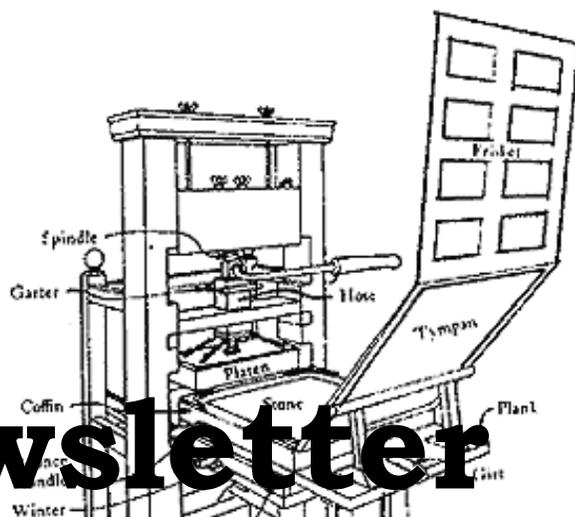


English Graduate Newsletter



San José State University

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Noelle Brada-Williams, Graduate Coordinator — Alan Soldofsky, Director of Creative Writing

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SPRING OFFICE HOURS

MA students should find Professor Brada-Williams in her office at FO 102 this semester Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00-4:00, and other days by appointment. Phone: 924-4439; email: Noelle.Brada-Williams@sjsu.edu. MFA students should consult Professor Soldofsky in FO 106; hours: Monday, Tuesday 2:30 - 4:00 PM, Wednesday 1:00 – 2:30 pm, and Thursday by appointment; phone: 924-4432; email: alan.soldofsky@sjsu.edu.

PROGRAM APPROVAL DEADLINE: DECEMBER GRADUATES

If you are planning to graduate in December of 2015, and you have not filed your approved program (i.e. been formally advanced to candidacy) you need to do this by April 1st, 2015. It is always possible to file revisions to the list of courses you plan to complete.) Find the “Petition for Advancement to Graduate Candidacy” form at the GAPE Current Students Forms website: http://www.sjsu.edu/gape/current_students/forms/.

PROPOSED FALL 2015 GRADUATE COURSES

We plan to offer seven graduate courses in Fall 2014. These will include:

201: Methods and Materials of Literary Research	M 4-6:45 PM Mitchell
201C Methods and Materials of Literary Production	M 7-9:45 PM Soldofsky
202: Poetic Craft and Theory	Th 7-9:45 PM Karim
215: Myth and Symbolism	T 4-6:45 PM Stork
241: Fiction Writing Workshop	W 4-6:45 PM Taylor
242: Nonfiction Writing Workshop	T 7-9:45 PM Miller
259: Composition Theory and Pedagogy	Th 4-6:45 PM McNabb

VERY TENTATIVE LIST OF SPRING 2016 COURSES

We hope to offer seven to eight courses in the Spring, including:

203: Narrative Craft and Theory
204 Modern Approaches to Literature
240: Poetry Writing Workshop
241: Fiction Writing Workshop
242: Nonfiction Writing Workshop
254: Genre Studies in American Literature
225: Shakespeare
and possibly 256: 20th Century British Literature

MA COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS

Please note that the next round of MA Comprehensive exams, the Fall MA Exam Part One (pre-1800) will be offered on Saturday August 29th and the Fall MA Exam Part Two (the post-1800 section) will be offered on September 5th. Time and place for both exams is **9:00 AM to 12:30** in **SH 229**. Please let Professor Brada-Williams know by August 15th at the latest if you plan to take either or both parts of the exams and whether you will be using a PC or Mac. She will then issue you an identification number which will be used for the exam(s) you take. If you have not already done so, she will ask you to fill out the self-inventory of your reading in various fields and you will need to show it to her when you sign up (via email or in person). The entire reading list and the form to fill out your own inventory of your reading can be found by clicking on “guidelines” at <http://www.sjsu.edu/english/graduate/ma/macomps.html>.

