San Jose State University

English 1B

*Section 29:*  TR 12:00 – 1:15 p.m. Boccardo Business Center 221

*Instructor:* Judy Harper

*E-mail*: [jharper@email.sjsu.edu](mailto:jharper@email.sjsu.edu)

*Office Hours*: Monday and Wednesday 10:30 – 12:00 p.m., and Tuesday and Thursday 8:45 – 9:00 a.m., and by appointment

*Office Location and phone number:* CL 406A, 924-4741

Required Texts:

Convergences: Themes, Texts, and Images for Composition. 3rd edition. Edited by Robert Atwan

Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything, Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner

A college level dictionary

Required Materials:

A notebook (spiral with perforated paper and pockets) for in-class activities, notes, and for storing hand-outs

An e-mail account (an SJSU account is highly preferable) that you check several times per week

Five “yellowbooks”

**Course Description:**

English 1B is the second course in SJSU’s two-semester lower-division composition sequence. Beyond providing repeated practice in planning and executing essays, and broadening and deepening students’ understanding of the genres, audiences, and purposes of college writing, English 1B differs from English 1A in its emphasis on persuasive and critical writing (with less attention paid to the personal essay), its requirement for fewer but longer essays, and its introduction to writing informed by research. Students will develop sophistication in writing analytical, argumentative, and critical essays; a mature writing style appropriate to university discourse; reading abilities that will provide an adequate foundation for upper-division work; proficiency in basic library research skills and in writing papers informed by research; and mastery of the mechanics of writing.

**Prerequisites:** Passage of Written Communication 1A or approved equivalent course.

**Student Learning Objectives (SLO):**

SLO 1: Students shall write complete essays that demonstrate the ability to refine the competencies established in Written Communication 1A.

SLO 2: Students shall write complete essays that demonstrate the ability to use (locate, analyze, and evaluate) supporting materials, including independent library research, and identify key concepts and terms that describe the information needed.

SLO 3: Students shall write complete essays that demonstrate the ability to select efficient and effective approaches for accessing information utilizing an appropriate investigative method or information retrieval system

SLO 4: Students shall write complete essays that demonstrate the ability to synthesize ideas encountered in multiple readings.

SLO 5: Students shall write complete essays that demonstrate the ability to incorporate principles of design and communication to construct effective arguments.

SLO 6: Students shall write complete essays that demonstrate the ability to identify and discuss issues related to censorship and freedom of speech.

**Course Content**

**Writing:** Assignments shall emphasize those skills and activities in writing and thinking that produce 1) the persuasive argument, and 2) the critical essay, each of which demands analysis, interpretation, and evaluation. Writing assignments shall give students repeated practice in prewriting, organizing, writing, revising, and editing. Six to eight essays, appropriately sequenced throughout the semester and totaling a minimum of 8000 words, are required; at least one of these essays shall be informed by research. This minimum requirement excludes the final examination, journal writing, quizzes, and any brief or informal assignments. However, it can include the diagnostic essay and assignments that require major revisions to a previously graded or reviewed draft. A major revision is defined as a rethinking or reworking of an assignment and not a simple “correcting” of mechanical errors noted on the original. At least three (but no more than four) essays shall be written in class. How the 8000-word minimum will be met and distributed must be clearly indicated on greensheets.

Students shall receive frequent evaluations of their writing from the instructor. In evaluating student writing, instructors shall comment on specific features of individual papers. Comments shall encourage and acknowledge student success as well as note problems and suggest ways to improve.

**Reading:** Reading shall include useful models of writing for academic, general, and specific audiences; readings shall be used consistently with the course goal of enhancing ability in written communication and reading. The majority of the reading shall be devoted to analytical, critical, and argumentative essays. Other types of texts, including poetry, drama, and fiction, may also be assigned, but shall not constitute more than the equivalent of four class sessions for classes that meet two days a week and two class sessions for classes that meet once a week. Instructors shall help students develop and refine strategies for reading challenging, college-level material.

**Research:** English 1B shall include an introduction to the library and to basic research strategies, including locating materials, using them effectively (e.g., quoting, paraphrasing, summarizing), and citing them properly. A traditional research paper or a series of short essays in which library research informs the student’s position or thesis is required. As part of this requirement, at least one class session of English 1B shall be led by a university librarian.

**Diversity:** Assignments (both reading and writing) shall address issues of race, class, and gender when appropriate, and the perspectives of women and diverse cultural groups shall be incorporated into course instruction and materials in an inclusive and comprehensive manner whenever possible.

