

San José State University
Department of English and Comparative Literature
English 1AF and 1AS, Stretch English I and II Section 26;
Fall 2019 & Spring 2020

Instructor:	Dr. Mostafa Jalal
Office Location:	Faculty Office Building 108
Email:	mostafa.jalal@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	W 9:30-11:30am, and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	MW 4:30-5:45pm
Classroom:	Boccardo Business Center 122
Prerequisites:	The <i>Reflection on College Writing</i> is a prerequisite to Stretch English I (English 1AF). Credit for Stretch English I (English 1AF) is a prerequisite for Stretch English II (English 1AS).
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	English 1AS satisfies* Written Communication I, GE Area A2. *To earn graduation credit in this category, you must complete the yearlong course with a grade of C- or better.

Course Description:

Our main inquiry will examine the influence of cultural myths on identity. We will explore readings and written assignments that will help us determine how cultural myths shape the way we see ourselves and the world around us. We will discuss how the creation of these myths, the sustainability of these myths, and the global perspective of these myths impact our past, present, and future as members of a learning community.

We will look at specific myths like the pursuit of the “American Dream” in order to frame our understanding of coming of age in the Modern era, the promise and accessibility of education, and how class, gender, and race fit into larger narratives about identity. Our goal is to recognize the interconnectedness among--and the power that comes with--applying the tools of knowledge, reading, and writing. Language is not neutral; language makes things happen.

We will look closely at three chapters of *Rereading America*. Each chapter addresses a specific cultural myth that we will thoughtfully consider.

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO):

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

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

For more information on the Stretch Curriculum designed to meet these learning outcomes, see the Stretch English Program Syllabus on Canvas and on the department website. Table 1 maps how the yearlong course will meet Written Communication I requirements and standards as well as the GE learning objectives.

Assignment	Assignment	Words	Total Words	Assignment Type	Term (F/S)	GE Learning Objective
Critical reading/reflection	Essay 1	500	1850	in-class writing	F	GELO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
	Essay 2	600			F	
	Essay 3	750			S	
Data-driven analyses	Personal Essay	1000	2850	out of class writing	F	GELO 2, 3, 5
	Interview Project	850			S	
	Ethnography Project	1000			S	
Major Essays	Blog	750	3000	out of class writing	F	GELO 2, 3, 4, 5
	Profile Essay	1000			S	
	Critical Essay	1200			S	
Portfolio/self-reflection essays	Midyear	750	1550	in-class writing out of class writing	F	GELO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
	Final	800			S	

Table 1: Summary of Writing Assignments for Stretch English I and II.

Required Texts/Readings:

Ballenger, Bruce. *The Curious Writer - Brief Fourth edition (4E)* ISBN: 978-0-205-87665-5

Colombo, Gary, Robert Cullen, and Bonnie Lisle. *Rereading America – 10th edition* ISBN: 978-1-4576-9921-4

Lunsford, Andrea A. *Everyday Writer – Fifth edition* (Available for free on Canvas)

College notebook with lined paper and writing utensils

Other Readings:

Students will be asked to research other texts and materials on the theme of identity and cultural myths that are appropriate for academic studies. These texts will help us develop a shared context of reading to inform our arguments.

Participation:

Participation is the key to learning. Coming to class every day with the materials you need and homework completed; contributing your ideas and questions, listening to your peers; taking notes as necessary—all these components of your participation will be invaluable to our learning community as we construct a network of knowledge together. Dialogue is not only about talking or deepening understanding, but it is a co-operative activity involving respect.

Missing Major Project Deadlines**How students can find out about work missed because of absence:**

If you miss any regular class (not including in-class essays and exams), it is your responsibility to find out what you have missed by checking available materials, contacting classmates and/or peer-tutor. I am not able to answer emails about missed classes.

How and when students can make up missed in-class essays and exams:

If you miss an in-class essay or exam, you must message me through Canvas before the deadline to arrange for a make-up that must be complete within 2 weeks after the due date. If you miss an in-class essay without communicating by the due date, you will be denied the opportunity to make up an in-class essay. There is a half-grade penalty for missing due dates for all essays, exams and projects. Presentations cannot be made up. Additional 20% point reduction rule applies for each day a submission is late.

