

San José State University Department of English and Comparative Literature
English 1A, Composition 1 (GE: Written Communication A2)
Fall, 2013

Instructor: Ted Shank
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Office Hours: M/W 9:00-10:00 and by appointment
Class Days/Time:
Section 4: M/W. 7:30-8:45. S.H. 348
Section 55: M/W. 4:30—5:45. D.M.H. 354
Section 67: M/W. 6:00-7:15. D.M.H. 354

Prerequisites:

Placement by the English Proficiency Test (EPT), or passage of an approved substitute course for the EPT

Required Texts/Readings

- * Kirszner and Mandell. Patterns for College Writing. 12th Ed. ISBN: 13: 978-0-312-69958-1
- * Lunsford, Andrea. The Everyday Writer. 5th Ed. ISBN 978-1-4576-1266-4
- * Additional readings will be distributed in class.

Additional materials

- Dictionary
- 3 ring binder w/ paper.
- 3 large blue, yellow, or green composition books. These can be purchased at the Spartan Bookstore or other locations around campus

Course Description

English 1A is the first course in SJSU's two-semester lower-division composition sequence; it provides an introduction to baccalaureate-level composition, with attention to the "personal voice" and personal experience, on the one hand, and the more formal attitudes and demands of writing at the university (expository and argumentative essays), on the other. Students will develop college-level reading abilities, rhetorical sophistication, and writing styles that give form and coherence to complex ideas and feelings.

College-Level Composition

While the development of college-level composition skills are important to our study, it is imperative to emphasize that such skills are only relevant to the content which they express and explore. Our goal this semester, in all that we do, from reading responses, to discussions, exercises, and essays, is to find and explore new ideas and insights about ourselves, and the world around us. College-level composition demands an exploration of the text, to self, to world mode of thinking and reflection. Therefore, our essays will be, on one level, personal in that they will be based on your experiences and observations; however, the essays will also be social and cultural as you-the writer- seek to connect your experiences to themes, concepts, ideas, and insights that transcend the "I" and enter the realm of the "us," the "we." What this all means is that I feel that my job as a college composition instructor is to foster the development of consciousness.

Course Goals

Students shall achieve the ability to write complete essays that demonstrate college-level proficiency in all of the following:

- Clear and effective communication of meaning.

- An identifiable focus, tailored to a particular audience and purpose (argumentative essays will state their thesis clearly and show an awareness, implied or stated, of some opposing point of view).
- The ability to perform effectively the essential steps of the writing process (prewriting, organizing, composing, revising, and editing).
- The ability to explain, analyze, develop, and criticize ideas effectively.
- Effective use within their own essays of supporting material drawn from reading or other sources.
- Effective organization within the paragraph and the essay.
- Accuracy, variety, and clarity of sentences.
- Appropriate diction.
- Control of conventional mechanics (e.g., punctuation, spelling, reference, agreement).

Student Learning Objectives

SLO 1: Students shall write complete essays that demonstrate the ability to perform effectively the essential steps in the writing process (prewriting, organizing, composing, revising, and editing).

SLO 2: Students shall write complete essays that demonstrate the ability to express (explain, analyze, develop, and criticize) ideas effectively.

SLO 3: Students shall write complete essays that demonstrate the ability to use correct grammar (syntax, mechanics, and citation of sources) at a college level of sophistication.

SLO 4: Students shall write complete essays that demonstrate the ability to write for different audiences.

Classroom Protocol

Participation is preparation and it is an inseparable component to learning. To participate means that you prepare and craft all out-of-class essays in conjunction with our in-class exercises and discussions. To participate means that you read all essays closely and carefully, and that you complete all reading responses—before you come to class. To participate means that you are on time and ready to work when class starts. To participate means that you make significant effort to respond to, process, and share insights to questions posed in class. To participate means that you take notes and complete all in-class exercises. To participate means that all of your actions work to create a distraction-free, safe, positive, and comfortable learning environment. To participate means that you adhere to all deadlines and due dates. To participate means that you maintain focus and effort for the duration of our class meeting. Finally, to participate means that you maintain this degree of intensity for the duration of the semester. The above criteria is my expectation for college-level learning, and you must make the decision and commitment to work in this fashion. However, you must make the decision, now and every day for the rest of the semester, to participate and succeed.

