

First Year Writing Section 04

ENGL 1A

Spring 2025 In Person 3 Unit(s) 01/23/2025 to 05/12/2025 Modified 01/27/2025

Course Information

Success in Engl 1A requires five simple things:

- 1) Do all assignments, including reading and homework
- 2) Come to class prepared and participate in partner and group activities
- 3) Engage in the writing process by drafting, revising and re-writing each major assignment
- 4) Complete work on time
- 5) Read all communication I send through Canvas. Assignment content and dates could change during the semester and you need to read your email to stay up to date.

My Policy about AI Use

We are surrounded by AI tools that can do writing for you, but these tools cannot form thoughts for you and relying on AI-generated text will not lead to a passing grade in this course. We will learn to use AI as a tool for brainstorming, research, and other aspects of pre-writing in this course, but do not be tempted to use AI to *write* your essays in Engl 1A.

However, it is ultimately up to you to decide whether or how to shortcut your own learning process through technology. To help you think about your own boundaries with AI, you will write a short personal AI ethics manifesto at the start of the semester and be required to reflect and report on any AI use when submitting final drafts of your major assignments.

If I notice unauthorized use of AI in an assignment, I will require the student to meet with me individually or assign a zero grade.

The SJSU Writing Center has put together this [AI Writer Toolbox for Students](https://comm.sjsu.edu/NjYzLVVLUS050TgAAAGXUSGD0nM9YHt1wFy8RV_63xSt8HKG0Y95J6h-bwpxrZ09kcLRs7NPt4VRCE0gQPzDTjQMGgA=)^{Links to an external site.} (https://comm.sjsu.edu/NjYzLVVLUS050TgAAAGXUSGD0nM9YHt1wFy8RV_63xSt8HKG0Y95J6h-bwpxrZ09kcLRs7NPt4VRCE0gQPzDTjQMGgA=) and I encourage you to use this resource throughout the semester.

Academic Integrity

As a SJSU student, your commitment is to learning. The [University Academic Integrity Policy](https://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) [Links to an external site.](https://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf>) requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/> [Links to an external site.](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>).

Policy for late work

Reader Responses and major assignments (including outlines and rough drafts) will lose 10% if handed in late but within a week of the original deadline. Assignments will not be accepted more than a week late without permission from the instructor.

Note: Life happens and we all need help sometimes meeting our deadlines. I'm willing to be flexible, but only if you let me know ahead of time. I don't want to hear the day after an assignment is due that you need an extension. It is my experience that letting work drag out leads to continued missed deadlines and increases the odds of a student not passing. **Come talk to me if you are overwhelmed so we can figure out a plan to get you back on track.**



Final Exam: There is no 'final exam' for Engl 1A. Instead, all SJSU students enrolled in Engl 1A are required to gather writing samples and write a portfolio essay at the end of the semester that is due on the date of the final exam as dictated by the SJSU schedule. For Engl 1A Sect 04, the portfolio will be due at 3 pm on 5/20. We will talk about the portfolio in detail 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. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Diversity and class discussions

SJSU is a wonderfully diverse learning environment, and this course is designed to build on the strength of our different backgrounds. However, our readings and class discussions may raise sensitive and challenging questions, and in preparation we will create norms for how to deal with potential conflict or inappropriate comments during the first week of the semester. I hope we will try to interact with each other from a place of mutual respect and learning, which require both an open mind and an open heart. Although I doubt it will come to this, any behavior that threatens the learning environment and the safety of the classroom will not be tolerated.

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

We will use Canvas extensively for Engl 1A, so it is critical that students check Canvas regularly, including messages from the instructor. Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas Learning Management System course login website. For help

with using Canvas see Canvas Student Resources page.

Seminar

Tuesday, Thursday, 1:30 PM to 2:45 PM, Sweeney Hall Room 348

Engl 1A Sect 04 is an in person class. Attendance will be necessary to learn the content of the course.

Course Description and Requisites

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

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>)

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 Goals

My Teaching Philosophy

Engl 1A is a GE required course for every SJSU student, my goal is that you all pass this class with at least a C- so you don't have to repeat it. I believe that every student has the capacity to succeed in Engl 1A if they put in the work, regardless of their prior writing skills or experience. In short, you all belong in this college writing classroom, and you can do this!

If you are struggling, I am here to help you. Please reach out if you have questions, and be sure to respond to my email if I write to check in on you.

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Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

General Education Learning Outcomes (GELOs):

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

Required Texts

- There is no required textbook for Engl 1A. All reading will come from free online resources and links to existing publications.
- We will use selections from the SJSU Campus Reading Program book, [The Displaced Links to an external site.](https://www.sjsu.edu/reading/) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/reading/>) by Viet Thanh Nguyen, which was distributed to all first year students.
- We will also use podcasts, videos, and other multi-media texts, which will be posted on Canvas.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Theme

Our theme is YOU and your ideas! After years of writing about exactly what teachers required in high school, this college writing course is designed to allow *you* to explore what is interesting to *you*. What story do you want to tell about yourself? What issue or problem do you want to write about? What do you think about AI? What is your response to the texts we explore this semester? How can *you* persuade *your* audience to care about the ideas that matter to *you*?