How and when students can contact instructor to request an extension:

If you know of any conflict ahead of time and need an extension, you must message me in advance to set up a time to discuss your circumstances. You may not ask for an extension the day before a paper is due. Extension are considered on individual basis and are considered only in exceptional situations.

University Policies:

NOTE that University policy F69-24 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf> states that “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.”

The Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs (GUP) maintains university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. You may find all syllabus-related University Policies and resources information listed on GUP’s Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>

See [University Policy F13-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details on your right to understand your grades. In this section of the syllabus I outline specifically our grading practices for the year: information on feedback practices, relative weights of assignments, and the grade calculations.

Earning A2 Credit

Information about earning A2 credit is described in the Stretch Program syllabus, a separate document available on Canvas.

Grading

Please refer to the grade calculations below:

A (93%-100%)	B- (80%-82.9%)	D+ (67%-69.9%)
A- (90%-92.9%)	C+ (77%-79.9%)	D (63%-66.9%)
B+ (87%-89.9%)	C (73%-76.9%)	D- (60%-62.9%)
B (83%-86.9%)	C- (70%-72.9%)	F (0%-59.9%)

Grades in the fall are based on measured progress toward proficiency in the learning objectives outlined above. To earn credit in the course, you will need to demonstrate measurable progress of the GELOs **to earn credit (CR)** in Stretch 1AF.

Drafts

Drafts for peer-reviews and final submissions must be typed in Times New Roman 12 pt. font, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins all around, using MLA header, your own title, and word count at the end, regardless of other MLA requirements.

Multiple Drafts are mandatory. Failure to submit a draft on the day that it is due will result in 20% point reduction.

Final Grade for Stretch Course

Your final grade in Stretch English is based on both semesters of work. The Fall semester is weighted at 40% and Spring is at 60%, making both semesters a 100% scale.

Fall semester -- 40% of total course grade

Assignment	Description	In-Class / Out of Class	Minimum Word Count	Percentage Value
Critical Reading / Reflection 1	Taking into account your own experience/ observation/ research, and the readings that you have explored in this unit, articulate your views of family myth.	IC	500	4%
Personal Essay	Choose a single aspect of your personal history that has shaped who you are today. First, describe, in detail, a single event that showcases this aspect of you. Then, discuss the broader significance of this aspect of you that shapes how you see the world around you.	OC	1000	6%
Presentation	Presentation of Blog Essay	IC		1%
Blog Essay	You will write an elaborate blog post to showcase a problem. Your audience will be dependent upon where your blog is and what demographic it reaches. The blog should be informative and persuasive in tone. You will incorporate visual and multi-modal elements.	OC	1000	8%
Critical Reading / Reflection 2	For this paper, you will analyze the cultural myths about education, money and success.	IC	600	5%
Unit Work	Readings, activities and informal writing exercises that are part of the process of growing your expertise on the topic.	IC/OC	1000	5%
Writing Process	Drafts must be submitted on time to receive full credit because this allows you to participate in peer-review processes with rigid deadlines and to receive timely feedback on your writing as well as to provide feedback to others. Engaging in the revising and editing process with your peers is essential to developing effective writing practice.	IC/OC		3%
Self-Reflection Portfolio	Keep all of your work. You'll be "quoting yourself" to show your growth as a writer this semester.	IC	750	7%
Final Exam	Review of the terminology and concepts studied.	IC		1%
Fall total %				40%

