

**San José State University**  
**Department of English and Comparative Literature**  
**English 1AF and 1AS, Stretch English I and II Section 10;**  
**Spring 2020**

**Instructor:** Rebecca Kling  
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**Office Hours:** W 12:00-1 PM & By Appointment  
**Class Days/Time:** MW 10:30 – 11:45AM  
**Classroom:** BBC 123

**Professor Kling's  
Replacement After March  
15<sup>th</sup>:** Joseph Navarro (joseph.navarro@sjsu.edu)

**Prerequisites:** Directed Self Placement 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.  
\*To earn graduation credit in this category, you must complete the yearlong course with a grade of C- or better.

**What We Will Explore Together in This Section of Stretch:**

Our mainline inquiry will examine the influence of cultural myths on identity. We will explore readings and written assignments that will help us determine how cultural myths shape the way we see ourselves and the world around us. We will discuss how the creation of these myths, the sustainability of these myths, and the global perspective of these myths impact our past, present, and future as members of a learning community. We will look at specific myths like the pursuit of the “American Dream” in order to frame our understanding of coming of age in the Modern era, the promise and accessibility of education, and how class, gender, and race fit into larger narratives about identity. Our goal is to recognize the interconnectedness between and the power that comes with applying the tools of knowledge, reading, and writing. Language is not neutral; language makes things happen.

**What We Will Learn and Do In Stretch English I and II:**

The General Education guidelines for instructors outline five broad learning outcomes for all courses that satisfy Area A2. I have designed this course to ensure that you meet these outcomes.

## GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. demonstrate the ability to read actively and rhetorically
2. demonstrate the ability to perform the essential steps in the writing process (prewriting, organizing, composing, revising, and editing) and demonstrate an awareness of said performance
3. articulate an awareness of and write according to the rhetorical features of texts, such as purpose, audience, context, and rhetorical appeals
4. demonstrate the ability to integrate their ideas and those of others by explaining, analyzing, developing, and criticizing ideas effectively in several genres
5. demonstrate college-level language use, clarity, and grammatical proficiency in writing

For more information on the Stretch Curriculum designed to meet these learning outcomes, see the Stretch English Program Syllabus on Canvas and on the department website. Table 1 maps how the yearlong course will meet Written Communication I requirements and standards as well as the GE learning objectives.

Assignment	Assignment	Words	Total Words	Assignment Type	Term (F/S)	GE Learning Objective
Critical reading/reflection	Essay 1	500	1850	in-class writing	F	GELO 1, 2, 3,4, 5
	Essay 2	600			F	
	Essay 3	750			S	
Data-driven analyses	Personal Essay	1000	2850	out of class writing	F	GELO 2, 3, 5
	Interview Project	850			S	
	Ethnography Project	1000			S	
Major Essays	Blog	750	3000	out of class writing	F	GELO 2, 3, 4, 5
	Profile Essay	1000			S	
	Critical Essay	1200			S	
Portfolio/self-reflection essays	Midyear	750	1550	in-class writing out of class writing	F	GELO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
	Final	800			S	

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

### How to prepare for class sessions.

This year we will collaborate to answer the question: How do cultural myths shape the way we see ourselves and the world around us? We will use reading and writing to collaborate in examining this question, and writing about it. You will come to class everyday ready to do writing—that is, to explore ideas, share research and reading, analyze source materials, critique samples and workshop drafts. Nearly every class will involve in-class activities intended to further your progress on the current essay assignment or project. You will want to save this class work to your Canvas account, or to your laptop, or both. So you will want to bring your own laptop or tablet. (Laptops and tablets are also available to be checked out in the library.)

### How to stay abreast of course assignments and materials.

Course materials such as this syllabus, announcements, discussion boards, and some readings can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. You are responsible to check the messaging system through MySJSU to learn of any updates to our schedule.

## Required Texts/Readings

*You can purchase these texts from the Bookstore, or from Amazon.com*

*Rereading America – 10th edition* ISBN: 978-1-4576-9921-4

Moore, Wes. *The Other Wes Moore* ISBN: 978-0-385-52820-7

## Additional Readings

Other readings (newspaper articles, public speeches, and scholarly articles) on the theme of identity and cultural myths are located on our Canvas page in Files folder. These texts will help us to develop a shared context of reading to inform our arguments.

