

First-Year Writing: Stretch English II

ENGL 1AS

Spring 2026 Section 05 In Person 3 Unit(s) 01/22/2026 to 05/11/2026 Modified 01/21/2026

Contact Information

Instructor:	Alesya Petty
Contact:	Message through Canvas (Alesya.Petty@sjsu.edu)
Office Location:	FOB 224
Office Hours:	Tuesdays 12:00-1:00 PM or by appointment on Zoom
Class Times:	In-person MW 10:30 -11:45 AM
Classroom:	SH 413
Prerequisites:	The Reflection on College Writing is a prerequisite to Stretch English I (English 1AF). Credit for Stretch English I (English 1AF) is a prerequisite for Stretch English II (English 1AS).
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	English 1AS satisfies* Written Communication I, GE Area A2. <small>*To earn graduation credit in this category, you must complete the yearlong course with a grade of C- or better.</small>

Section Specific Course Description

In this course with a theme “Mindfulness, Education and You,” we will explore connections between various viewpoints on success, well-being, and happiness. We will learn how assumptions and expectations about college life represented in academia and culture make a difference in student experiences. We will also gain an understanding of self-awareness and mindfulness as tools for dealing with challenges, managing

stress and building productive approaches to life-long learning. These themes will be incorporated in our weekly practices and major projects that help develop academic skills needed in all subject areas and majors.

Course Description and Requisites

Stretch II is the second semester of a year-long ENGL 1A 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 various genres.

Satisfies 1A. Written Communication I (Formerly Area A2).

Prerequisite(s): ENGL 1AF Stretch English I

Grading: Letter Graded

Classroom Protocols

It's crucial to attend in-person classes to keep up with updates in the course and to do collaborative work for projects.

In-person meetings include collaborative work, interactive workshops, presentations, one-on-one conferences, instructor and peer feedback. Participation for in-person activities cannot be made up. No amount of solitary or make-up work can replace meaningful interactions with the class learning community in real time.

Homework must be completed before coming to in-person class and **all assignments are due on Monday night at 11:59pm.**

Late work for weekly homework is accepted with a *10% penalty per day*. In-class assignments cannot be made up. *Up to 3 in-class routine activities can be excused during the semester for any reason (sickness, appointments, emergencies, conferences, etc.).* In cases of emergency or sickness, extensions may be given for submitting a major assignment on an individual basis with a timely notification before the deadline and documented proof of the emergency or sickness.

Group projects are meant to be productive and collaborative experiences, preparing students for team-based work environment outside of college. Consistent, responsive, active, and responsible contributions and collaboration are expected of all team members. All teams and members will have evaluations at the end of the project. In cases, when team members note lack of participation and contributions, which is may be reflected in the shared documentation, and/or poor project presentation, the grade for the course will be lowered.

Missing a class. Please, hold yourself responsible to find out what you missed by contacting the classmates through various communication tools available to you through Canvas messaging, other communication channels set up for the class (student-organized Discord, etc.). Check updates on Canvas regularly. Class is a learning community of students who can help each other throughout the learning

process. The role of the instructor is to help you navigate the course and to facilitate the learning. Generally, instructors do not have the capacity to repeat or summarize taught lessons to individual students through messaging.

Concerns about performance in the course. Please, drop by virtual office hours or schedule an appointment to discuss anything relating to your ability to succeed in the course. I am here to help you with whatever situations may arise during the course of your studies. I am highly invested in your learning and wish you to be successful in your studies.

Final submissions. All final drafts and graded assignments must be proofread and polished. However, Grammarly or any AI digital tools are not permitted in this course, because their use prevents the development of skills trained in this writing course. See AI policy for more details. Make sure to leverage free resources and tutoring services available to you through the Writing Center and any other student support services. Assignments are usually graded within a week of submission date. This means that if you submitted an assignment 2 days later, it may also be graded later. There may be delays on the usual turn around time due to instructor's other professional responsibilities and circumstances (away for a conference, sick, etc.), in which cases I'll notify the class through announcements. Larger projects or drafts requiring feedback may take extra time as well.

Classroom netiquette. Be courteous and respectful of your classmates who constitute a diverse learning community. Class dynamics are much enhanced when all members can participate in the same conversation. Please make the wise choice to stay on task in our sessions and ignore the urge to check your social media or engage in other distractions. You can bring a closed-top cup or water bottle to class, but please no snacking or eating as it interferes with learning. Just think of things you would not do in a business meeting and treat the class environment is a similar way.

Recording in our classroom and sharing of the contents of the Canvas course are not allowed and are protected by university policies.

Technology issues will not be accepted as an excuse for late work. To avoid these issues, you should do the following:

- Have a backup plan in case of equipment failure. (You can rent laptops from the Martin Luther King Jr. Library.) Save back-up copies of all your course work on Google Drive. After submitting an assignment on Canvas, review it to ensure that you uploaded the correct file. All assignments are graded as submitted.
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If you experience technical difficulties and have issues submitting your work on Canvas, you are responsible for reaching out to the IT support department to obtain documentation of the issue.

