



# ENGLISH GRADUATE NEWSLETTER

SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY

Volume XXXXVIII, Number 1

September 2015

Noelle Brada-Williams, Graduate Coordinator

Alan Soldofsky Director of Creative Writing

## FALL OFFICE HOURS

MA Advising: Professor Brada-Williams' drop-in office hours this semester are Mondays 1-2 PM and Wednesdays 3:30 to 4:30. Additional times are available by appointment. Please feel free to call or to stop by her office at FO 102. Phone: 924-4439; email: [Noelle.Brada-Williams@sjsu.edu](mailto:Noelle.Brada-Williams@sjsu.edu). Professor Soldofsky's hours are Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday 2:30-3:30; and Thursday p.m. by appointment in FO 106. His office phone is 924-4432 and his email is [alan.soldofsky@sjsu.edu](mailto:alan.soldofsky@sjsu.edu).

## THE MA IN ENGLISH: A GUIDE FOR STUDENTS

"The MA in English: A Guide for Students" has been turned into a list of frequently asked questions that is available on the web at <http://www.sjsu.edu/english/graduate/ma/mafaq.html>.

## DEADLINES FOR MAY 2016 MA AND MFA GRADUATES

If you are planning to graduate in May 2016, you should file your official program (the 'Petition for Advancement to Graduate Candidacy' by October 1, 2015. Applications (or reactivations of applications) for May 2016 graduation must be filed by February 10, 2016. These forms can also be found at the GAPE forms website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/gape/forms/>

## MA COMPREHENSIVE EXAM SCHEDULE

The Spring 2016 MA exam will be given February 6, 2016 (Part I) and February 13, 2016 (Part II). The time and place for both parts is Saturday 9:00 AM to 12:30 in Sweeney Hall 229 (unless you are notified of a change). Please let Professor Brada-Williams know at least two weeks in advance if you plan to take one or both parts by submitting a completed self-survey of your reading (available on the web as part of the guidelines: [www.sjsu.edu/english/graduate/ma/macomps.html](http://www.sjsu.edu/english/graduate/ma/macomps.html)). Computers will be supplied for the exam. Please note when you sign up whether you would prefer an Apple or PC computer.

## MA COMPREHENSIVE EXAM FORMAT

Questions on the first part of the exam cover the reading list through the 18<sup>th</sup> century and those on the second part cover material from the Romantic period onward. Expect questions on or informed by literary theory in both parts. Each of the two parts takes three and a half hours and asks for three separate essays. Students may take one or both parts of the exam in any term and in any order. The reading list and guidelines for the exam are at

<http://www.sjsu.edu/english/graduate/ma/macomps.html>. Copies of some previous exams are also posted on the website. Please note that section C of the Part 1 exam is a close reading of a poem and section C of the Part 2 exam is on World Literature.

## 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.

<b>Examiner</b>	<b>email</b>	<b>phone</b>
Professor Jean-Luc Desalvo	<a href="mailto:jean-luc.desalvo@sjsu.edu">jean-luc.desalvo@sjsu.edu</a>	924-4620
Professor Romey Sabalius (German):	<a href="mailto:romey.Sabalius@sjsu.edu">romey.Sabalius@sjsu.edu</a>	924-4616
Professor Eleanor Marsh (Spanish):	<a href="mailto:eleanor.marsh@sjsu.edu">eleanor.marsh@sjsu.edu</a>	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.

## DEADLINE FOR MA & MFA THESIS PROPOSALS

Thesis proposals must come to the Graduate Committee at least five weeks before the end of the semester preceding the semester in which you will enroll for 299 credits. If you plan to write your thesis or project in the Spring 2016 term, you must get your proposal to the Graduate Committee no later than **Monday, November 2**. Do not wait until the deadline approaches to get started. For guidelines for MFA theses and on how to write thesis proposals, see <http://www.sjsu.edu/english/graduate/mfa/mfathesis.html>. If you are an MA student you must see



the guidelines for theses and the cover sheet at <http://www.sjsu.edu/english/graduate/ma/mathesis.html>. Once you have secured a thesis advisor or “first reader,” and the thesis advisor has carefully read and approved your proposal, you can submit your proposal electronically to the chair of the Graduate Committee ([Noelle.Brada-Williams@sjsu.edu](mailto:Noelle.Brada-Williams@sjsu.edu)). Be sure to cc your thesis advisor in the email so that the Graduate Coordinator knows that the first reader has approved of the proposal being submitted to the Graduate Committee and has stated that it is ready for that step.