## A Note on Participation

Participation is essential in this course. Class participation does not simply mean that you are physically present in class. You must contribute to class discussions, listen to your peers, take notes as necessary, have the required class materials, and come to class with all assignments completed. I want you to see participation in class discussions as a way to enhance our learning community and to construct a network of knowledge together. Dialogue is not only about talking or deepening understanding, but it is a co-operative activity involving respect.

NOTE that [University policy F69-24](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf> states that “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.”

## Stretch Program Requirements

For specific requirements for ALL STRETCH Courses, see Stretch program syllabus posted on Canvas. [Where You Can Find Information about University Policies](#)

The Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs (GUP) maintains university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. You may find all syllabus-related University Policies and resources information listed on GUP’s Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>

## Where You Can Find Information about Earning A2 Credit and Clearing Remediation

The Stretch program syllabus is located in our Canvas files. In that syllabus you will find information about how, in Stretch I and II, you can earn A2 credit and, if you need to, clear your remediation in English. The Stretch syllabus can also be accessed here:

## How Your Work Will Be Assessed and Graded in This Course

Please refer to the grade calculations below:

A (93%-100%)	B- (80%-82.9%)	D+ (67%-69.9%)
A- (90%-92.9%)	C+ (77%-79.9%)	D (63%-66.9%)
B+ (87%-89.9%)	C (73%-76.9%)	D- (60%-62.9%)
B (83%-86.9%)	C- (70%-72.9%)	F (0%-59.9%)

Grades are based on measured progress toward proficiency in the learning objectives outlined above. To earn credit in the course, you will need to have completed **all** of the major assignments, and you will need to demonstrate measurable progress in at least 70% (**C-**) to earn credit (**CR**) in Stretch 1AF-S.

## Final Grade for Stretch Course

Your final grade in Stretch English is based on both semesters of work. That being said, the Spring semester is weighted more than Fall; Fall will count for 1/3 of your total grade while Spring will count for 2/3.

For example: If you receive 78% in Fall, and 86% in Spring, your grade will be calculated as follows:  
 $78 \times 0.333 = 25.9$ .  $86 \times 0.667 = 57.4$ . Total = 83.3% overall.

While the formal writing assignments are the most important component in the course, there are other categories that will help determine your overall grade. The weight of the assignment categories on the final grade are as follows:

### Fall Assignments: 33% of the final grade of the year-long course

Assignment	Description	In Class / Out of Class	Word Count*	% Value
<b>Critical Reading / Reflection 1</b>	Taking into account your own experience/ observation/ research, and the readings that you have explored in this unit, articulate your views of family myth.	IC	500	3 %
<b>Personal Essay</b>	In this essay, you will choose a single aspect of your personal history and discuss its significance for how it shaped your view of the world.	OC	1000	5%
<b>Presentations</b>	Presentations and other oral communication components	IC		1%
<b>Blog Essay</b>	You will write an elaborate blog post to showcase a problem. The blog should be informative and persuasive. You will incorporate visual and multi-modal elements.	OC	1000	7%
<b>Critical Reading / Reflection 2</b>	For this paper, you will do a comparative-analysis essay on how a common theme about cultural myths and/or "The American Dream" runs through <i>The Unwinding</i> .	IC	600	4%
<b>Unit 1 &amp; 2 Work</b>	Unit work includes various activities in and out of class, which are essential for learning together and individually.	IC/OC		5%
<b>Drafts/ Peer-Reviews/ Workshops</b>	Showing up on time with all copies of your outlines / drafts for your group members. Engaging in the revising and editing process with your peers.	IC/OC		4%
<b>Self Reflection / Portfolio</b>	Keep all of your work. You'll be "quoting yourself" to show your growth as a writer this semester.	IC	750	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>Fall Semester</b>			33%