Technology Requirements

During all class meetings on campus, you are also required to have access to some technology, such as a laptop or a tablet. As we will use online tools, such as a digital whiteboard, live during the class, you must have access to a laptop or tablet for participation purposes. We will also complete writing tasks during class, which you must type and submit online. Additionally, we will use Canvas, the SJSU Learning Management System, for instructional materials, activities, and assignments. Therefore, you will need regular access to the internet and technology for this class. If you need to borrow laptops, tablets, and other electronics, please contact [Student Computing Services](https://library.sjsu.edu/student-computing-services/student-computing-services) at <https://library.sjsu.edu/student-computing-services/student-computing-services>.

To produce and share your work, you will use Google Docs and enable viewers to comment on your work. If you need help to access these technologies, please contact the IT Service Desk at <https://www.sjsu.edu/it/support/service-desk/index.php>.

Plagiarism and AI Policy

San Jose State University 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. Please check out SJSU's policy in full [here](#).

To avoid plagiarism, give credit to your sources in the following situations:

1.) Using someone else's direct words (use quotation marks and give the source).

"In the midst of Silicon Valley and all over the globe, SJSU engineers are designing and building high impact innovations, with a particular focus on challenges to global sustainability" (Wei, 2011).

The full reference will be in the back of the report, using APA format.

2.) Using someone else's ideas, in your words, that are not common knowledge.

Through the Global Technology Initiative at SJSU, 25 students are selected each year to travel for two weeks to India or China, all expenses paid by GTI. (College of Engineering, 2012). (Note this is not the exact words, so there are no quotation marks.)

The full reference and website will be in the back of the report, using APA format.

3.) Using specific statistics, graphics, drawings, etc. that are not yours.

San Jose State University 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.

To avoid plagiarism, give credit to your sources in the following situations:

4.) Using AI to generate ideas.

If needed, you may use language models and AI tools as a resource for generating ideas and inspiration, but you must never pass it off as your own work. Any use of language models or AI tools, like Chat GPT, must be properly cited and acknowledged, just as with any other source of information.

The Use of Artificial intelligence (AI) and large language models

Please make sure you write the documents that you submit for class. Using AI tools, such as Chat GPT, to write your assignments for you falls under the definition of plagiarism and is not allowed. Assignments with plagiarism cannot be rewritten for credit. Additionally, your department chairperson will be notified, and academic sanctions will be applied. Please see SJSU's policy on academic dishonesty [here](#).

Remember, plagiarism is a serious issue. When you submit work in PDF format, ensure Turnitin scores your work as either blue or green. No other scores are acceptable.

To become acquainted with what plagiarism is and how to avoid it, the following SJSU website offers definitions, policies, and links to useful websites offering guidelines in plagiarism prevention. Students are fully accountable for understanding these policies. <https://libguides.sjsu.edu/plagiarism/how-to-avoid-plagiarism>

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 this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours on this course each semester (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 Stretch English, our learning each semester 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.

Grading in Stretch English

In the fall semester (ENGL 1AF), you will receive either a CR (credit) or a NC (no credit). To receive credit in the fall semester, you must honor your instructor's grading policy and demonstrate significant, measurable progress throughout the semester.

In the spring semester (ENGL 1AS), you will receive a letter grade for the course. You must earn a C- or better to earn graduation credit for GE Area A2.

Campus Resources for Writers

SJSU Writing Center

Located in MLK Library, 2nd floor, the Writing Center offers appointments with tutors who are well trained to assist you as you work to become a better writer. The Writing Center offers both one-on-one tutoring and workshops on a variety of writing topics. All services are free. To make an appointment or to refer to the Center's online resources, visit the Writing Center website.

SJSU Peer Connections

Located in Student Services Center (SSC) 600, Peer Connections is your online, campus-wide resource for mentoring (time management, note taking, study skills, getting involved, etc.), tutoring (undergraduate writing, lower division Math, Science, History, Humanities, etc.), supplemental instruction (review and study sessions for select courses), and learning assistants in classes across campus. All services are free. Make appointments to meet with a tutor or mentor by visiting Spartan Connect (Links to an external site.) For more information on services, online workshops, and a step-by-step guide to making an appointment, please visit the Peer Connections website.

Program Policies

First-Year Writing policies are listed at the following website:

<https://www.sjsu.edu/english/frosh/program-policies.php>
[\(https://www.sjsu.edu/english/frosh/program-policies.php\)](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 Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

GE Area 1A: English Composition

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 1A 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

There are no formal textbooks required for this course. This course is part of the Affordable Learning Solutions program that was created to provide easy, direct access to inexpensive, accessible, and high-quality alternatives. All course readings and materials are available on Canvas, online, and through the MLK Library databases. Additional links to required readings will be posted within Canvas.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Table 1: Summary of Writing Assignments for Stretch English I and II.