Course Requirements and Assignments

This Engl 1A Course will have four major writing assignments and a final portfolio project, along with other short assignments, journal writing, and reading responses throughout the semester.

The four major assignments are:

1. Personal narrative essay
2. Rhetorical analysis essay
3. Persuasive essay
4. Multi-modal persuasive argument
5. Final Portfolio and Reflection Essay (required for all Engl 1A students at SJSU)

Requirements and Important Information about Engl 1A Sect 04

In class participation: Engl 1A is an in-person course and regular participation is essential to succeed. Attendance will be noted each day, and points will be assigned for the work we do in each class period. Engl 1A is an interactive class and in class work cannot be made up at home.

In class assignments, including journal posts, cannot be made up without explicit permission from the instructor. Do not try to submit work for days that you missed class and assume that I won't notice you were absent. Students who have specific conflicts that prevent attending class should email me to discuss

how to catch up on the work they missed.

Attendance: Attendance and Participation Policy

Requirements and Important Information about Engl 1A Sect 04

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✓ Grading Information

Points and Grades

Below is a breakdown of the number of words per assignment, the points per assignment and how the assignment relates to your final grade for the course. In addition, you can see how each assignment contributes to the course goals or "General Learning Outcomes" (GELO) for Engl 1A. Please note that the cumulative grade that displays on Canvas does not reflect the grade that you will get in Engl 1A, as it does not account for attendance, class participation, or journals.

	Points Per	Point Total	% of Final Grade	GELOs covered
In class work				
In class activities and writing		About 200		GELO 1, 2
				GELO 1, 2
Subtotal in class work		200	20%	
Personal Narrative				
outline	10			

Rough Draft (RD) 1	20			
RD 2	20			
Final draft	100			
Reflection	20			
Subtotal Personal Narrative		170	18%	GELO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Rhetorical analysis multimodal composition				
Outline Part 1	10			
Outline Part 2	10			
Rough Draft 1	20			
RD 2	20			
Final draft	100			
Reflection	20			
Rhetorical analysis Subtotal		180	18%	GELO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Persuasive essay				
Outline	10			

RD 1	20			
RD 2	20			
Final draft	100			
Reflection	20			
Persuasive Essay Total		170	17%	GELO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Persuasive Argument in Multimodal Genre				
Proposal	10			
Submission	100			
Participation	10			
Persuasive Multimodal Subtotal		120	12%	GELO 2, 3, 4,
Portfolio essay		75	7.5%	GELO 2, 5
Other Assignments				
Reading Responses	10	60	6%	GELO 1, 2, 3, 5

Mood Board		10	1%	
Personal ethical statement about AI		10	1%	
Other Assignments Subtotal		80	8%	
Total Points: 1000				

*= There will be six Reader Responses assigned for Engl 1A. There is also an opportunity to do extra credit by choosing up to two readings from the bonus list and writing responses to them. points. Any additional Reader Responses must be turned in by the date of the final exam for Engl 1A Section 04, which is May 20 at 3pm.

Class Flow and Assignment Due Dates: see Canvas

Grading Information

Your final grade in the course will be recorded as a letter grade, ranging from A to F. I will use + and – grades to refine the evaluation within the letter-grade categories. **NOTE: The cumulative grade that displays on Canvas may not reflect the grade that you will get in Engl 1A, as there is some discretion for class participation and attendance.**

Please note: As a GE course, students must receive a C- or higher in Engl 1A to get the Area A2 GE credit toward their degree. Students who do not earn at least a C- in English 1A must retake it. As a result, it is my highest goal that every student who comes to class regularly and submits their work will pass this Engl 1A course. **If you are falling behind and worried about failing, don't ghost me! Instead, reach out and let's find a path forward towards successful completion.**

Course grades will be using the following scale:

Grade	Points	Percentage
A	940 to 1000	94 to 100%

A -	900 to 939	90 to 93.9%
B +	870 to 899	87 to 89.9%
B	840 to 869	84 to 86.9%
B -	800 to 839	80 to 83.9%
C +	770 to 799	77 to 79.9%
C	740 to 769	74 to 76.0%
C -	700 to 739	70 to 73.9%
D +	670 to 699	67 to 69.9%
D	640 to 669	64 to 66.9%
D -	610 to 639	61 to 63.9%
F	BELOW 610	

Grade Criteria

Requirements for each assignment will vary, but in all cases, grades will reflect the assignment's effectiveness, which is broken down into four major areas: content, organization, revision, and language/style. Please see the rubrics for specific grading criteria for each assignment.

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.