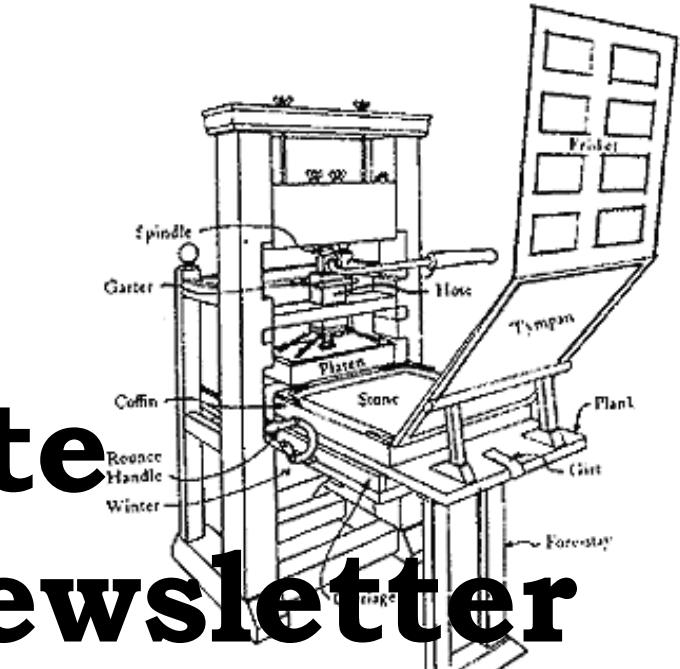


English Graduate Newsletter

San José State University

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Noelle Brada-Williams, MA Advisor



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Alan Soldofsky, Director of Creative Writing

SPRING OFFICE HOURS

MA students will find Professor Brada-Williams in her office this semester Mondays and Tuesdays 1:00 – 3:00 PM as well as on other days by appointment. Phone: 924-4439; email: awilli@email.sjsu.edu. Please feel free to call or to stop by her office at FO 110. MFA students should consult Professor Soldofsky in FO 106; hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 2:30 – 3:45 PM or Thursday PM by appointment; phone: 924-4432; email: soldofsk@email.sjsu.edu.

PROGRAM APPROVAL DEADLINE: AUGUST AND DECEMBER GRADUATES

If you are planning to graduate in August or December of 2008, and you have not filed your approved program (i.e. been formally advanced to candidacy) you should see your advisor immediately. Remember, you need to file your program nearly *two* semesters before you plan to graduate. (The best policy is to file your program one full year before graduation. It is always possible to file revisions to the list of courses you plan to complete.) Find the “Departmental Request for Candidacy” form at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gradstudies/Current/Forms.html>. The university deadline is February 15 for August graduates.

PROPOSED FALL 2008 GRADUATE COURSES

We plan to offer eleven graduate courses in Fall 2008: 201 with Professor Fleck, 201C with Professor Soldofsky, 203 (Narrative Craft) with Professor Engell, 227 (Comedy) with Professor Eastwood, 232 (Romanticism) with Professor Harris, 240 (Poetry Workshop) with Professor Karim, 241 (Fiction Workshop) with Professor Taylor, 242 (Nonfiction Workshop) with Professor Miller, 255 (American expatriates) with Professor Shillinglaw, 256 (20th c British) with Professor Wilson, and 259 (Composition Studies) with Professor Cullen.

MA COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS

Part I (pre-1800) of the departmental MA exam will be given on **Saturday, April 5**; Part II (the post-1800 section) on **Saturday, April 12**. Time and place for both exams is **9:00 AM to Noon in FO 104**. Bring to the exam a supply of **pens** (*not pencils*) and **unmarked** large bluebooks. Your bluebooks will be

identified by number only. Please let Professor Brada-Williams know by **March 10** if you plan to take either or both parts. If you have not already done so, she will ask you to fill out the self-inventory of your reading in various fields and show it to her when you sign up (via email or in person).

MFA COMPREHENSIVE EXAM

The MFA Comprehensive Exam will be distributed on **Friday, April 4, at 9:00 AM** and is due on **Monday, April 7, at Noon**. Sign up to take the MFA Exam by **Friday, March 10** by signing the sign-up sheet in the English Department Office. (Or contact Prof. Soldofsky directly. Be sure to list your Student ID number, email, and Primary and Secondary Genre.

