

# First Year Writing Section 35

## ENGL 1A

Fall 2022 3 Unit(s) 08/19/2022 to 12/06/2022 Modified 08/29/2022

### Contact Information

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#### Jillian Murphy

Email: [jillian.murphy@sjsu.edu](mailto:jillian.murphy@sjsu.edu)

Office: Faculty Office Building room 221

#### Office Hours

In person drop-in

Monday, Wednesday, 1:15 PM to 1:45 PM, Faculty Office Building room 221

Online drop-in

Tuesday, Thursday, 1:00 AM to 1:30 PM, Zoom

By appointment

Contact me to schedule a meeting outside of these times

### Course Description and Requisites

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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. GE Area: A2

Prerequisite: Completion of Reflection on College Writing

Letter Graded

### \* Classroom Protocols

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#### 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>  
(<https://www.sjsu.edu/english/frosh/program-policies.php>)

## Meeting Days and Times

Days: Tuesday and Thursday 1:30PM - 2:45PM

Location: Zoom

## Course Theme: Ethos

Our English 1A class will be guided by the idea of "ethos," a Greek word that means "character." In Rhetoric, ethos is one of Aristotle's three Rhetorical Appeals, or strategies that writers and speakers use to persuade their audiences. It represents the moral character of the speaker and their authority to speak on the subject, as judged by the audience members. In this spirit, we will deeply consider the following questions as we read, write, and discuss:

- Who has the authority to speak on a given subject?
- Who or what gives them that authority?

As we explore these questions in the texts we read, watch, and listen to, we will also consider how to most effectively employ ethos in our own work.

- What does it mean to be an authority? In what areas are we authorities?
- How can we demonstrate that authority—and gain the trust of readers—in our own writing?

And, most importantly,

- How can our understanding of ethos make us more insightful and persuasive rhetoricians?

## Late Work

Submit work by the due date listed. Unexcused late work will be graded down a letter grade for every day it is late. If you need an extension, contact me before the assignment is due.

**Note:** In-class work, presentations, and the Final Portfolio cannot be turned in late.

## Extra Credit

There will be an opportunity for 10 points of extra credit mid-semester. We will discuss this in class.

# Final Exam

Date and Time: Wednesday, December 14 at 2:30 PM

According to the Academic Senate, "Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment."

Our Final Experience will be the Final Portfolio. See below in Course Assignments.

## Program Information

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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)

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### GE Area A2: Written Communication

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 C- or better is a CSU graduation requirement.

### GE Area A2 Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of an Area A2 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 Practice:** Students will write a minimum of 8000 words, at least 4000 of which must be in revised final draft form.

## Course Materials

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Coursework will be completed digitally through Canvas. You will need to have a phone, laptop or tablet with internet access in order to submit work in-class and for homework. If this is a concern, email me and we will figure out a solution.

Reading assignments may be added or removed (with notice) based on our needs as a group.

## Assigned Reading Materials

There is no course textbook.

All assigned reading materials will be available on Canvas, either in .pdf or as a link.

**Availability:** Canvas

## Student Sources

Students will be responsible for locating appropriate sources and materials for their writing assignments.

**Availability:** University Library, Online Databases

## Course Requirements and Assignments

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### Project: 1

Assigned: Thursday, 9/1

Rough Draft due, Peer Review Workshop: Thursday, September 15

Final Draft due: Thursday, September 28

### Project: 2

Assigned: Thursday, October 27

Rough Draft due, Peer Review Workshop: Thursday, November 9

Final Draft due: Tuesday, November 29

### Project: 3

Assigned: Thursday, September 29

Annotated Bibliography due: Thursday, October 13

Rough Draft due, Peer Review Workshop: Thursday, October 27

Final Draft due: Wednesday, December 14 at 2:30 PM

### Final: Portfolio

Assigned: Tuesday, November 22

Rough Draft due, Peer Review Workshop: Tuesday, December 6

Final Draft due: Wednesday, December 14 at 2:30 PM

## Homework and Classwork

Students will have regular reading and writing homework to prepare before each class. We will also complete writing, analysis, and group work in class.

In class work can not be completed outside of class for credit.

## Grading Information

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The Department of English reaffirms its commitment to the differential grading scale as defined in the SJSU Catalog ("The Grading System"). Grades issued must represent a full range of student performance:

- A = excellent
- B = above average
- C = average
- D = below average
- F = failure

Courses graded according to the A, B, C, No Credit system shall follow the same pattern, except that NC shall replace D or F. In such cases, NC shall also substitute for W (or Withdrawal) because neither grade (NC or W) affects students' GPA.

All students are responsible for knowing and observing University policies regarding academic dishonesty. See University policy: "[Academic Integrity](#)"

## Breakdown

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

## Criteria

Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
Project 1	15%	1000 words	Rough Draft and Peer Review: 5% Revised Final Draft: 10% CLO: 1-5
Project 2	20%	1000 words	Rough draft and Peer Review: 5% Revised Final Draft: 15% CLO: 1-5

Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
Project 3	30%	1500 words	Annotated Bibliography: 5% (250+ words)  Rough draft and Peer Review: 5% (750+ words)  Revised Final Draft: 20%  CLO 1-5
Final Portfolio	15%	500 words	Rough Draft and Peer Review: 5%  Revised Final Draft: 10%  CLO: 1-3, 5
Homework and Classwork	20%	2000+ words	

## University Policies

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Per [University Policy S16-9](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 [Syllabus Information web page](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

## Course Schedule

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The focus of our class is your improvement, so I reserve the right to change the schedule with fair notice in order to best fit the needs of the class.

You will find the readings on Canvas in the module for that week.