Note: Please use common sense when it comes to your personal electronic devices. You cannot fully participate in our class if you are engaging in any form of communication that deters, even momentarily, you from the task at hand. Notice that in the above discussion of participation does not leave room for texting and/or communication with or through an electronic device.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Grading: A-F. This class must be passed with a C (75%) or better to move on to CORE GE Area C3 and to satisfy the prerequisite for English 1B. A passing grade in the course signifies that the student is a capable college-level writer and reader of English. There is a total 1000 points possible, which follow the traditional percentage breakdown: 90-100: A; 80-89: B; 70-79: C; 60-69: D; 0-59: F.

Assignments (1,000 possible points)

- *Out-of-Class Essays*: (SLO 1,2,3,4) Essays 1-3 are worth 125 points, and essay 4 is worth 100 points. Throughout the course of the semester, you will compose 4 out-of-class essays. Essays will focus on different rhetorical modes, all leading to argumentation and persuasion. Our last essay will be a reflective essay. For each essay, you will be given a prompt with specific guidelines for the essay in terms of development and skills you will be applying to that essay. In addition, for each essay, you will attend a peer-response workshop, which requires you to have a completed, formatted rough draft of your essay. Failure to have a completed draft for the workshop results in a 25 point deduction from the final draft of your essay. All 4 out-of-class essays must be completed—and turned in on time—in order to be eligible to receive a passing score in the class.

- *In-class essays*(SLO 1,2,3,4). 3 total. The first in-class essay is for diagnostic purposes only, and thus ungraded. Essays #1 and #2 are worth 50 points each. After we compose our diagnostic in-class essay, we will compose two additional in-class essays. Each essay will focus on a specific skill set and will utilize elements we have been working on with our out-of-class essays as well. Furthermore, these essays will prepare you for our final exam. You will be given a rubric to help determine how to approach these essays, and we will have some specific in-class preparation.
- *Reading Responses*(SLO4): 10 @ 10 points each. For 10 of the essays we will read this semester, you will compose a reading response. Reading responses are due in class immediately after they are discussed/used. The responses are designed to get you thinking about the reading before you come to class, strengthening your ability to complete the exercises for the day. If your response demonstrates care and concern for the task, it is worth full credit. If it shows a lack of care and concern, it is worth no points. I will help you better understand the expectations, but for now think of each response as about 30-40 minutes of thinking and writing. Reading responses will be between 1-2 pages, typed, and single spaced. Late or hand-written responses will not be accepted.
- *Course Binder* @ 100 points. Throughout the course of the session, you will be keeping and developing a course binder consisting of all in-class exercises. You will be numbering, dating, and keeping these exercises in your course binder. Keeping up your course binder is your responsibility. I strongly advise you to revise and clarify each exercise outside of class. Not only is this a good study habit, but it will help you process and retain what we have been working on, very important during summer session. See your schedule for when your binder is due.
- *Letter of Introduction* @ 25 points. Very early in the semester, you will be assigned a letter in which you will introduce yourself to your instructor. Of course, this assignment is to allow me to get to know you a bit, but it is also a chance for me to get to know your out-of-class writing a bit. If you do this assignment and meet the simple requirements outlined on the assignment sheet, you will earn 25 points. However, I want you to craft and compose what you consider to be your best sentence and paragraph level writing at this time. In addition, this assignment is part of how I assess the strengths and weaknesses of the class as a whole.
- *Mandatory Departmental Final Exam*(SLO 1,2,3,4): 200 points. On Saturday, December 7 we will compose our final exam, which will be an in-class essay. Basically our whole semester will prepare you for this task. I will inform you of the room number and time as soon as it is available to me. The final exam is mandatory, meaning that you must sit for the exam in order to be eligible to earn a grade in the course.
- *Everyday Writer readings and exercises*. You will be required to read a series of sections from The Everyday Writer. The purpose of these readings is to, first, generate familiarity with the writing handbook that will guide you through the remainder of your career at SJSU. In addition, you will read through a series of writing fundamentals. On scheduled dates (see our schedule) we will discuss and clarify “highlights” of the readings. It is important to note that it is your responsibility to be reading your handbook outside of class. These discussions will include exercises that will become part of your course binder. This will allow you to come by my office and talk about concepts and questions as they arise. If you put off this reading until the night before you are supposed to have it finished, you will NOT gain the intended benefits of this portion of our class. In the past, students have formed out-of-class study groups to meet weekly and discuss sections of this reading.

