activities in writing and thinking that produce the persuasive argument and the critical essay, each of which demands analysis, interpretation, and evaluation. Writing assignments give you repeated practice in prewriting, organizing, writing, revising, and editing. This class requires a minimum of 6000 words, at least 4000 of which must be in revised final draft form.

Logic: You will learn methods of argument analysis, both rhetorical and logical, that will allow you to identify logical structures (such as warrants, evidence, qualification, rebuttal; enthymemes and syllogisms) and distinguish common logical fallacies.

Reading: In addition to being writing intensive, ENGL 2 is also a reading course. You will read a variety of critical and argumentative texts to help develop your skills for understanding the logical structure of argumentative writing.

Oral: You will be presenting your arguments orally to class both as an individual and as part of a group.

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas Learning Management System course login website. You're responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU to learn of any updates. For help with using Canvas see Canvas Student Resources page.

Time Commitment

Success in ENGL 2 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, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Final Examination or Evaluation
In ENGL 2, our learning culminates in a digital Reflection and Portfolio Assignment. In this assignment, we will gather samples of our writing that demonstrate our learning; we will write a reflection essay

that explains what we have learned, how we learned it, and how we will use it in future learning; and we will submit our portfolio for consideration to other people in the first-year writing program. This is our chance to identify and articulate what we've learned and what we'll take forward with us into future learning/writing experiences.

Course Policies for Engl 2

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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)](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 Goals

We are bombarded with messages through social media to buy products, listen to music, try the latest dance craze, make the coolest recipe trend, incorporate a workout solution, copy a lifestyle hack, and more.

But what do we know about WHO is trying to persuade us and WHAT they want us to do or believe? And HOW are they persuading us to pay attention and follow, click, download, or share their content/products/ideas and more?

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▥ 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

Required Texts: None- we will be using free texts and readings that will be posted on Canvas.

≔ Course Requirements and Assignments

Course Requirements and Assignments

This Engl 2 Course has four major assignments and a final portfolio project, along with other short assignments, and reading responses throughout the semester.

Major Assignments for Engl 2 Section 20:

1. Rhetorical analysis warmup essay
2. Visual text analysis essay
3. Research-Based Proposal Argument (focus: an issue that matters to you)
   1. Proposal overview
   2. Annotated bibliography
   3. Proposal argument with research citations
4. Persuasive Argument Social Media Campaign
5. Reflection essay (required for all Engl 2 students at SJSU)

I will create a set of complete directions for each assignment, which will be posted on Canvas and discussed in class. Assignments will include reading, formal and informal writing, and, in some cases, research. Throughout both reading and writing, we will use multiple modes of communication (oral, written, digital, and visual).

My Teaching Philosophy

My goal for Engl 2 is that every student will succeed and pass the course so you can get credit for this GE course and move forward at SJSU. If you come to class and do the work, you can get at least the C- grade required to earn credit for Engl 2. If you want to get an A, you can reach that goal through consistent effort and hard work. If you are struggling, I am here to help you!

Success in Engl 2 requires five simple things:

1) Do the reading and homework

2) Come to class and participate in all individual, partner and group activities (see below for more details)

3) Engage in the writing process by drafting, revising and re-writing each major assignment

4) Complete work on time

5) Keep up with all communication about Engl 2 through Canvas. Assignment dates and content could change throughout the semester, and it's up to you to keep informed by checking your email. If I reach out to you individually with a question or concern, be sure to reply on a timely basis.

