

Critical Thinking and Writing Section 44

ENGL 2

Spring 2024 3 Unit(s) 01/24/2024 to 05/13/2024 Modified 01/25/2024

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.

Course theme: This semester, we'll be exploring the science and the ideas behind wellness and success. We'll do this through readings, podcasts, and discussions that will lead to your own postulations on what constitutes happiness and personal success.

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.

There will also be a written final exam in class during the final exam period.

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>).

Respect and Late Work

I have one rule: be respectful. This means no texting, no on-line shoe shopping, no unnecessary yawning, no snoring or otherwise making random noises. No arriving fifteen minutes late and interrupting the lecture or discussion to find your seat. (If you do so regularly, I'll ask you to make a plan for arriving on time.)

Late work: Assignments cannot be handed in late for full credit without prior consent of the instructor; any assignment arriving after the due date is considered late. In-class work cannot be made up without a doctor's note or other emergency verification.

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

Course Reader, available at Maple Press

Yellow books for podcast journal entries and other in-class work as assigned

Access to Canvas and Open Educational Resources

Notebook and pen

Course Requirements and Assignments

Assignment Word Count and Learning Goals

Assignment	Word Count	GELO
Out of class essays	2400 - 3000	1-4
Revisions	2400	1-4
In-class essays (includes final exam)	1000	1-4
Portfolio reflection	500	1,2
Quizzes and workshops	200	1-4

Podcast journal entries	1000	2, 3
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Grading Information

Grading Policy

Grades will be determined out of a possible 500 points and will be distributed as follows:

Out of class essays (2) and revisions (2).....	150 pts
In-class essay.....	50
Quizzes (3) and workshops (2)	50
Group podcast (+outline).....	50
Midterm.....	50
Portfolio	50
Podcast Journal.....	50
Final exam.....	50

Criteria

Grading scale: A-F.

A+=100, A= 95, A-=90: Excellent writing that is informative, persuasive, correct

B+=89, B=85, B-=80: Above average writing that is organized, developed, and effective

C+=79, C=75, C-=70: Satisfactory writing that is clear, coherent, and complete

D+=69, D=65, D-=60: Unsatisfactory writing that is unclear, incoherent, and incorrect, difficult to follow

F=50: Writing that is off-topic, late, incomplete

These percentages are estimates and may be altered slightly by the instructor if needed

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

Week 1

TR 1/25 syllabus, themes, materials, WELCOME

Week 2

T 1/30 CR, *Harvard Business Review* chapters

*Quiz #1

TR 2/1 writing, AI, argumentation

intro to podcasts

*Podcast Journal Entry #1 in class

Week 3

T 2/6 logic, appeals, reasoning

TR 2/8 essays, research, annotated bibliographies

*essay #1 assigned

Week 4

T 2/13 CR, *Huberman @ Stanford*, podcast

*Podcast Journal Entry #2 in class

TR 2/15 Workshop essay #1

Week 5

- T 2/20 CR, *Santos interview*, podcast
*Podcast Journey Entry #3 in class
*Essay #1 DUE
- TR 2/22 Article TBD
*extra-credit opportunity in class

Week 6

- T 2/27 Revision and concise writing review
*revision essay assigned
- TR 2/29 **in-class essay**

Week 7

- T 3/5 CR, Shanker and podcast
*Podcast journal entry #3 in class
- TR 3/7 review for midterm
*revision essay DUE

Week 8

- T 3/12 **midterm in class**
- TR 3/14 writing review, argument and persuasion
*essay #2 assigned

Week 9

- T 3/19 podcast with Chomsky

*Podcast Journal Entry #4 in class

TR 3/21 Chomsky article TBD

*quiz #2

Week 10

T 3/26 workshop essay #2

TR 3/28 intro to group podcast assignment

*essay #2 DUE

Week 11 SPRING BREAK!!

Week 12

T 4/9 revision review

*revision essay assigned

TR 4/11 group podcast work day

Week 13

T 4/16 group podcast presentations

TR 4/18 group podcast presentations

*Podcast Journal Entry #5

Week 14

T 4/23 group podcast presentations

TR 4/25 podcast presentations wrap up and reflection

Week 15

T 4/30 podcast student choice

*Podcast Journal Entry make-up

TR 5/2 article and discussion TBD

*quiz #3

*Podcast Journals DUE

Week 16

T 5/7 Portfolios

TR 5/9 Class review/prep for final

Friday, May 17th, 7:15 - 9:30 **FINAL EXAM**

*NOTE: Assignments, but not due dates, are subject to change.