## Spring Assignments: 67% of the final grade of the year-long course

Assignment	Description	In Class / Out of Class	Word Count *	% Value
<b>Interview Project</b>	You will interview a person and create a few short documents that will serve as preparation materials for the profile essay.	OC	850	2%
<b>Profile Essay</b>	You will use your interview to write a profile essay with a specific framework to be discussed in class.	OC	1000	10%
<b>Unit 3 Work</b>	Unit work includes various activities in and out of class, which are essential for learning together and individually.	IC/OC	300	10%
<b>Critical Reading / Reflection 3</b>	We will explore the myth of the melting pot and various sub-communities by doing a critical analysis of readings.	IC	750	7%
<b>Ethnographic Study</b>	You will study a subculture and create a digital short to present your observations.	OC	1000	8%
<b>Presentations</b>	Presentation and other oral communication components.	IC	-	2%
<b>Critical Essay</b>	You will write a critical essay arguing what you believe made the difference – why did Wes #1 succeed while Wes #2 did not?	OC	1200	12%
<b>Drafts/ Peer-Reviews/ Workshops</b>	You must show up on time with all copies of your drafts /peer-reviews for your group members and engage in the revising and editing process with your peers.	IC/OC	-	6%
<b>Self Reflection / Portfolio</b>	Keep all of your work. You'll be “quoting yourself” to show your growth as a writer these past two semesters.	IC	800	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>Spring Semester</b>			67%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>FALL AND SPRING</b>			<b>100%</b>

### Word Count/ Fall and Spring: 9200

Your Stretch colleagues and I will provide you feedback on your work to help you apply lessons learned in classroom work to complete assignments and transfer lessons learned from one assignment to the next. In this process, grades are a tool for assessment and course correction within your journey to become an independent writer: they report outcomes during a course of instruction.

My grading practices respect your right to feedback within a reasonable time so that you may not only know your scores, but also understand the criteria applied to the evaluation of your work. Ultimately, we will work together to make you your own best critic.

See [University Policy F13-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details on your right to understand your grades. In this section of the syllabus I outline specifically our grading practices for the year: information on feedback practices, relative weights of assignments, and the grade calculations.

## **How We Will Work Together As Learners and Writers in Stretch English**

### **Absences and Late Work**

If you miss a class (or know you will miss a class ahead of time) it is your responsibility to contact a classmate for notes, assignments, etc. The full list of readings is available to you in this syllabus, so that you can keep yourself up to date.

*If you know you will miss class when we have an in-class essay, you must contact me in writing within 24 hours before the due date with the reason for absence and request to make it up, if the reason is emergency or sickness. If you miss class and do not communicate beforehand, you will be denied the opportunity to make up an in-class essay.*

All late work is penalized, regardless of the reasons. Major essays and projects lose half a letter grade for each day they are late. Smaller assignments, submitted to Canvas lose 20% of their value per day they are late. In-class quick-writes (QW) cannot be made up they are based on a specific class discussion of the day.

Presentations and shares cannot be made up; you must be present in class on the due day.

### **Reading Assessment Component**

Reading is a large part of this writing course: therefore, we will read a variety of texts that will help you understand purposes and complexities of reading for academic purposes. The goals of reading in the course is to acquire a set of tools and strategies that can help you develop as a critical reader. You will be participating in reading assessments so that you can measure and reflect on your own learning.

### **Essay Format**

Essays will be typed in Times New Roman 12 pt. font, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins all around, a proper header, title, etc.

You must title all out-of-class papers. “Essay 1” or “Profile Essay” will not do. Your title is the reflection of your perspective on the topic.

All essays must include a word count at the end of the submission.

All formatting must meet MLA Format when required. Use CW Chapter 12 and the OWL guide to help you.

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01>

### **Drafts, Peer-reviews, and Reflections**

Drafts are mandatory. Failure to submit a draft on the day that it is due will result in 20% point reduction and will affect your participation in a timed online or in-class peer-review. Due to the nature of Stretch English, where every day involves some amount of writing for your next major assignment, it is highly unlikely that you would be unable to produce a draft on the day it is due.

### **Classroom Courtesy**

I expect you to show up to class awake, aware, and present. Only water is allowed during class time. Please, be courteous to your peers as everyone deserves to be heard. I am personally committed to having students take charge of their own learning. At times we may discuss or watch some touchy or controversial material. I would ask that you would be kind to your classmates and respectful of their thoughts and opinions even if they differ from your own. Ask questions and speak your mind, as long as you remain respectful. This same kind of respectfulness goes for the times we work in groups (writing and otherwise). Be constructive with your criticism, but do remember that our goal is to learn from one another.

### **Communication**

Please contact me through the messaging service on Canvas—do not email me directly; I may not be able to answer as efficiently due to the overflowing inbox. I respond to message within 24-48 hours.

## Technology

Classroom etiquette requires that cell phones be turned to silent mode, that full attention is given to the class, that computers only be used for class purposes, and that we listen carefully and without interruption to one another.