Late Work Policy

Out-of-class essays #1,#2, and #3 have a one class meeting grace period, meaning that, if something happens, you can turn in the essay at the beginning of the next class meeting for no point deduction. After that time, the essay will not be accepted. Remember, all 4 essays must be turned in on time, meaning between the due date and the grace period. There is no exception to this policy, regardless of validity or severity. Out-of-class essay #4 has no grace period and cannot be turned in late. In-class essays can be made up during office hours up to one week after the initial date, if prior arrangement of at least two class meetings is made. Reading responses cannot be turned in late. To repeat, there are no exceptions to any aspect of this policy, regardless of validity or severity. If you prepare and treat due dates as serious commitments, this will not be a problem for you. If you know that you will be missing a due date, you are can turn work in early. I DO NOT ACCEPT ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS OF ANY WORK PRODUCED FOR THIS CLASS.

Attendance

There is a direct correlation between promptness, attendance, and success in this class. It is your responsibility to be on time and attend each class session. There will be something of record either due or to be done on nearly every day of class, much of which cannot be made up. Not only will your score suffer with poor attendance, but it is impossible to learn and develop if you are not on time, in class, and actively engaging and participating in the material.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-Division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have Met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines To become better writers. The Writing Center website is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/>. One of the purposes for our diagnostic essay will be for me to determine which students will benefit from services offered at the Writing Center.

Additional Information Online

You are responsible for reading the following information online at <http://www.sjsu.edu/english/comp/policyforsyllabi.html>

- Course guidelines
- Academic policies (academic integrity, plagiarism, ADA and DRC policies)
- Adding and dropping classes

Fall 2013 Schedule of Due Dates and Assignments

Dates and assignments are subject to change according to our class needs. You will be notified in class if any changes are made. You will also receive email notification if there are any changes to this schedule.

Week One

Wednesday, August 21

- * Course introduction/syllabus overview
- * Letter of Introduction assigned

Week Two

Monday, August 26

- * Diagnostic in-class essay
- * Master list of reading responses distributed
- * Letter of Introduction due

Wednesday, August 28

- * Introductory Exercises: Becoming writers
- * Read, "The Dog Ate My Disc and Other Tales of Woe" (Patterns 460-465)
- * Reading Response #1 Due
- * Note: You need to start reading/studying your reading for September 16.

Week Three

Monday, September 2: Labor Day (no class)

Wednesday, September 4

- * Essay #1 assigned
- * Basic writing terminology discussed and defined
- * Read "Narration" (Patterns 97-108)

Week Four

Monday, September 9

- * Lesson and Exercises: Importance of detail and analysis
- * Read, "My First Conk" (Patterns 281-285)
- * Read, "Only Daughter" (Patterns 111-115)
- * Reading Responses 2 and 3 due

Wednesday, September 11

- * Lesson and Exercises: Creation of Purpose
- * Read, "My Mother Never Worked" (Patterns 121-125)
- * Read, "38 Who Saw Murder Didn't Call Police" (Patterns 127-132)
- * Reading Responses 4 and 5 due

