

SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY
ENGL 2: CRITICAL THINKING AND WRITING
SUMMER 2022

COURSE AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Professor Richard McNabb
Email: richard.mcnabb@sjsu.edu
Virtual Office Hours: Tuesday 9:00-10:00 am, and by appointment
Prerequisites: ENGL 1A / GE A2 credit
GE category: A3: Critical Thinking and Writing

COURSE DESCRIPTION

ENGL 2 is an introductory writing course that focuses on the relationship between language and logic when composing arguments. Building on the skills acquired in ENGL 1A, you will learn various methods of effective reasoning and appropriate rhetorical strategies to help you invent, demonstrate, and express arguments clearly, logically, and persuasively.

COURSE FORMAT

ENGL 2 is an online course that is run asynchronously, which means we do not have a specified day / time where we meet as a class. Instead, you will be working independently at your own pace.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS / EQUIPMENT / MATERIAL

As an online course, you will need access to a computer to review class materials on Canvas (e.g., syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc.). You are responsible for regularly checking your MySJSU email as well as Canvas messaging to learn of any updates, assignments, or comments from me.

GE LEARNING OUTCOMES (GELO)

For the list of course learning goals, click on the following link:
http://www.sjsu.edu/english/frosh/course_descriptions/engl_2/index.html.

REQUIRED TEXTS/READINGS

Course readings are available on Canvas, online, or through the MLK Library database.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

University Policy S16-9 (www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pft) requires me to include the following statement: “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) 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.”

The course writing assignments (see below) will give you repeated practice in all phases of the writing process: prewriting, organizing, writing, revising, and editing. You will receive frequent evaluations of your writing from me. Evaluative comments will be substantive, addressing both the logic of the argument and the quality and form of the writing. Comments will encourage and acknowledge success as well as note problems and suggest ways to improve.

1. **Informal Writing:** You will write a number of informal assignments designed to provide practice in the different rhetorical concepts discussed in the course readings. These assignments will require you both to analyze and to create arguments using the strategies and frameworks developed by different theorists.

2. **Formal Writing Projects:** You will complete three essay projects. Before submitting the final version of an essay, you will have the opportunity to submit drafts for feedback from me. Submitting drafts is optional—but strongly encouraged. Refer to the daily schedule for each assignment due date.

ASSIGNMENT LEARNING GOALS

Assignment	Learning Outcomes	Grade Percentage
Informal writing	2-5	10%
Essay #1: Aristotelian argument	1-3	30%
Essay #2: Rogerian argument	1-3	30%
Essay #3: Style analysis	2	30%

CLASSROOM POLICIES

Lateness: I do not accept late **informal assignments or major essay drafts**. Final major essays, however, will be accepted with a **point reduction**. To account for illnesses and other emergencies, you have one late pass that you can apply to any final **major essay**. A late pass will allow you to submit the work (without penalty) up to two days after the due date.

Extra Credit: There are no opportunities for extra credit in the course.

Other Course Policies: To review all other course policies, please go to www.sjsu.edu/english/frosh/program_policies/index.html.

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 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>” Make sure to review these policies and resources.

WEEKLY SYLLABUS

(subject to change with advanced notice)

The following schedule outlines what will be covered each week and the formal writing projects that are due. Informal writing assignments will be announced at the start of each week via Canvas messaging. Syllabus subject to change with advanced notice.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Topics	Written Assignments	Reading Assignments
1 06/01- 06/05	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aristotle: framing arguments emotionally, ethically, and logically.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aristotle's rhetoric worksheet• ethical, emotional, logical strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• YouTube: Aristotle bio & Rhetoric• Aristotle, Ethical & Emotional highlights• Kiens, Rushkoff
2 06/06- 06/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cicero: arranging arguments• Rogers: negotiating arguments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cicero's rhetoric worksheet• argumentative cases• Essay #1 draft	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• YouTube: Campbell & Cicero bio• Cicero, arrangement• Rogers (reading taken from Lunsford)
3 06/13- 06/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cicero: stylizing & delivering arguments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• sentence labeling and style revisions• Essay #2 draft• Essay #1 final	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• YouTube: Rogers bio
4 06/20- 06/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cicero: stylizing & delivering arguments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• sentence style revisions• Essay #3 draft• Essay #2 final	
5 06/27- 07/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rhetorical Grammar	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• grammar exercises• Essay #3 final	

COURSE READINGS

PRIMARY TEXTS ON CANVAS

1. Aristotle, the *Rhetoric*
2. Carl Rogers, selections from Lunsford
3. Cicero, *On Oratory*

YOUTUBE VIDEOS

Aristotle biography: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=umHDO_VODWA

Aristotle's Rhetoric: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y5z3zWJlthI>

Cicero biography: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8wZGgL_VZbY

Carl Rogers biography: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6fidphMX38>

COURSE TOPIC: THE VALUE OF GRAMMAR?

For a useful overview of the two different positions on Grammar use, watch the following: Andrea Claude, "Does grammar matter?" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wn_eBrIDUuc

Articles on Grammar

It's Not Just Rules; It's Clear Thinking



DOUGLAS RUSHKOFF, AUTHOR, "PROGRAM OR BE PROGRAMMED"

Douglas Rushkoff, author of *Program or Be Programmed: Ten Commands for a Digital Age*, wrote that "without grammar, we lose the precision required to be effective and purposeful in writing," and went so far as to say "even a poorly constructed tweet reflects a poorly constructed thought. Without command of grammar, one can't even truly read, much less write" (Rushkoff). characters what took me 300 words—even if it means cutting some grammatical corners—I would say that person brings a useful talent to the table" (Challenger).

Kyle Wiens, "I Won't Hire People Who Use Poor Grammar. Here's Why." <https://hbr.org/2012/07/i-wont-hire-people-who-use-poo>