## Office Hours

Though I try to provide a lot of feedback in class, there is not enough time to address specific individual issues or go over a longer section or piece of writing. Please come see me during office hours, if you want to discuss your paper or have any other questions about your progress in the course. My office has an open-door policy. If you are not able to walk in during the office hours, email me to set up a meeting. Take advantage of the opportunity to get extra feedback from your professor.

## Restricted Use of Instructor Materials

*“Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”*

## Stretch English 1AS: Spring 2018 Course Schedule

RA = *Rereading America*, CW = *Curious Writer*, OWM = *The Other Wes Moore*, UNW = *The Unwinding*

## Stretch English 1AS: Spring 2020 Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice. Always consult Canvas for up-to-date info.

**All readings / work in the Assignments Due column are due by the beginning of class.**

Date	In Class Activities / Schedule	Assignments / Homework due
M 1/27	Syllabus, Calendar, and Interview Outcomes Writing tutorial	Framing quotes and refining writing skills
W 1/29	Introduce Profile Essay	RA “Oprah” and “Sam Walton/Jay Z” (Canvas) Analysis of Profile Essays
M 2/3	Interview Project Discussion and Reflection	<b>Due: Interview Q/A Project—submit on Canvas before class</b>
W 2/5	Introduce Unit 3	RA “The Myth of the Melting Pot” Introduction and “Theories and Constructs of Race”
M 2/10	Profile Essay Peer Review	<b>Due: Profile Essay Rough Draft—bring copy to class</b>
W 2/12	Introduce Ethnographic Project	<b>Due: Profile Essay</b> Ethnographic Project samples and process

M 2/17	Brainstorming for the Ethnographic Project	<i>Curious Writer</i> Chapter 9, “Ethnography”
W 2/19	CRR3 Preparation and Outline	RA “Serving in Florida” and “Land of Giants”
M 2/24	<b>Critical Reading Reflection 3 In-class Essay</b>	Bring your laptops
W 2/26	Visual Rhetoric	<b>Due: Photo narrative draft due</b>
M 3/2	Workshop	Ethnographic Project Workshop
W 3/4	Workshop Writing Tutorial (TBA)	Ethnographic Project Workshop
M 3/9	Ethnography Project Peer Review Sessions	<b>Due: Ethnography Workshop-bring draft of digital short to class</b>
W 3/11	Ethnography Project Peer Review Sessions con...	
M 3/16	Final Review and Troubleshooting Technical Issues	<b>Due: Revised Draft of digital short</b>
W 3/18	Presentations	Ethnography Digital Short Presentations <b>Due: Ethnographic digital short</b>
M 3/23	Presentations. In-class feedback.	Ethnography Digital Short Presentations and reflection
W 3/25		<b>NO CLASS</b>
3/30- 4/1		<b>NO CLASS—Have a safe and wonderful spring break! ☺ ☺ ☺</b>
M 4/6	Critical Essay Assigned. Discussion of <i>The Other Wes Moore</i> (OWM)	OWM – Introduction and Ch. 1, 2, and 3. Bring OWM book to class.
W 4/8	OWM discussion	OWM Ch. 4, 5, and 6. Bring OWM book to class.
M 4/13	OWM discussion	OWM Ch.7, 8, and Epilogue. Afterword—A Call to Action. Bring OWM book to class.
W 4/15	Brainstorming for the Critical Essay	RA “Myth of Individual Opportunity” Introduction, “Class in America,” and “From Beyond Outrage”



M 4/20	Developing Ideas for the Critical Essay	RA “Myth of Gender” Introduction and “Becoming Members of Society”
W 4/22	Critical Essay First Peer Review	<b>Due: Critical Essay First Rough Draft—bring hard copy to class only</b>
M 4/27	Critical Essay Second Peer Review	<b>Due: Critical Essay Second Rough Draft—submit on Canvas before class only</b>
W 4/29	Portfolio and Year-end Self-reflection Essay	<b>Due: Critical Essay</b>
M 5/4	Portfolio Workshop	Portfolio work
W 5/6	Portfolio Workshop	Portfolio work
M 5/11	Finishing Final Portfolio	<b>Due: Final Portfolio and Reflection</b>
TR 5/14		<b>Final Exam: Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> 9:45-12</b>