Week Five

Monday, September 16

- * Getting to know The Everyday Writer.
- * For today's class, you need to have sections 31a through 38c of Everyday Writer

Wednesday, September 18

- * Peer-Response Session #1: Complete formatted draft of essay #1 due in class

Week Six

Monday, September 23

- * Final Draft of Essay #1 Due
- * Out-of-class essay #2 assigned
- * Read "Description" (Patterns 151-169)
- * Analysis of sample paragraphs (these will be handouts distributed in class)
- * Wednesday's reading distributed in class

Wednesday, September 25

- * Lesson and Exercises: Connecting sensory description, dominant impression, and subject
- * Read, "Breakfast" (handout)
- * Reading Response #6 due
- * Start reading and studying your Everyday Writer reading for October 14

Week Seven

Monday, September 30

- * Lesson and Exercises: Understanding and using descriptive viewpoint
- * Read, "Ground Zero" (Patterns 182-187)
- * Reading Response #7 due

Wednesday, October 2

- * Lesson and Exercises: Repetition, emphasis, and larger subject
- * Read, "Once More to the Lake" (Patterns 194-201)
- * Reading Response #8 due

Week Eight

Monday, October 7

- * Preparation for in-class essay #1

Wednesday, October 9

- * Compose in-class essay #1
- * must have a large green or yellow composition book, blue or black ink for your in-class essay. You may only use a paper dictionary.

Week Nine

Monday, October 14

- * Getting to know The Everyday Writer
- * For today's class, you need to have sections 25 a through 30b of Everyday Writer

Wednesday, October 16

- * Peer-Response Session #2: Complete formatted draft of essay #2 due in class
- * Reading for Departmental Reading Assessment distributed

Week Ten

Monday, October 28

- * Final Draft of Out-of-Class Essay #2 Due
- * Compose Departmental Reading Assessment

Wednesday, 30

- * Introduction to essay #3
- * Read, "Argumentation" (Patterns 525-550)
- * Introduction to/Review of rhetorical appeals
- * Preparation for Monday's reading

Week Eleven

Monday, November 4

- * Lesson and Exercises: Understanding and using rhetorical appeals
- * Read, "Letter from Birmingham Jail" (Patterns 566-581)
- * Reading Response #9 due

Wednesday, November 6

- * Complete lesson and exercises based on "Letter from Birmingham Jail."
- * New Lesson and Exercises: Range of examples and exploring possible positions
- * Read, "Just Walk on By" (Patterns 240-245)
- * Reading Response #10 due

Week Twelve

Monday, November 11: Veteran's Day (no class)

Wednesday, November 13

- * Lesson and Exercises: Incorporation of the outside essay. For this lesson, materials will be provided for you in class.
- * Lesson and Exercises: Refutation
- * You will need to review, "Just Walk on By," "My First Conk" and "Only Daughter"

Week Thirteen

Monday, November 18

- * Getting to know The Everyday Writer.
- * For today's class, you will need to have sections 39a through 48c of Everyday Writer.

Wednesday, November 20

- * Peer-Response Session #3: Complete formatted draft of essay #3 due in class
- * Essay #4 Introduced

Week Fourteen

Monday, November 25

- * Final Draft of Essay #3 Due
- * Review for in-class essay #2

Wednesday, November 27

- * Compose in-class essay #2

Week Fifteen

Monday, December 2

- * In-class analysis/assessment of in-class essay #2
- * Review for final

Wednesday, December 4

- * Reminders for Saturday's Final
- * Reflection activity

Saturday, December 7 @ 8:00 AM: Mandatory Departmental Final Exam.

Week Sixteen

Monday, December 9

- * Peer-Response Session #4: Complete formatted draft of essay #4 due in class
- * Course Binder details

Wednesday, December 11

- * Final Draft of Essay # 4 Due
- * Course Binder Due