Spring semester - 60% of total course grade

Assignment	Description	In-Class / Out of Class / Canvas	Minimum Word Count*	Percentage Value
Interview Project	You will interview someone over 40y.o. about their path to success (or not). Consider the myths we have discussed so far in this class including “The American Dream.” Consider the cultural myths that have shaped the person you are and how you perceive the person you choose to interview.	OC	850	1%
Profile Essay	You will use your interview to write a profile essay with a specific framework to be discussed in class.	OC	1000	10%
Unit Work	Readings, activities and informal writing exercises that are part of the process of growing your expertise on the topic.	IC/OC	1000	8%
Critical Reading / Reflection 3	We will explore the myth of the melting pot and various sub-communities by doing a critical analysis of readings.	IC	750	6%
Ethnographic Study	Taking into consideration the larger topic of the “melting pot” and then the sub-cultures that give people a place “to be.” You will study a sub-culture to write a report of your observations. You will make a presentation to share with classmates.	OC	1000	7%
Presentations	Ethnographic Study presentation. Informal presentations and share sessions.	IC		1%
Critical Essay	Taking into account the myths that we explored throughout the year, and especially considering “Class in America,” students will write a critical essay arguing what they believe made the difference – why did Wes #1 succeed while Wes #2 did not?	OC	1200	12%
Writing Process	Drafts must be submitted on time to receive full credit because this allows you to participate in peer-review processes with rigid deadlines and to receive timely feedback on your writing as well as to provide feedback to others. Engaging in the revising and editing process with your peers is essential to developing effective writing practice.	IC/OC		5%
Self-Reflection Portfolio	Keep all your work. You’ll be quoting yourself to show your growth as a writer for these past two semesters.	IC	800	8%
Final Exam	Review of terminology and concepts studied.	IC		2%

Spring total %				60%
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Classroom Courtesy

Our class is a community that encourages collaboration and learning. At times we may discuss or watch some controversial material. Therefore, it is important to be respectful of thoughts and opinions of all members of our group even if they differ from our own.

Communication

It is more efficient to message me through Canvas than to email me through campus email. My campus email overflows with administrative and faculty emails. Because Canvas isolates student email in one location, *I can usually respond to Canvas messages within 48 hours.*

Evenings, after 5 pm and on weekends are personal time for students and instructors. I do not answer messages during these times. If there is a confusion about deadlines or some other miscommunication that cannot be clarified by checking syllabus and Canvas, contacting classmates and peer educator, then students can message instructor with a specific question about the issue, and I would break with this ritual and immediately send a message to the whole class. Communication is important for our work together.

Technology

Classroom etiquette requires that cell phones be turned to silent mode, that full attention is given to the class, that computers and other devices only be used for class purposes, and that we listen carefully and without interruption to one another.

Office Hours

You are welcome to walk in during the scheduled hours stated on the first page of this syllabus. If you want to make sure to have a specific time reserved during office hours, please message me at least 24 hours in advance. Students with appointments during official office hours get priority over the walk-ins. If you cannot come during office hours, please message at least 48 hours in advance to set up an appointment.

Peer Educator

This semester we will have an *embedded tutor* in our class who will assist you during class and will hold one-on-one meetings to discuss anything related to your learning in this course.

Stretch English 1AF: Fall 2018 Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice. Always consult Canvas for up-to-date info.

All readings / work in the Assignments Due column are due by the beginning of class.

Rereading America--RA; The Curious Writer-- CW

Date	In Class Activities / Schedule	Assignments Due in Class
W 8/21	Introductions. Course Theme and structure. Canvas. Passionation assignment introduced.	<i>Order textbooks!</i>
M 8/26	Thematic terminology. Syllabus exploration. Reflection on College Writing.	Bring to class: Print out 2 syllabi, one for Stretch and the other for our section, from Canvas Syllabus page or English department website. These are the documents you will need for the rest of the semester for quick reference and notes. Credit for activity in class. Study handout: Email Etiquette
W 8/28	Passionation presentations.	Come prepared to speak about yourself for <u>2 minutes</u> based on the prompt. Rehearse enough to speak laconically, without long pauses or repetitive words. No ppt or visuals needed.
M 9/2	Labor Day	Academic holiday; no class
W 9/4	Academic Reading and Writing. The Arc. Recursive processes and Products.	CW: Ch.1 “Writing as Inquiry and Ch.2 “Reading as Inquiry” on Canvas. Do Reading survey on Canvas.
M 9/9	<i>Where we begin - Unit 1</i> What are cultural myths? Myth of Model Family.	RA: “Thinking Critically, challenging Cultural Myths”, “Harmony at Home: The Myth of the Model Family”, and “Looking for Work”. Watch: America is not the greatest country and Christmas Cards
W 9/11	Share “Family in media” - group activity.	RA: “The Color of Family Ties”. Family in Media Discussion on Canvas. <i>TV shows from the past and present day, be able to explain your example to the class.</i>
M 9/16	Activities based on readings and posts	RA: “Marriage Markets” <i>Family in media, reply to Canvas discussion by connecting ideas to the current readings.</i>
W 9/18	Activities based on readings and posts.	RA: “Cartoon Mothers” <i>Family in media, reply to someone’s post by connecting ideas to the current readings.</i>