**Tutoring:** San Jose State University provides students with free tutoring at the Learning Assistance Resource Center (LARC) and at the Writing Center. Both of these centers will help students at any stage of the writing process, from brainstorming to major reorganization to stylistic polishing. Students of all abilities are encouraged to use these services; it is a common myth that these services are for "dumb" students, but no published author made it without another pair of eyes on her/his work.

LARC is located under the 10th Street parking garage in SSC 600. (408) 924-2587

The Writing Center is located on the first floor of Clark Hall in Room 126. (408) 924-2308. You can schedule an appointment here: http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/tutoring/requestforappointment/index.htm

**The University Essay Final Exam:** A common essay final, graded holistically, shall count 20 percent toward the course grade. A single university-wide final will be developed around two college-level reading passages each semester by the English Department Composition Committee. All faculty members teaching individual sections will grade the examination holistically under controlled conditions. Students must take the final exam in order to pass the course.

***Specific Course Requirements and Policies:***

Classroom policies:

1. Be respectful of your environment and those around you. This is a community; treat it as such.
2. Treat others the way you want to be treated.
3. Be kind to yourself and others.
4. Ask for help and give help. It will make a world of difference.
5. Listen carefully.
6. Follow instructions.
7. Do your part, everyday, to make this the best classroom and learning experience possible.

*Writing Requirements and Policies*

* Details on all writing requirements will be given in class. There are a total of 200 points available over the course of the semester.
* All out-of-class work is to be typed, 12-point font (Times New Roman) with 1-inch margins.
* All out-of-class work is due at the start of class and will be collected and put away five minutes after the start of class. No papers will be accepted after that time.
* Late work: you get one lifeline this semester which you can apply toward a daily writing requirement or toward an out-of-class essay. There are no make ups for in-class essays.

Course Assignments and Grading Breakdown:

Assignment Percentage of Total Points available WordCount (approx)

Department final exam 20% 40 n/a

Out-of-class essays 45% 90 5,000

In-class essays 10% 20 1,000

Daily Writing Requirement 25% 50 2,000

**Grading:**

This course is graded on an A-F scale, with percentages broken down as follows:

A+ = 100-98 B+ 89-87 C+ = 79-77 D = 69 - 60

A = 97-93 B = 86-83 C = 76-73 F = 59 and lower

A- = 92-90 B- = 82-80 C- = 72 - 70

You must complete **all** essays plus take the department final exam to pass English 1B. This requirement is not negotiable.

**SJSU Academic Integrity Policy**: Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University, and the University’s Academic Integrity Policy require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty are required to report all infractions to the office of Judicial Affairs. The policy on academic integrity can be found at <http://www2.sjsu.edu/senate/S04-12.htm>. The SJSU rules against plagiarism are set forth in the SJSU Catalog, which defines plagiarism as 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. Plagiarism at SJSU includes, but is not limited to: (1) 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. It is the role and obligation of each student to know the rules that preserve academic integrity and abide by them at all times. This includes learning and following the particular rules associated with specific classes, exams, and/or course assignments. Ignorance of these rules is not a defense to the charge of violating the Academic Integrity Policy.

**Campus Policy on Compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act**: If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities register with DRC to establish a record of their disability. The DRC website is <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu>.

**Weekly schedule**

The following gives you a general idea of due dates and when to read “Freakonomics.” Readings from “Convergences” will be assigned in class and will be tailored to suit the development of the course. You’ll be required to address all readings in your DWR (Daily Writing Requirement) writings. Details will be provided in class.

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| **Dates** | **Tuesday** | **Thursday** |
| 8/24-26 | No class | In-class essay #1 (diagnostic) |
| 8/31-9/2 |  | **Daily Writing Requirement - #1 due** |
| 9/7-9 |  | Out-of-class essay #1 assigned |
| 9/14-16 | Draft #1 due for peer review | Draft #2 due for peer review |
| 9/21-23 |  | **Out-of-class essay #1 due** |
| 9/28-30 | Out-of-class essay #2 assigned | Start reading “Freakonomics” |
| 10/5-7 | Draft #1 due for peer review |  |
| 10/12-14 | Draft #2 due for peer review | Out-of-class essay #2 due |
| 10/19-21 | Library day – tentative | Out-of-class essay #3 assigned |
| 10/26-28 |  | Draft #1 due for peer review |
| 11/2-4 |  | Draft #2 due for peer review |
| 11/9-11 |  | No class |
| 11/16-18 | Draft #3 due for peer review | **Out-of-class essay #3 due** |
| 11/23-25 | **In-class essay #2** | No class |
| 11/30-12/2 | In-class writing – final exam prep | In-class writing – final exam prepDWR - #25 due |
| 12/7-9 | TBA | TBA |

Department Common Final Exam: Saturday, December 4, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.