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✔ Grading Information

Points and Grades

Below is a breakdown of the number of words per assignment, the points per assignment and how the assignment relates to your final grade for the course. In addition, you can see how each assignment contributes to the course goals or "General Learning Outcomes" (GELO) for Engl 2. **Please note that the cumulative grade that displays on Canvas does not reflect the grade that you will get in Engl 2 as it does not account for class participation.**

	Points	Point Total	% of Final Grade	GELOs covered Notes
In class assignments and attendance	9 per class			

Subtotal in class work		210	
			21%
			GELO 1,2, 3, 4
Rhetorical Analysis Warm up			
outline	10		
Essay	15		
Rhetorical Analysis Warm up		25	
			GELO 2, 3, 4
			2.5%
Visual Persuasion Analysis			
proposal/outline		20	
RD 1		20	
RD 2		20	
Final draft		100	
Reflection		20	
Subtotal Visual Persuasion Analysis		180	
			GELO 1, 2, 3, 4
			18%
Research-Based Proposal Argument			
What I care about visual representation		10	
initial proposal with claim and draft thesis		20	

Draft research proposal		20		
Final research proposal		50		
Draft Annotated bibliography		20		
Final annotated bibliography		50		
Outline for final draft with research citations		20		
Draft research-based proposal essay		10		
Final research-based proposal essay		100		
Reflection		20		
Research-Based Proposal Argument subtotal		320	32%	GELO 1, 2, 3, 4,
Persuasive Social Media Campaign				
Proposal		20		
Discussion post with peer feedback (2 at 5pts each)		10		
Presentation		100		
Persuasive Social Media Campaign total		130	13.%	GELO 1, 2, 3, 4
Portfolio essay		75	7.5%	GELO 2, 4
Other Assignments				

Reading Responses	10	50	5%	GELO 2, 3, 4
Personal ethical statement about AI		10	1%	
Other Assignments Subtotal		60	6%	
Total Points: 1000				

Grading Information

Your final grade in the course will be recorded as a letter grade, ranging from A to F. I will use + and − grades to refine the evaluation within the letter-grade categories. The cumulative grade that displays on **Please note that the cumulative grade that displays on Canvas does not reflect the grade that you will get in Engl 2 as it does not account for class participation.**

Please note: As a GE course, students must receive a C- or higher in Engl 2 to get the Area A2 GE credit toward their degree. Students who do not earn at least a C- in English 2 must retake it. As a result, it is my highest goal that every student who comes to class regularly and submits their work will pass this Engl 2 course. **If you are falling behind and worried about failing, don't ghost me! Instead, reach out and let's find a path forward towards successful completion.**

Course grades will be using the following scale:

Grade	Points	Percentage
A	940 to 1000	94 to 100%
A -	900 to 939	90 to 93.9%
B +	870 to 899	87 to 89.9ß%

B	840 to 869	84 to 86.9%
B -	800 to 839	80 to 83.9%
C +	770 to 799	77 to 79.9%
C	740 to 769	74 to 76.0%
C -	700 to 739	70 to 73.9%
D +	670 to 699	67 to 69.9%
D	640 to 669	64 to 66.9%
D -	610 to 639	61 to 63.9%
F	BELOW 610	

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Just kidding!

Grade Criteria

Requirements for each assignment will vary, but in all cases, grades will reflect the assignment's effectiveness, which is broken down into three major areas: content (this includes maturity and sophistication of thought), organization, and expression. Please see the rubrics for specific grading criteria for each assignment.

Extra credit and revision

Extra credit: There are five assigned Reading Responses throughout the semester. Students can choose to do up to two additional Reading Responses from the bonus list on Canvas to gain extra points. Any extra Reading Responses are due by the date of the final exam: May 15th at 5pm.

Revision: To emphasize the writing process, all major assignments in Engl 2 will have multiple rough drafts and the final grade will include points for revision. Students may also revise and resubmit any major assignment, but they must meet with me individually to discuss specific ways the writing could improve. Any assignment resubmitted without a prior meeting will not regraded.

A note about grammar and Standard English rules

Every writer comes with their own unique voice, background, language skills and knowledge of grammar rules and conventions. In our exploration of language, voice, and rhetoric this semester, we will consider when and how to use different forms of English depending on the genre and purpose of your writing. For formal essays, we will be learning the rules and conventions of college writing and will review grammar and punctuation together as needed. If you struggle with issues such as grammar, essay structure, or punctuation, you are not alone. I'm happy to set up time to go over any specific questions you have.

🏛 University Policies

Per University Policy 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) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.