MFA COMPREHENSIVE EXAM

If you plan to graduate in Fall 2015 or Spring 2016, you should consult your thesis director about taking the Fall Exam. The Fall MFA Comprehensive Exam will be distributed on **Friday, September 25, at 9:00 AM** and is due on **Monday, September 28, at 5 PM**. Sign up to take the Fall 2015 MFA Exam by **May 15, 2015** by emailing Prof. Soldofsky your SJSU I.D. number, Primary and Secondary Genre, and Thesis Director’s name.

MA & MFA FOREIGN LANGUAGE EXAMS

Both degree programs require a level of fluency in a second language 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. Please bring that to the attention of your adviser 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 the following steps:

1. Contact a language advisor (see below) and request authorization to take a foreign language placement test administered in our Media Center.
2. If the placement test results show a level of 4th semester or higher, the student will take a proficiency exam administered by a faculty member in the World Languages department in order to confirm his or her level and discuss a path to improvement, if needed.
3. If placement test results show a lower than 4th semester language level, the student will have to take the appropriate level language course, based on a conversation with the appropriate World Languages faculty member.

Examiner	email	phone
Professor Jean-Luc Desalvo (French)	jean-luc.desalvo@sjsu.edu	924-4620
Professor Romey Sabalius (German):	romey.sambalius@sjsu.edu	924-4616
Professor Eleanor Marsh (Spanish):	eleanor.marsh@sjsu.edu	924-4614

(it is usually best to call Professor Marsh or meet her in person in office hours)

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 for more information.

GRADUATE ASSISTANT AND TEACHING ASSOCIATE POSITIONS FOR 2015-2016

Both current MA and MFA students and applicants who are eligible for admission to the program in Fall 2015 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 usually teach one section of composition, English 1A, under the guidance of the Writing Program Administrator, Professor Richard McNabb. Graduate Assistants can expect to work an average of 10 hours a week and gross about \$489 a month during the academic year (about \$2,934 per semester). Teaching Associates earn \$534 a month (\$3,204 per course). Teaching Associates are also given fee reimbursements which pay for state and campus fees at the California-resident level for up to 6 units per section taught (if the TA is not already covered by a grant for fees). TAs must successfully complete English 259 (the Pedagogy of Composition) during or before their first semester of teaching.

To apply, write to Professor Brada-Williams and submit a résumé, a writing sample, 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.** Please note that SJSU's Spring break lasts from March 23rd to March 27th this year and campus will be closed Tuesday, March 31st for Cesar Chavez day. We will conduct interviews during the first and second week of April for 2015-2016 appointments. Appointments are generally for the full academic year and we will not consider applications for TAships again until Spring 2016.

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 2015** term, you must get your proposal to the Graduate Committee by **April 3rd**. Those planning to write theses in the **Spring 2016 term** will need to get proposals to the committee by **October 28th 2014**. Before you can present your proposal to the committee, you must 1) find a faculty member who will direct your work, 2) see your program coordinator to get a copy of the program's guidelines for developing proposals, and 3) develop your proposal in consultation with your thesis director/first reader, 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 eight 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.

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 2015 the department expects that revised theses will be in the hands of the second and/or third readers by **March 1st**. 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 1st deadline, required revisions may still be so extensive that they cannot be completed in time to meet the university deadline at the beginning of April. The Fall deadline for submitting completed theses to Graduate Studies is October 28, 2015. *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 (http://www.sjsu.edu/gape/docs/change_classification.pdf).

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 your 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.

KEEP INFORMED

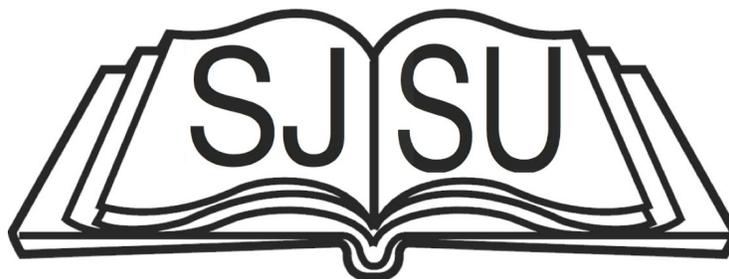
Please be sure to sign up for the google group for our English Graduate Program. To sign up, send a blank email to: enggrad-group+subscribe@sjsu.edu. Key information is sent out via the google group that is essential for all MA and MFA students. Program descriptions, course descriptions, the most recent Newsletter, and other documents are posted on the **Department website**: <http://www.sjsu.edu/english/graduate/>. The SJSU **Graduate Studies Office website** publishes important deadlines, forms, and information for current students at: http://www.sjsu.edu/gape/current_students/index.htm

