SJSU SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Humanities and the Arts · English & Comparative Literature

First Year Writing

ENGL 1A

Spring 2026   Section 19   In Person   3 Unit(s)   01/22/2026 to 05/11/2026   Modified 01/15/2026

This syllabus is subject to change. Students will be notified of any changes in person and via Canvas in a timely manner.

👤 Contact Information

Lecturer: Chelsea Criez

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Office: FO 215

Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM, FO 215 and Zoom by appointment

🕐 Course Information

Monday, Wednesday, 9:00 AM to 10:15 AM, Sweeney Hall 410

💻 Course Description and Requisites

English 1A is an introductory course that prepares students to join scholarly conversations across the university. Students develop reading skills, rhetorical sophistication, and writing styles that give form and coherence to complex ideas for various audiences, using a variety of genres.

Satisfies 1A. Written Communication I (Formerly Area A2).

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Reflection on College Writing
Grading: Letter Graded

✳ Classroom Protocols

ENGL 1A

ENGL 1A Course Content

Diversity: SJSU is a diverse campus. As such, our course is designed to include an emphasis on a diverse range of voices and viewpoints. We will engage in integrated reading and writing assignments to construct our own arguments on complex issues that generate meaningful public discussions.

Writing: Writing is at the heart of our class. Our exploration of writing will allow us to prepare ourselves and each other for academic and real-world writing scenarios. Assignments give students repeated practice in all phases of the writing process: prewriting, organizing, writing, revising, and editing. Our class requires a minimum of 8000 words, at least 4000 of which must be in revised final draft form. More specific descriptions and instructions will be distributed for all major assignments in class.

Reading: There will be a substantial amount of reading for our class, some of which will come from texts I select (listed below) and some of which will be from sources you locate.

Final Experience: We will compile a portfolio at the end of the semester that includes selected examples of your writing produced for our class, as well as materials from your RCW Canvas course. We will talk more about the portfolio later in the semester.

Time Commitment

Success in ENGL 1A 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 1A, 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.

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.

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

All Are Welcome

This classroom is a space where every student can learn, grow, and contribute authentically. I am committed to creating an inclusive environment where all perspectives are valued and respected. You belong here, and your success matters to me.

You are welcome here regardless of:

- Race, ethnicity, or cultural background
- Gender identity or expression
- Sexual orientation
- Religion or spiritual beliefs
- Citizenship or immigration status
- Socioeconomic background
- Physical or mental abilities
- Learning differences
- Military or veteran status
- First-generation college status
- Primary language or accent

If you ever feel unwelcome or need support, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. I'm here to help you succeed, and part of that means ensuring you feel safe and valued in our learning community.

AI Policy

In this course, we will treat AI as a writing tool and assistant, not a means to generate work. When you rely on AI to generate assignments, you are missing out on valuable learning and skill practice. Keep in mind that you are paying for an education that will enable you to be a valuable member of society and prepare you for the workforce; you cannot do so if you cannot complete tasks on your own.

This class focuses on effort and improvement. If you put in the work to do better, you will succeed in this class. You will not succeed if you rely on AI.

If you do choose to use AI as a tool, you must disclose it honestly and thoroughly through a Disclosure Statement. *Here is an example:*

"For this assignment, I used ChatGPT to help create questions that I used to guide my research. Once I finished my first draft, I asked ChatGPT for suggestions on structure and argumentation. Based on the feedback I received, I added more textual evidence, reorganized my body paragraphs, and provided more context to my introduction. After I made substantial revisions to my writing, I used the Writer's Lab on Packback to ensure my grammar, style, and tone were appropriate for an academic research paper."

Any misuse of AI (i.e., using it to generate work for you or failing to disclose use) is a form of plagiarism and will be reported to Student Conduct.

You can find more resources on SJSU's [AI Writer Toolbox. (https://sites.google.com/sjsu.edu/aiwritertoolbox/home?authuser=0)](https://sites.google.com/sjsu.edu/aiwritertoolbox/home?authuser=0)

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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.

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)](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)](https://sjsu.edu/general-education/ge-requirements/overview/learning-outcomes.php).

📊 Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

GE Area 1A: Written Communication I

Written Communication I courses cultivate an understanding of the writing process and the goals, dynamics, and genres of written communication, with special attention to the nature of writing at the university. A grade of C- or better designates that a student has successfully oriented reading and writing practice in English to support college level research and learning and to share learning with others. Area 1A is a prerequisite for Area 1B: Critical Thinking. Completion of Area 1A with a grade of C- or better is a CSU graduation requirement.

GE Area 1A Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of an Area 1A course, students should be able to:

1. demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the content, context, effectiveness, and forms of written communication;
2. perform essential steps in the writing process (prewriting, organizing, composing, revising, and editing);
3. articulate an awareness of and write according to the rhetorical features of texts, such as purpose, audience, context, and rhetorical appeals;
4. integrate their ideas and those of others by synthesizing, explaining, analyzing, developing, and criticizing ideas effectively in several genres; and
5. demonstrate college-level language use, clarity, and grammatical abilities in writing.

Writing requirement

Area 1A courses require a minimum of 6000 words, at least 4000 of which must be in revised final draft form.

📘 Course Materials

Packback

Packback is a digital platform we will use to complete biweekly discussion posts, in-class activities, and writing assignments.