M 9/23	Getting ready to write. Letter genre. Essay prompt analysis and planning. Comparing ideas. Outlining.	Study CRR rubric. Prepare questions. Brush up on conceptual terminology. Review all readings and discussion notes. Study handouts: Essay Exam Preparation Comparing and Contrasting: Essay planning Comparing Contrasting: Methods of organization Essay planning: How to read a prompt Essay planning: Visual mapping Essay planning: Outlining with a purpose Introductions for essays, Body paragraphs
W 9/25	Benchmark Essay In Class	Revise all notes. Make an outline of ideas. No quotations at this time.
M 9/30	Benchmark essay debriefing. Introducing sources, embedding quotations. Adjusting for audience - formal letter genre.	Read and Annotate CRR1 prompt. Study handouts: Embedding quotations , Quotation Marks , Synonyms for “said” , Sentence types and functions Editing: Meaningful word and punctuation choices
W 10/2	Critical Reading Reflection 1 In-class essay	Bring small Green Book and a selection of useful quotes with author and title references.
M 10/7	Personal Essay prompt. Narrative voice. In medias res Then & Now Narrator / Tenses	<i>CRR1 reflection on Canvas.</i> CW CH.3 “Writing a Personal Essay”. Sample essay on Canvas. Study PE rubric. Study handouts: Personal Narrative Essays , Verbs , Verb tenses , Building time frames
W 10/9	Brainstorming ideas and creating first sketch.	3 leads for Personal Essay on Canvas. Study handouts: Concrete Language , Precise words , Redundancy
M 10/14	Developing PE. Revising Content.	<i>Full draft due.</i> Hard copy to class. Study handouts: Parallelism , Sentence openers Revising for clarity: Characters and their actions MLA formatting guidelines MLA formatting essay template
W 10/16	Blog Essay Assigned. Teams and topics.	Personal Essay Due on Canvas and to me in hard copy.
M 10/21	Selecting audiences and setting purposes.	<i>PE reflection on Canvas.</i> CW: Ch. 7 “Argument”. <i>Canvas Project:</i> “Blog on my subject”. Study handout: Argumentation: Premises and Conclusions ,

	<i>What Would I Like to Write About?</i>	Online posts: Do's and Don'ts
W 10/23	Content outline/ development.	Blog leads exercise on Canvas.
M 10/28	Multi-media writing features: Hyperlinks, images, text boxes.	<i>Full draft due.</i> Study handouts: Reporting verbs , Paraphrasing , Old information before new information
W 10/30	Editing and proof-reading. <i>MLA</i>	<i>Revised draft due.</i> Study handouts: Concise writing , Eliminating wordiness , Nominalization , Passive voice , Transition words
M 11/4	Blog presentations	Revise your draft.
W 11/6	Blog presentations	Blog Final Due on Canvas only.
M 11/11	Veteran's Day	Academic holiday; no class
W 11/13	<i>How we learn</i> Unit 2: Myth of Education	<i>Reflection on Blog on Canvas.</i> RA: "Learning Power: Myth of Education and Empowerment" Intro into the topic. "Essentials of a Good Education"
M 11/18	Reading-based activities.	RA: "Against School" and "Ivy League"
W 11/20	Reading-based activities	RA: "Learning to Read" and any other text from the same chapter.
M 11/25	Critical Reading Reflection 2 In-Class essay exam.	Bring Exam book and selection of quotations with author and title references. Review all notes on education and CRR Rubric. Any materials from previous CRR writing and preparation for essay exam.
W 11/27	SJSU Non-Instructional Day	No class
M 12/2	Setting up your portfolio online and preparing to write. What do I write about in the reflection essay?	Bring your computer to class. Review all essays and topics. Read portfolio materials on Canvas. Bring computer and all portfolio Items to class.
W 12/4	<i>Reflection essay in class.</i>	
M 12/9	Planning for spring semester.	Portfolio due

FINAL EXAM - see official SJSU exam schedule online.	
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*Classes for the Fall semester 2019 end on Monday, 9 December, 2019.