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

MA Gayathri Goel who has been accepted to Tufts University's PhD program for Fall 2015 with a full five years of funding. The Broadcast Education Association Festival of Media Arts has awarded MFA Lauren Serpa in the feature-length screenplay category for "Where We Start." MA Genevieve Cunningham has taken a full-time technical writing position in the Valley after freelancing with DreamWorks Animation. In addition to her MA, she recently completed the Certificate Program in Technical and Professional Writing here at SJSU.

THE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL WRITING

The Certificate Program in Technical and Professional Writing prepares students for writing jobs in a number of fields, from publishing to high tech. Consisting of four core classes and two classes tailored to a student's interests, the certificate is a nice complement to an advanced degree, and opens employment possibilities during and after graduation. Classes include Editing for Writers, Technical and Professional Writing, and Intro to Career Writing. Students gain experience writing in the many genres that make up the modern work landscape as well a hands-on training with the digital production tools of the modern workforce. The good news for graduate students, is that they can sign up for these courses with the priority of matriculating students while most Certificate students have to go through Open University after classes start and when spaces are not always available. See Professor Mark Thompson in the English Department for more information.



IMPORTANT DATES IN 2014-2015

March 23-27 Spring Break, no classes meet.

March 30: Cesar Chavez Day, campus closed.

- April 1:** Last day to submit materials for the TA and GA applications for the 2015-2016 school year.
- April 1:** Theses approved by all three thesis readers must be submitted to Graduate Studies for review in order for their authors to be eligible for May 2015 graduation.
- April 1:** Deadline for December 2015 graduates to submit approved official programs (“Petition for Advancement to Graduate Candidacy”/“Departmental Request for Candidacy Form”) to Graduate Studies.
- April 2:** Deadline to submit thesis proposals (for fall 299 credits) to department Graduate Committee.
- May 1:** Sign-up for the Fall MFA exams with Professor Soldofsky
- May 21:** Department Graduation ceremony and reception (contact the department office if you have not already received an invitation and plan on graduating this May)
- June 1:** Last day for August 2015 graduates to submit approved theses to Graduate Studies.
- June 5:** Deadline for August 2015 graduates to file or reactivate application for graduation at the Graduate Studies Office.
- June 12:** Last day for May 2015 graduates to submit MA and MFA thesis copies for electronic publication (or embargoing).
- Aug. 15:** Sign-up for the MA Comprehensive Exams by this date.
- Aug. 20:** Fall Courses Begin.
- Aug. 29:** MA Comprehensive Exam Part I 9:00 AM in SH 229
- Sept. 5:** MA Comprehensive Exam Part II 9:00 AM in SH 229
- Sept. 11:** Deadline for December 2015 graduates to file or reactivate application for graduation at the Graduate Studies Office.
- Sept. 11:** Last day for August 2015 graduates to submit MA and MFA thesis copies for electronic publication (or embargoing).
- Sept. 25:** MFA Comprehensive Exam distributed electronically (9:00 A.M.)
- Sept. 28:** MFA Comprehensive Exam due (5:00 P.M.)
- Oct. 1:** Deadline for May 2016 graduates to submit candidacy forms to GAPE
- Oct. 26:** Deadline to submit thesis proposals for Spring 2016 299 credits to Department Grad Committee.
- Oct. 28:** Deadline for December 2015 graduates to submit approved thesis to Graduate Studies.
- Jan. 28:** First day of Spring 2016 classes.
- Feb. 6:** Spring MA Comprehensive Exam Part I 9:00 AM in Sweeney Hall 229
- Feb. 13:** Spring MA Comprehensive Exam Part II 9:00 AM in SH 229