

## Changes to the English Major as of Fall 2017

Starting in Fall 2017, most of the upper division English courses will be offered as 4 unit courses; the only courses that will not be transitioning to 4 credits are ones that currently fulfill GE (SJSU studies Areas Z, S, and V). In addition, we are revising our current sophomore survey requirements into a three sequence, TransAtlantic survey to explore the conversation between English and American Literature.

This transition will place more of your study within upper division courses, and while it will reduce the total number of classes that you will take, it will expand the breadth of these courses. The 4 credit courses will provide additional depth to your exploration of the material, either in additional reading, additional assignments, or differently designed delivery of the material.

The total number of units required for the English major is changing from 48 to 46-48.

**CATALOG RIGHTS:** Students retain the right to graduate under the catalog rules in effect during their first semester at SJSU. Students who enrolled at SJSU before Fall 2017 are therefore entitled to graduate under the old model (48 units). Students who enrolled at SJSU in Fall 2017 or later must complete the requirements listed for the new model above.

These changes are detailed below (shaded areas highlight changes under the new model).

OLD MODEL		NEW MODEL	
English Major Core (27 Units)	Units	English Major Core (28 Units)	Units
Engl 56A	3	Engl 50	3
Engl 56B & Engl 68A	6	Engl 60 (offered Spring only)	4
Engl 68B	3	Engl 70	3
Engl 100W	3	Engl 100W	3
Select 1: Engl 101, 102, 103, 105, or 140A	3	Engl 101	4
Select 1: Engl 122, 123A-D, 125, 126 or 141	3	Select 1: Engl 123A-D	3
		Engl 125	4
Engl 144 or 145	3	Engl 144 or 145	4
Engl 193	3		
<b>English Electives (21 Units)</b>		<b>English Electives (18-20 units)</b>	
Take any 21 English Major units, 18 of which must be Upper Division.	21	Take any five English upper-division courses	<b>18-20</b>
Upper Division elective requirements are satisfied by SJSU English Department courses: Engl 101-199, and TA 127 or TA 128			
<b>TOTAL FOR THE MAJOR</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>TOTAL FOR THE MAJOR</b>	<b>46-48</b>

*We are committed to working with students to make this transition as easy as possible. Please come talk to a major advisor or the department chair ASAP if you have concerns!*

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR FAQ'S

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FALL 2017 CHANGES TO THE ENGLISH MAJOR

*Q: Will this mean I have to take more classes to complete the major?*

A: No. You will take fewer classes (see attached road map for your concentration), and you may even take one or two fewer units to complete the major. In most majors, we have tried to increase either the number of or percentage of electives or provide more choice with the courses you will take.

*Q: Why did the department decide to change most of the upper division classes to 4 units?*

A: The change to 4-unit classes reflects a desire on the part of the department faculty to offer students more in-depth learning experiences with a variety of activities and projects both in and outside of class. We are excited about the opportunities this offers for different types of educational activities such as longer or differently designed projects, final research papers, or even work outside of the classroom or university settings. As we make this transition to 4-unit courses, we are interested to know how it is impacting students. Please let us know what you think!

*Q: Will 4-unit classes be more work than 3-unit classes?*

A: Yes. SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. For a 4-unit course, you can expect to spend a minimum of nine hours per week, in addition to time spent in class, on reading, assignments, activities or projects. This additional unit will allow for more in-depth investigation and engagement with course topics. Department faculty are committed to supporting students to be successful in 4-unit classes by continuing to provide guidance and feedback on student performance throughout the semester.

*Q: How many classes should I take per semester under the new model?*

A: If you aim to graduate in four years (or two years, as a transfer student), you should plan to take 14-16 units per semester, averaging 15 units over the course of your time at SJSU. Keep in mind that three 4-unit classes gives you the same number of units as four 3-unit classes (12 units). The number of classes you choose to take each semester may depend upon a number of factors including the number of hours you work outside of school, family obligations, and personal preference. You will still be able to take up to 15 units per semester with a mix of 3 and 4 unit classes under the new model. Students are currently allowed to take up to 19 units per semester without petition to the registrar. This limit may be higher for graduating seniors, and may be revised each semester. Be sure to check the registrar's website for latest information (<http://www.sjsu.edu/registrar/>).

*Q: Why are only some of the upper division classes changing to 4 units?*

A: The department teaches several upper division GE (SJSU Studies) classes: Engl 123A-D; Engl 117 A-B; Engl 169; Eng126 and 100W. These courses are not permitted to change to 4 units due to GE requirements. All upper division English courses are switching to 4 units as of Fall 2017.

*Q: What if I have taken a mix of 3-unit and 4-unit upper division classes? How will this affect my ability to complete the major and graduate on time?*

A: No problem. You should meet with an advisor and fill out the revised worksheet to see which classes you have already completed and which you still have left to do. You may end up with one or two units more than you need for the major, which is fine. If you somehow end up one or two units short of the total number needed for the major, you can work with a major advisor and/or the department chair to resolve the issue.