Assignment	Assignment	Final Word Count	CLO

Data-driven Analyses	Personal Essay	1100	CLO 1-5
	Interview Project	1000	
	Research Project	1300	
Major Essays	Blog	1200	CLO 1-5
	Profile Essay	1200	
	Persuasive Essay	1200	
Portfolio	Midyear	500	CLO 1-5
	Final	500	

Table 2: Fall semester - 40% of total course grade

Assignments	Min. Final Word Count	CLO
Personal Essay	1100	1-5
Blog Essay	1200	1-5
Self-Reflection Portfolio	500	1-5

Table 2: Spring semester - 60% of total course grade

Assignments	Min. Final Word Count	CLO
Interview	1000	1-5

Profile Essay	1200	1-5
Research Project	1300	1-5
Persuasive Project	1200	1-5
Self-Reflection Portfolio	500	1-5

✓ Grading Information

How Grades are Calculated

Grading Contract:[\[1\]](#)

In this class, we will work as a learning community to develop our approaches to reading and writing different types of texts. We will experiment with unfamiliar strategies, and at times we will feel unsure about the direction of our work and our comprehension of the work of others. We will develop writing processes to help us, including prewriting, drafting, workshopping, and revising. We will rely on each other for feedback and support, but we will also take charge of our own learning and success. What does that mean in terms of grading?

This class is meant to improve your skills and experiences as college-level writers, drawing from each of your unique funds of knowledge. Therefore, we will not be using a traditional grading system. Instead, you will be largely responsible for your own grade.

If you do all that is asked of you in the manner and spirit in which it is asked, if you work through the processes we establish and the work we do throughout the semester, if you continue to improve those processes in order to gain more intensity and engagement in your writing, then you will do well in this course. If you miss in-class activities, turn in assignments late, fail to increase your work's intensity, or fail to submit assignments, your grade will suffer.

Minor assignments will be graded for completion; you will receive a 1/1 for every finished minor assignment you turn in on time. You will receive partial credit for late minor assignments with a 10% penalty per day after the due date.

Major assignments will be graded out of 10 points and must be completed and submitted on time and in full. We will break down the requirements for each assignment and the conventions of each genre you need to meet to achieve each point value. This means that while major assignments will be assessed for things like

development, organization, coherence, and convention features, they will not be weighted enough to have a large bearing on your overall course grade (so long as you are keeping up with the minor assignments).

Missed class work cannot be made up. Students are allowed 3 excused class assignments for any reason per semester.

Students must maintain a participation total of a minimum of 76% (C-) to submit major assignments.

All major assignments must be turned in to earn a passing credit for the course.

You are guaranteed success in this class if:

1. *You complete the majority of all in-class and out-of-class minor assignments, including in-class reading responses and outlines and drafts of all your work. Note: In-class assignments cannot be made up as the result of an absence.*
2. *You prioritize attendance and participate in in-class activities.*
3. *You abide by the classroom protocol we establish as a writing/learning community.*
4. *You work cooperatively and collegially in groups. We will come up with parameters for constructive criticism and a shared vocabulary for discussing potentially sensitive subjects.*
5. *You complete all major and minor assignments on time.*
6. *You may turn out-of-class minor assignments late, late penalty will apply until credit becomes zero.*
7. *You notify the instructor and ask for an extension due to emergency or sickness on one major individual assignment per semester.*
8. *All submissions are complete and meet final word requirements.*
9. *You provide thoughtful peer feedback during class workshops and commit yourself to other collaborative work.*
10. *You honor the writing process and complete all steps thereof (e.g. reading/researching, prewriting, drafting, and revising).*

This approach to grading requires that all major assignments be completed in order to pass the class.

100% A+	99-97% A	96-94% A-
93-91% B+	90-88% B	87-85% B-
84-82% C+	81-79% C	78-76% C-
75-73% D+	72-70% D	69-66% D-
65% and below F		
All major assignments are submitted to turnitin.com for plagiarism screening. You must check your originality report for submitted assignments to make sure you are not plagiarizing.		

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

Spring 2025 Course Schedule

All homework is due on Sunday at 11:59pm

Dates	Assignments Due
Week 1	Welcome to Spring Semester!
Week 2	American Dream and the Myth of Success.
Week 3	Introduction to Profile Writing.
Week 4	Drafting and Revising Profile.
Week 5	Finalizing and Designing Profile.
Week 6	Start Research Project.
Week 7	Planning and Drafting Research Project.
Week 8	Revising Research Project.
Week 9	Designing Research Project.
Week 10	Presenting Research Project.

Week 11	Spring Break
Week 12	Introduction to Persuasive Project.
Week 13	Drafting Persuasive Project
Week 14	Revising Persuasive Project.
Week 15	Presenting Persuasive Project.
Week 16	Portfolio and Final Self-Reflection.
Week 17	Finals week