### **SPRING 2016 GRADUATE COURSES**

At least 21 of the 30 units of classes required for the MA program should be in 200-numbered English courses. Of the 30, only 6 units can be taken as credit/no credit independent study of thesis units. Upper-division English coursework (100 level) may count for graduate students if you have received permission of the instructor as well as the MA or MFA Coordinator. Classes taken outside the department will not count except in unusual circumstances. Get prior approval from your advisor before you take such courses. Here are the courses, faculty, and meeting times for our seven Spring 2016 graduate course offerings:

- 204 Seminar in Modern Approaches, Harris, Thursday 4 PM
- 225, Seminar in Shakespeare, Eastwood, Monday 4 PM
- 240, Poetry Writing Workshop, Soldofsky, Monday 7 PM
- 241, Fiction Writing Workshop, Lurie Distinguished Visiting Author Christina Garcia, Tuesday 4 PM
- 242, Nonfiction Writing Workshop, Thomas Moriarty, Thursday 7 PM
- 253, Period Studies in American Literature, Shillinglaw, Tuesday 7 PM
- 256, Seminar in 20<sup>th</sup> Century British Literature, Wilson, Wednesday 7 PM

Check the schedule for additional upper division undergraduate course offerings that may be of interest, such as Professor Krishnaswamy’s 181 class on Satire.

Conditionally classified students must complete their required undergraduate course work before enrolling in graduate seminars. When you are eligible for classified status, the change is not automatic; you need to see the MA Coordinator to file the necessary form and await approval.

### **GRADUATE STUDENT AND ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

The *LeHigh Valley Vanguard* is publishing three poems in their Fall issues by MA student Aubrey Laughlin, winner of the 2015/2016 Graduate Equity Scholarship. The *Valley Vanguard* has also asked her to become a regular contributor. A short story by MFA student Alex Papoulias has been named a semifinalist in Omnidawn Publishing's Fabulist Fiction Chapbook Contest. In May MA student Sam Crain presented at the 10th Messolonghi Student Byron Conference and in July presented at the 41st International Byron Society Conference. MFA Michael Quintana’s screenplay, “Hare,” is one of the three finalists in the “Feature Screenplay” category of the CSU Media Arts Festival.

MFA Alumna Nikolina Kulidzan (11) wrote the July 30<sup>th</sup> Modern Love column for *The New York Times*, “A Kiss Deferred by Civil War.” Her column is accompanied by a short film version by the Moth Collective for which Nikolina does the voice over. See both versions here:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/02/fashion/a-kiss-deferred-by-bosnia-and-herzegovina-civil-war.html>



**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](mailto: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 **GAPE Office website** publishes important deadlines, forms, and information for current students at:

[http://www.sjsu.edu/gape/current\\_students/deadlines/](http://www.sjsu.edu/gape/current_students/deadlines/)

**SOME IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2015-2016:**

- Oct. 1:** Deadline for May 2016 Graduates to have their “Departmental Request for Candidacy” form in to GAPE. Requires the MA or MFA advisor’s signature.
- Nov. 2:** Deadline to submit thesis or project proposals (for Spring 2016 299 units) to the English Department Graduate Committee.
- Nov. 6:** Deadline for December graduates to submit signed theses to the Graduate Studies Office.
- Dec. 11:** Deadline for signing up to take the Spring 2016 MFA Comprehensive Exam. Recommended for May, August, and December 2016 MFA graduates.
- Jan. 14:** Deadline to submit reading lists to sign up for the Spring MA exams (see the “Guidelines” at <http://www.sjsu.edu/english/graduate/ma/macoms.html>)
- Jan. 18:** Deadline for December 2015 graduates to submit thesis for publication (or embargo)
- Feb. 6:** Approximate deadline for August 2016 graduates to file their “Request for Candidacy” forms (requires MA or MFA Advisor’s signature).
- Feb. 6:** Spring MA comprehensive exam, Part 1, SH 229, 9-12:30.
- Feb. 10:** Deadline for May 2016 graduates to submit application for award of Master’s Degree to the Graduate Studies Office. (or Graduation Date Change Request).
- Feb. 13:** Spring MA comprehensive exam, Part 2, SH 229, 9-12:30.
- Feb. 19:** MFA Comprehensive Exam Distributed (9:00 A.M.)
- Feb. 22:** MFA Comprehensive Exam Due (5:00 P.M)
- April 1:** Approximate deadline for December 2016 graduates to file their “Request for Candidacy” forms (requires MA or MFA Advisor’s signature).
- April 1:** Deadline for applications for 2016-2017 TA and GAships due to the Graduate Coordinator.
- April 8:** Deadline for May 2016 graduates to submit signed theses to the Graduate Studies Office.