☰ Course Requirements and Assignments

Unit	Description	Points
Personal Essay	In this unit, you'll practice writing a personal essay about one of your passions. In addition to a written essay, you will create a complementary visual component.	Minor: 10 x2 Major: 15
Research Essay	In this unit, you'll enter an academic conversation surrounding the topic you chose for your personal essay. In addition to a written essay, you'll design a webpage with visuals to supplement your argument.	Minor: 10 x2, 20 Major: 25
Visual Presentation	In this unit, you'll present your topic to a general audience in an oral and visual presentation. You can present in person, pre-record your presentation, create an animation, or present as a group.	Minor: 10 Major: 20
Final Portfolio	To wrap up the semester, you'll reflect on your growth as a writer in a reflective essay.	Major: 30

✔ Grading Information

Grading Breakdown

Category	Description	Weight
Packback Questions	This category comprises the biweekly discussion posts you'll complete outside of class. After week 1, you will have two weeks to complete these assignments. Questions are due every other Wednesday by 11:59 pm. For each post, you must ask one question and respond to two classmates' questions. Each is worth a total of 4 points—2 for your question and 1 for each response to your classmates. There are 8 questions; the lowest score will be dropped, and a make-up question will be offered at the end of the semester. These assignments cannot be submitted late.	20%

Category	Description	Weight
Participation	This category includes both in- and out-of-class participation. Out-of-class assignments can be submitted late. In-class activities can only be completed in class and cannot be submitted late. The lowest three activities in this category will be dropped—the Free Write and In-Class Presence grades will not.	30%
Projects	This category includes all minor and major writing assignments. Excluding the Final Portfolio, these assignments can be submitted late, and the lowest grade from this category will be dropped.	50%

Grading Scale

A+	96%<	C+	76-79%
A	90-95%	C	70-75%
B+	86-89%	D+	66-69%
B	80-85%	D	60-65%
		F	<59%

Late Work

Writing assignments—excluding the Final Portfolio—may be submitted late. You have two days after the due date to submit your work for full credit and two additional days to submit your work for half credit. Late work will not be accepted beginning four days after the original due date. If you need more time to complete an assignment, you must contact me at least 24 hours before the original due date.

This policy is to accommodate last-minute emergencies, not to encourage procrastination. Do not wait until the last minute to begin the assignment.

Extra Credit

For 5 points on your Final Portfolio grade, you may complete one of the two following options:

Visit the Writing Center. (https://sjsu.edu/writingcenter/) To receive credit for this option, you must work with a tutor on a piece of writing (it does not need to be from this class), submit a summary of what you worked on with your tutor, and have your tutor email me to confirm you visited the writing center. You must have both a summary and an email confirmation to receive credit.

Attend a School Event: (https://events.sjsu.edu/)To receive credit for this option, you must attend any event affiliated with SJSU, submit a summary of what you did, and include a photo to prove you attended the event. You must have both a summary and visual proof to receive credit.

This extra credit must be submitted no later than Monday, May 11th, 11:59 pm.

Packback Make-Up Question

If you missed a question or received a low score, you may make up that assignment. Just like other questions, you must post one question and respond to two classmates' questions. The score you receive for this question will replace a missing or low score.

This make-up question must be submitted no later than Monday, May 11th, 11:59 pm.

🏛 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.

📅 Course Schedule

Week	Monday	Wednesday
1	1/26 *Introductions*	1/28 *AI* **Read:** Everyone is Cheating Their Way Through College **Due:** PB1 11:59 pm
2	2/2 *The Personal Essay* **Read:** CW Writing as Inquiry	2/4 *Visual Texts* **Read:** PT "Introduction" **Due:** Syllabus Quiz 11:59 pm

Week	Monday	Wednesday
3	2/9 *Adobe Express*	2/11 *Writing Workshop* **Due:** RD & PB 2 11:59 om
4	2/16 *Peer Review*	2/18 *Writing Workshop* **Due:** FD 2/20 11:59
5	2/23 *Academic Writing*	2/25 *Entering Academic Conversations* **Read:** *TSIS* "Introduction" **Due:** PB 3; SA 2/27 11:59 pm
6	3/2 *Research as a Conversation* **Read:** *TSIS* ch. 15	3/4 *Mental Health Check-In* **Due:** COR module 3/6 11:59 pm
7	3/9 *Choosing Sources*	3/11 *Summarizing & Quoting Others* **Read:** *TSIS ch. 2 & 3* **Due:** PB 4 & Research Plan 11:59 pm
8	3/16 *Responding to Others* **Read:** *TSIS ch. 4* **Due:** COR evaluation 3/17 11:59 pm	3/18 *Visual Rhetoric* **Read:** *PT ch. 6* **Due:** VSN 3/20 11:59 pm

Week	Monday	Wednesday
9	3/23 *Writing Workshop* **Due:** RD 11:59 pm	3/25 *Peer Review* **Due:** PB5
10	Spring Break	
11	4/6 *Counterarguments* **Read:** *TSIS ch. 6 & 7*	4/8 *Writing Workshop* **Due:** PB 6; FD 4/10 11:59 pm
12	4/13 *TED Talks*	4/15 *(In)Formality in Writing* **Due:** SA 4/17 11:59 pm
13	4/20 *Visual Presentations*	4/22 *Mental Health Follow-Up* **Due:** PB7 11:59 pm
14	4/27 *Oral Presentations*	4/29 *Peer Review*
15	5/4 *Presentations* **Due:** TT 5/3 11:59 pm	5/6 *Presentations* **Due:** PB8; SA due 5/8 11:59 pm
16	5/11 *Final Portfolio*	

Week	Monday	Wednesday
17	5/18 **Due:** Final Portfolio 5/19 11:59 pm	

This schedule is subject to change. For updates, see our Canvas page.