MA & MFA FOREIGN LANGUAGE EXAMS

Both degree programs require a level of fluency in a second language roughly equivalent to two years of college study of a language. If within five years of filing your program (achieving Candidacy), you have completed the fourth semester (or sixth quarter) of an approved university-level foreign language course sequence with a grade of "B" or better, you have already satisfied this requirement. Just be sure to bring this to the attention of your advisor when you file for candidacy. Students who have taken coursework longer than five years previous to filing for candidacy or who have acquired their language skills and knowledge outside of an academic institution can satisfy the foreign language requirement in French, German, or Spanish, by taking an examination offered in the Foreign Language Department that has been specially devised for our graduate students. Please contact:

<u>Examiner</u>	<u>email</u>	<u>phone</u>
Professor Trudeau (French):	trudeau@sjsu.edu	924-4594
Professor Sabalius (German):	sabalius@email.sjsu.edu	924-4616
Professor Eleanor Marsh (Spanish):	eleanor.marsh@sjsu.edu	924-4592

Note that Dr. Marsh will be the person to contact for the Spanish exam only for Spring 2008. Professor Sempere will resume these duties in Fall 2008. *Evidence of a first-language literacy other than English also satisfies the requirement.* For answers to questions about this requirement, or to satisfy this requirement in a language other than French, German, or Spanish, please contact Professors Brada-Williams or Soldofsky.

TEACHING ASSOCIATE POSITIONS FOR 2007-08

Both current MA and MFA students and applicants who are eligible for admission to the program in Fall 2008 are invited to apply to our Teaching Associate and Graduate Assistant positions. New admits to the department and applicants with little or no teaching experience may be assigned as Graduate Assistants for a semester or for a year. They will assist faculty teaching composition courses or large sections of literature courses, or sometimes other duties. Applicants who have served as Graduate Assistants or who have otherwise acquired the necessary experience may be assigned as Teaching Associates. They will teach one or two sections of composition under the guidance of the T.A. supervisor. Graduate Assistants can expect to work an average of 10 hours per week and earn about \$2000 per semester. In 2008-2009, Teaching Associates will earn about \$6319 per semester for teaching two composition courses (\$3,160 for one course) and will receive fee reimbursement during the semester(s) in which they teach. The fee reimbursement or "waiver" covers mandatory campus miscellaneous fees and mandatory state university fees at the California-resident tuition level. Those teaching one course will have fees reimbursed at the "graduate 1.0 to 6.0 units" rate; those teaching two courses will have fees waived at the "graduate 6.1 or more units" rate.

To apply, write to Professor Brada-Williams and submit a résumé, a cover letter which includes your reasons for applying, and two letters of reference from faculty in the department. If you are currently applying for admittance to the program in the Fall, you may use letters from people outside SJSU, preferably faculty who know your undergraduate work or who have supervised you in some kind of employment related to education. Also include your undergraduate GPA in English and a list of any English graduate courses you have taken with the grade you earned in each. All materials should be sent

directly to Professor Brada-Williams. **Applications must be received no later than April 1st.** We will conduct interviews during the week of April 7. Please note that SJSU's Spring break lasts from March 22nd to March 31st this year. **So it is best to plan on having your applications in by March 21.**

DEADLINE FOR MA AND MFA THESIS PROPOSALS

Thesis proposals must come to the Graduate Committee in the semester preceding the semester in which you will enroll for English 299. If you plan to write your thesis in the **Fall 2008** term, you must get your proposal to the Graduate Committee by **April 1st**. But there is no reason to wait until the deadline, and there is every reason to get an early start. Before you can present your proposal to the committee, you must 1) see your program coordinator to get a copy of the program's guidelines for developing proposals, 2) find a faculty member who will direct your work, 3) develop your proposal in consultation with that faculty member, and 4) show your program coordinator a draft of your proposal and coversheet that has been approved by your director. (MFA students should also propose the names of second and third readers.) Only after you have done all this will you be ready to submit seven copies of your proposal to the committee. All this must be done *before* the deadline. Also note: the committee will be selective in deciding who will be permitted to write an MA thesis, with preference given to students with particularly strong academic records and to proposals that have been carefully prepared. Those planning to write theses in the **Spring 2009** term will need to get proposals to the committee by **October 27, 2008**.

