

Writing Competency Through Genres

ENGL 100A

Fall 2025 Section 02 In Person 3 Unit(s) 08/20/2025 to 12/08/2025 Modified 08/25/2025

Course Information

ENGL 100A is designed with the goal of preparing you to succeed in 100W, in other upper division classes, and in your profession. You will have intensive practice in prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing academic writing. You will be asked to research, analyze, and reflect on various kinds of writing and to produce a minimum of 5,000 words, including a rhetorical analysis, a report about writing in your chosen discipline, and 3 critical reflective journals on a book-length work of fiction or nonfiction or instructor-selected readings. You'll also prepare brief reflections on how the work you're completing in this class helps you develop strategies for achieving the course learning outcomes (below).

Course Description and Requisites

Prepares students for 100W through drafting, feedback, and revision to demonstrate writing competency. Develops ability to analyze written genres used in the students' chosen disciplines as well as write analytical and reflective essays.

Prerequisite(s): A3 or equivalent second semester composition course (with a grade of "C-" or better); completion of core GE.

Letter Graded

Classroom 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 every day 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 be sure that social media and other distractions not related to our course pursuits are turned OFF during class.

Late work for routine homework assignments is accepted with 10% penalty per day late. Major assignments can be accepted late with advanced notice BEFORE the deadline with explanation of reasons and arrangement for an extension.

Many group in-class activities cannot be made up. Students can be allowed up to 3 excused in-class activities per semester due to emergencies and illnesses with timely instructor notification on the day of the class.

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

You are encouraged to use the tutoring services on campus, but all work in ENGL 100A 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 100A 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>

Additional AI Policy

AI is an emerging tool in the workforce and in our daily lives. You will likely encounter and use it in your future career regardless of the field, so you will have to learn how to ethically use AI. It is also important to understand that for you as a developing college thinker and writer, AI may subvert the writing process and prevent the development of necessary skills. One of the course goals is to help you learn to write and communicate effectively, which requires practice. Therefore, you must learn how to create, edit, and recognize high-quality writing yourself. If AI can do these tasks without you, you won't have employable skills. Therefore, you will be responsible for disclosing when and how you used AI and for producing the original human work for any final product based on the following policy:

Students in this writing course are expected to produce their own work based on critical thinking, problem solving skills, and learning. Any work generated by AI (such as ChatGPT) cannot be accepted as students' own work. Students may not submit any AI-generated text and claim it as their own. No AI or machine translation for extensive phrasing, full sentences, or a greater portion of the paper is allowed. The instructor will check the AI score along with originality score in the Turnitin.com report for student submissions. Students must check their Turnitin scores after submitting their final drafts to make sure they are not above 15%. The Instructor may refuse to accept a student's submission as the student's own work based on the AI and originality scores in Turnitin.com and the instructor's investigation of the situation.

We will learn to use AI technology in this class as a means of assistive technology during the writing process. Using AI tools ethically and purposefully can help, and not subvert, students' development of writing skills. Misusing AI by using it to write the majority of the essay without significant contributions or revision or failing to disclose the use of AI will result in consequences ranging from a written/verbal warning to failing the assignment or course and a report to the Student Conduct Board.

Please, see additional information about AI resources on SJSU Writing Across the Curriculum page: <https://sjsu.edu/wac/docs/ChatGPT%20Resources.pdf>

Course Goals

ENGL 100A is designed with the goal of preparing you to succeed in 100W, in other upper division classes, and in your profession. The course offers intensive practice in prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing academic writing. You are asked to research, analyze, and reflect on various kinds of writing and to produce a minimum of 5,000 words, including a rhetorical analysis, a report about writing in your chosen discipline, and three critical reflective journal entries on a book-length work of fiction and instructor-selected readings.

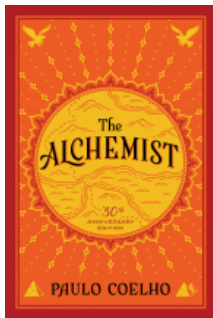
Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

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

1. Use correct and situationally appropriate sentence structure and grammar

2. Utilize feedback from instructor and peers to improve the accuracy and clarity of writing
3. Recognize, select, and use basic activities of the writing process, including prewriting, organizing, drafting, revising, editing, and peer review
4. Critically self-reflect about the writing process and about making context-appropriate rhetorical choices
5. Critically read, interpret, and synthesize multiple texts
6. Write well organized, well developed essays with a clear thesis
7. Identify how types of written texts in a variety of fields (genres) are influenced by audience, situation, and purpose
8. Employ research strategies to collect, analyze, and evaluate data from primary and secondary sources.

