

Critical Thinking and Writing

ENGL 2

Fall 2025 Section 16 In Person 3 Unit(s) 08/20/2025 to 12/08/2025 Modified 09/09/2025

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

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.

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>).

Additional Policies and Protocols

Writing can be a solitary enterprise, but the critical thinking and habits of mind that go into such work can be developed and enriched in community. Thus, it is imperative that you attend class and participate in class activities and discussions. Class participation entails: (1) demonstrating that you've completed the readings, (2) contributing to discussions, and (3) completing in-class assignments and activities.

Electronic resources such as laptops, tablets, and phones may be used during class only to compose select assignments, or access course materials on Canvas. Please do your classmates and instructor the courtesy of avoiding social media and other distractions not related to our course pursuits during class.

Please note that no unexcused late work will be accepted. If you cannot make a deadline, you must contact me BEFORE THE DUE DATE. For your convenience, most assignments accommodate "submission windows," which allow you to turn in work for a few days after the posted deadline. Note that Canvas automatically deducts 5% per day after the posted due date.

If an assignment is due the day you are absent, submit it. If you are unable to submit it within the submission window, you must contact me to make arrangements. Note that some assignments and activities, such as Peer Review Workshops, cannot be made up.

Finally, if you are absent, you are responsible for finding out what you missed. You can do this by reviewing the weekly Canvas module, checking the syllabus, and asking a classmate for updates.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

IMPORTANT COURSE POLICIES

Use of AI in English 2 is permitted with conditions. Please refer to **AI_Policy.English 2** (see Start here: Week 1 module).

You are encouraged to use the tutoring services on campus, but all work in ENGL 2 is expected to be your own. If the instructor has reason to believe otherwise, he or she has the right to require additional evidence that the work is your original writing.

Statement of Plagiarism

The English Department adheres strictly to the rules against plagiarism as set forth in the SJSU Catalog. The Catalog defines plagiarism as follows:

The act of representing the work of another as one's own (without giving appropriate credit) regardless of how that work was obtained, and submitting it to fulfill academic requirements. "Content generated by an Artificial Intelligence third-party service or site (AI-generated content) without proper attribution or authorization would also be a form of plagiarism." (Center for Integrated Professional Development, Illinois State University (2023). Plagiarism at SJSU includes but is not limited to:

The act of incorporating the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof, or the specific substance of another's work, without giving appropriate credit, and representing the product as one's own work; and

Representing another's artistic/scholarly works such as musical compositions, computer programs, photographs, paintings, drawing, sculptures or similar works as one's own.(available at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html> - Student Responsibilities - Discipline – Policy on Academic Dishonesty – 1.0 Definitions of Academic Dishonesty)

Should a student plagiarize in any ENGL 2 course, the instructor will report the student to the University's Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. Also, points will be deducted from the assignment/course depending on the severity of the policy violation.

How to avoid plagiarism. It is not always easy to recognize whether you are legitimately citing the work of others or whether you have "crossed the line" into plagiarism. To become acquainted with what plagiarism is and how to avoid it, the following SJSU website offers definitions, policies, and links to useful websites offering guidelines in plagiarism prevention. Students are fully accountable for understanding these policies. <https://libguides.sjsu.edu/plagiarism/how-to-avoid-plagiarism>

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 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 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

Much of the material we will read, view, and listen to in English 2 will be provided via hyperlink on Canvas. Other materials you will identify yourself in the process of research.

TED Talks

Our mission: Spread ideas, foster community and create impact

TED is on a mission to discover and spread ideas that spark imagination, embrace possibility and catalyze impact. Our organization is devoted to curiosity, reason, wonder and the pursuit of knowledge – without an agenda. We welcome people from every discipline and culture who seek a deeper understanding of the world and connection with others, and we invite everyone to engage with ideas and activate them in your community.

Our Organization

TED began in 1984 as a conference where Technology, Entertainment and Design converged, but today it spans a multitude of worldwide communities and initiatives exploring everything from science and business to education, arts and global issues. In addition to the hundreds of TED Talks curated from our annual conferences and published on TED.com, we produce original podcasts, short video series, [animated TED-Ed lessons](#) and TV programs that are translated into more than 100 languages and distributed via partnerships around the world. Each year, more than 3,000 independently run [TEDx](#) events bring people together to share ideas and bridge divides in communities on every continent. Through the [Audacious Project](#), TED has helped catalyze more than \$3 billion in funding for projects that seek to make the world more beautiful, sustainable and just. In 2020, TED launched [Countdown](#), an initiative to accelerate solutions to the climate crisis and mobilize a movement for a net-zero future. View a full list of [TED's many programs and initiatives](#).

TED is owned by a nonprofit, nonpartisan foundation. Our aim is to help create a future worth pursuing for all.