DEADLINE FOR COMPLETING THESES

English department policy requires that every thesis must be approved by the thesis director, revised according to the director's instructions, and placed in the hands of the second and third readers in plenty of time to meet the Graduate Studies deadline for submission of theses. In Spring 2008 the department expects the revised thesis will be in the hands of the second and third readers by **March 5th**. Readers need time to consider your work and you need time to revise it according to their suggestions. Ideally, you should be working closely with the second reader well before this date. Even if you meet the March 5th deadline, required revisions may still be so extensive that they cannot be completed in time to meet the university deadline (**April 5th**). *Start early.*

CONDITIONALLY CLASSIFIED GRADUATE STUDENTS

Conditionally classified students must complete required undergraduate course work before enrolling in graduate seminars. A list of upper-division literature courses approved for conditionally classified students is available from Professor Brada-Williams. When you are eligible for classified status, the change is not automatic; see your advisor to file the necessary form (found at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gradstudies/Current/Forms.html>).

APPROVED COURSES FOR THE ENGLISH MA AND MFA

Except for undergraduate courses you have to take if you are a conditionally classified student, most graduate work will consist in 200-numbered English classes. Courses taken outside the department will not count except in unusual circumstances. Get prior approval from your advisor before you take such courses. A limited number of upper-division undergraduate English courses can count towards the degree but you must secure the cooperation of the instructor and notify the graduate advisor of your plans. Again, get approval in advance.

PhD APPLICATIONS

The department would very much like to know about students applying to PhD programs and their success. Please let us know where you are applying and how things are working out. For those of you graduating this May, stopping by the coordinator's office for an informal "exit" interview should be considered a necessary part of your preparations for graduation.

ENGLISH GRADUATE LISTSERV

To subscribe to the EngGrad listserv, follow the directions at this website:

<http://lists.sjsu.edu/mailman/listinfo/enggrad>. Key information is sent out on the listserv.

Joining the listserv is essential for all MA and MFA students.

THE MA IN ENGLISH: A GUIDE FOR STUDENTS

"The MA in English: A Guide for Students," a six-page brochure is available in the rack outside the English office. The Guide answers most questions about the program. This information is also available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/english/graduate/ma/mafaq.html>.

IMPORTANT DATES IN 2008

Feb. 15: Deadline for May 2008 graduates to file or reactivate application for graduation at the Graduate Studies Office.

Feb. 15: Deadline for August 2008 graduates to submit approved official programs (Request for Candidacy) to Graduate Studies. See your advisor.

March 3: Deadline for May graduates to submit MA or MFA thesis to second and third readers.

March 10: Deadline to sign up to take the April 2008 MA and MFA Comprehensive Exams.

March 21: Last business day before the April 1st deadlines.

March 22-31: Spring Break

April 1: TA and GA applications for Fall 2008 due (note that March 21st is last day of school before this post Spring break deadline so prepare ahead of time).

April 1: Approximate deadline for December 2008 graduates to submit approved official programs (Request for Candidacy) to Graduate Studies. See your advisor.

April 1: Deadline to submit thesis proposals (for fall 299 credits) to department Grad. Committee.

April 5: Deadline for May graduates to submit approved thesis to Graduate Studies.

April 4: MFA Comprehensive Exam distributed (9:00 AM).

April 5: MA Comprehensive Exam, Part 1, 9-12, FO 104

April 7: MFA Comprehensive Exam due (5:00 PM).

April 12: MA Comprehensive Exam, Part 2, 9-12, FO 104

June 9: Deadline for August 2008 graduates to file or reactivate application for graduation at the Graduate Studies Office.

June 6: Last day to for May graduates to submit MA and MFA theses copies for binding.

July 7: Last day for August graduates to submit approved theses to Graduate Studies.

Sept. 1: Last day for August graduates to submit MA and MFA thesis copies for binding.

Oct. 27: Deadline to submit thesis proposals for Spring 2008 299 credits to Grad Committee.