Course Materials



https://www.academia.edu/8144525/The_alchemist_by_Paulo_Coelho

Reading

- *The Alchemist* (25th Anniversary Edition), by Paulo Coelho, available at [Spartan Bookstore](https://spartanbookstore.com/course-material-listing-page?bypassCustomerAdoptions=true) (<https://sjsu.bncollege.com/course-material-listing-page?bypassCustomerAdoptions=true>) and elsewhere. ISBN: 9780062315007
- Readings as assigned on Canvas
- Student-selected research materials

The Alchemist

- **Author:** Paulo Coelho
- **Publisher:** Harper
- **Edition:** 25th Anniversary Edition
- **ISBN:** 9780062315007
- **Availability:** [Campus Bookstore](https://campusbookstore.com/) (<https://sjsu.bncollege.com/>) and elsewhere
- **Price:** \$3.14-17.09

Course Requirements and Assignments

University Credit Hour Requirement

Success in this course 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 with one of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Assignment	Description	Recommended Word count	Assessment
Rhetorical Analysis Essay	For this assignment you analyze a piece of professional writing in your major or field or work, describing the rhetorical strategies that were used by the author and how these strategies contribute to the purpose of the document.	1,500	50%
Discipline Investigation Essay	In this assignment, you write a report about working in your major field. This report describes an interview you conduct with a professional in your chosen field; you also write about information you collect from at least two outside sources (articles), following appropriate citation and reference styles (APA or MLA).	1500	
Three Critical Reading Reflection Journals	During the semester, we will read <i>The Alchemist</i> , by Paulo Coelho, and other readings selected by you and by your instructor and respond to this reading in a series of required reflective journals. At the end of the semester, you will include these journals in your portfolio.	1,500	25%
Homework, quizzes, and participation	Discussion posts, quizzes, and classroom activities, including fifteen brief reflections on the course learning goals.		25%

Technology Requirements

Canvas: We use Canvas throughout this course.

Login URL: <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. Please note that the URL should NOT have the “www at the start of the address like many other websites. It is recommended that you visit the eCampus Canvas website at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/canvas/>, which offers a number of Quick Start Learning Guides to help you navigate Canvas tools. Also, detailed guides can be found at <http://guides.instructure.com/>.

Username: your SJSU 9-digit ID number.

Password: Self-generated password for your SJSUOne account

Turnitin.com: We use Turnitin.com for the main writing assignments. The turnitin software is already embedded within Canvas, so you do not need an additional password to access turnitin.com.

Zoom: Unless otherwise arranged, office hours and the two required essay conferences are held online via Zoom.

✓ Grading Information

Determination of Grades

To receive full credit, assignments must be completed on time by the posted due date.

Please note that no unexcused late work will be accepted. If you cannot make a deadline, you must contact me BEFORE THE DUE DATE.

100% A+	99-97% A	96-94% A-
93-91% B+	90-88% B	87-85% B-
84-82% C+	81-79% C	78-76% C-
75-73% D+	72-70% D	69-66% D-
65% and below F		
All major assignments are submitted to turnitin.com for plagiarism screening. You must check your originality report for submitted assignments to make sure you are not plagiarizing.		

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

Course Schedule

All homework is due on Sunday at 11:59 pm

Schedule subject to change; any updates will be communicated with fair notice

in class and via Canvas.

Week	Assignments and Activities
1	Introductions. Community-building. Course overview.
2	Professional Writing. Career Center Resources.
3	Professional Communication.
4	RA. Key concepts. Discourse communities.
5	Library Resources. Scholarly and professional literature.
6	Rhetorical appeals (conceptual approaches).
7	Rhetorical strategies 9patterns of organization).
8	RA full draft. Reviews. Conferences.
9	Alchemist Journal 1. Intros.
10	Alchemist Journal 2. Paraphrasing.

11	Alchemist journal 3. Conclusions.
12	DI Transcript. Organizing the narrative.
13	DI draft. Sources & APA.
14	DI conferences.
15	DI share. Happy Thanksgiving! No class meeting.
16	Portfolio cover letter. Reflections.
17	Finals