From TED website: <https://www.ted.com/about/our-organization>

Commentaries from the New York Times, the NewYorker, The Atlantic magazine, and other sources

We will be exploring argumentation as it appears in journalism and elsewhere in public discourse, especially in widely available publications and broadly accessible media.

Course Requirements and Assignments

✓ Grading Information

Course grades are calculated according to the scale below.

97%-100%	94% - 96%	90% - 93%
A+	A	A-
87% - 89%	84% - 86%	80% - 83%
B+	B	B-
77% - 79%	74% - 76%	70% - 73%
C+	C	C-
67% - 69%	64% - 66%	60% - 63%
D+	D	D-
		0% - 59%
		F

Course grade ranges

Breakdown

Most of the reading and research materials required to successfully complete the course requirements will be provided via hyperlink on Canvas. Other materials you will identify and procure during the course of your own research.

Grade	Range	Notes
Analysis of Argumentation	25%	An examination of how a speaker or writer (rhetor) uses language and rhetorical strategies and appeals to influence their audience; involves identifying and evaluating claims, evidence, reasoning, development.
Multimodal Remix	25%	A remix of the research and conclusions from your analysis of argumentation into a multimodal presentation that asserts a claim, provides evidence, and persuasively explains sound reasoning.

Grade	Range	Notes
Participation	25%	GELO reflections Discussion posts Quizzes Classroom activities
Journals	20%	Brief analytical and reflective responses to prompts associated with select readings and lecture materials.
Final Reflection/Portfolio	5%	A culminating portfolio of work you have completed in English 2 and a reflection essay considering this general education learning objective: 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. Final reflection submitted for credit to English 2. Portfolio (including final reflection) are submitted to the English 2 program assessment team.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](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 the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<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

ENGL 2: Critical Thinking and Writing, Sections 40 and 42

Fall 2025 Course Schedule

Schedule subject to change; any updates will be communicated with fair notice in class and via Canvas. Refer to Canvas modules for details on required reading and assignment submission windows..

When	Topic	Notes
Lecture/Discussion Week 1: Aug. 21	Welcome and Intro to English 2	

When	Topic	Notes
Lecture/Discussion Week 2: Aug. 26-28	English 2 Overview and the Writing Process	DP1 (Discussion Post 1) Writing Sample (re: Andrea Lunsford) Navigating English 2 (Quiz)
Lecture/Discussion Week 3: Sept. 2-4	Digital Literacy and Intro to Argumentation	Digital Literacy course to be held during class time Tuesday, September 2 in Student Union Ballroom (https://map.sjsu.edu/?id=2189#!bm/?ce/89595?ct/86185,86186,86187,86189,86190,86191,86271,86339,86341?m/974165?s/). DP2 (Discussion Post 2)
Lecture/Discussion Week 4: Sept. 9-11	Rhetorical Analysis	
Lecture/Discussion Week 5: Sept. 16-18	Close Reading and Rhetorical Appeals	Journal 1
Lecture/Discussion Week 6: Sept 23-25	Analysis of Argumentation	Thurs., Sept. 25: Class meets in King Library (https://map.sjsu.edu/?id=2189#!bm/?ce/86189?ct/86185,86186,86187,86189,86190,86191,86271,86339,86341?m/974165?s/), Room 219 GELO Reflection #1
Peer Review Workshop Week 7: Sept.30- Oct. 2	Analysis of Argumentation	Journal 2
Lecture/Discussion Week 8: Oct. 7-9	Analysis of Argumentation	GELO Reflection #2 Analysis of Argumentation
Lecture/Discussion Week 9: Oct. 14-16	Analysis of Argumentation	DP3 (Discussion Post 3)
Lecture/Discussion Week 10: Oct. 21-23	Analysis of Argumentation	Journal 3
Workshop Week 11: Oct. 28-30	Multimodal Remix	GELO Reflection #3

When	Topic	Notes
Workshop Week 12: Nov. 4-6	Multimodal Remix	Journal 4
Workshop Week 13: Nov. 11-13	Multimodal Remix	Thurs., Nov 13 only No class Tues., Nov. 11 Veterans Day
Presentations Week 14: Nov. 18-20	Multimodal Remix	GELO Reflection #4
Presentations Week 15: Nov. 25-27	Multimodal Remix	Tues., Nov. 25 only. No class Thurs., Nov. 27 Happy Thanksgiving!
Discussion and Celebration Week 16: Dec. 2-4	Portfolios and Final Reflections	Last classes. Portfolios due to assessment teams: TBA Final reflections due to English 2 Canvas shell 3pm Tues., Dec. 16 (note weird deadline) DP4 (Discussion Post 4) Brownies!