



English Graduate Newsletter  
San José State University

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### **FALL OFFICE HOURS**

MA Advising: Professor Revathi Krishnaswamy's drop-in office hours this semester are Mondays 1-3 pm. Additional times are available by appointment. Please feel free to call or to stop by her office at FO 109. Phone: 924-1384; email: [revathi.krishnaswamy@sjsu.edu](mailto:revathi.krishnaswamy@sjsu.edu)  
Professor Soldofsky's hours are Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday 2:30-4:00, and Thursday pm 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," turned into a list of FAQs, is available on the web at <http://www.sjsu.edu/english/graduate/ma/mafaq.html>

### **DEADLINES FOR MAY 2018 MA AND MFA GRADUATES**

Please consult the GAPE website for current candidacy and graduation deadlines: [http://www.sjsu.edu/gape/current\\_students/deadlines/](http://www.sjsu.edu/gape/current_students/deadlines/) Note that if you are planning to graduate in May 2018, you should file your official 'Petition for Advancement to Graduate Candidacy' by October 1, 2017. Applications (or reactivations of applications) for May 2018 graduation must be filed by February 10, 2018. The relevant forms can be found at the GAPE forms website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/gape/forms/>

### **UNIVERSITY POLICY CHANGES**

University Policy now requires that graduate students must be enrolled in classes when they finish their culminating experiences (such as theses and exams). Note that it is already a policy that students must finish their theses while they are enrolled in their 299 units (or else enroll in 1290 which is basically just a fee, not a class). Although an exemption has been granted for Fall 2017, any student who has completed coursework and wishes to take the exam in Spring 2018 will have to enroll in 1290 and pay the required fee.

## **MA COMPREHENSIVE EXAM SCHEDULE**

The Fall 2017 MA exams are scheduled on the following consecutive Saturdays in **November: 4th (part 1) and 11th (Part 2)**. Spring 2018 MA exam will be given on the following consecutive Saturdays in **Feb: 17th (Part 1) and 24th (Part II)**. The time and place for both exams is Saturday 9:00-12:30 am in Sweeney Hall 229 (unless you are notified of a change). Please let Professor Krishnaswamy 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 MA exam guidelines: <http://www.sjsu.edu/english/graduate/ma/macomps.html>)

Computers will be supplied for the exam. Please indicate when you sign up whether you would prefer an Apple or a PC.

## **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.

## **NEW CLASS: ENGL 297– MA COMPREHENSIVES**

We have introduced a new 2-unit course to help you prepare for the MA exams. The class, taught by Professor Krishnaswamy, meets Mondays 7-9:45 pm in BBC 221. Please contact Professor Krishnaswamy if you wish to participate in the class.

## **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. In a new streamlined process, students will be able to take the language placement exams for all of the most commonly taught languages in the SJSU World Languages Media Center in Clark 206. If you score higher than a 4th semester level in a given language, bring the printout to the World Language office and Chair Damian Bacich sign off on it. Should you place into a level of 4th semester or below, you would then do whatever coursework is needed for you to achieve a level of language skill equivalent to two years of study. As always, coursework within 5 years of filing for candidacy with a B or better in the fourth semester or sixth quarter, native fluency in a language as shown by schooling within that language or attestation by an academic skilled in that native language are also ways to satisfy this requirement.

*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 Krishnaswamy 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 2018 term, you must get your proposal to the Graduate Committee no later than **Friday, November 3**. Do not wait until the deadline approaches to get started.

Guidelines for MFA theses and thesis proposals are available here:

<http://www.sjsu.edu/english/graduate/mfa/mfathesis.html>.

Guidelines for MA theses and cover sheet are available here:

<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 ([revathi.krishnaswamy@sjsu.edu](mailto:revathi.krishnaswamy@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 2018 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 2018 graduate course offerings:

ENGL	215	R	16:00:00	18:45:00	<b>Stork, Nancy P</b>
ENGL	228	W	16:00:00	18:45:00	<b>Eastwood, Adrienne</b>
ENGL	240	M	16:00:00	18:45:00	<b>Maio, Sam</b>
ENGL	241	R	19:00:00	21:45:00	<b>Taylor, Nick</b>
ENGL	242	T	19:00:00	21:45:00	<b>Lurie chair Don George</b>
ENGL	232	T	16:00:00	18:45:00	<b>Douglass, Paul</b>
ENGL	208	M	19:00:00	21:45:00	<b>Krishnaswamy, R &amp; Soldofsky, Alan</b>

Check the schedule for additional upper division undergraduate course offerings that may be of interest, and which will not be covered by the Graduate Curriculum, such as Engl 115 (Bible as Literature), Engl 108 (Gaming and Narrative), Engl 163 (American Literature 1865-1945), and Engl 165 (Topics in Ethnic American Literature).

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

Ariel Andew, Lisa Parham, and Irma Garcia, are making presentations at SFSU's "Rights and Wrongs" Constitution Day Conference this month. In addition, Ariel Andres also presented at the CCCC@SJSU in June 2017 and has a paper forthcoming in *The Peer Review*. Daniel Bulone started working as a middle school teacher for the Diocese of San Jose and also got published in a cowboy poetry anthology called *Unbridled III* by Red Dashboard Press. Danielle Allen's essay will be published in *The American Journal of Nursing's* September issue. Anne Cheilek has a poem in the forthcoming issue of *Catamaran Literary Review*. Julia Dunn works for Idea Architects and recently published her first poetry chapbook, *Radius*. Julia's poem, "Recess on the Lawn in Kindergarten," has been selected for publication in Z Publishing House's *Best Emerging Poets of California* anthology. Incoming MFA student Taylor Sezen submitted his honors thesis titled A Matter of Choice: The Functionality of Branching Narratives to UCSB. Lily Dayton, also an incoming MFA student, was awarded a 2017 National Fellowship through the USC Annenberg Center for Health Journalism to work on a series of stories investigating the sex trafficking of foster youth

## 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 2017-2018:**

- Oct. 1:** Deadline for May 2018 Graduates to submit their “Departmental Request for Candidacy” form to GAPE. Requires the MA or MFA advisor’s signature.
- Nov. 3:** Deadline to submit thesis or project proposals (for Spring 2018 299 units) to the English Department Graduate Committee.
- Nov. 3:** Deadline for December graduates to submit signed theses to the Graduate Studies Office.
- Dec. 11:** Deadline for signing up to take the Spring 2018 MFA Comprehensive Exam.
- Mar. 24:** Deadline to submit reading lists to sign up for the Spring MA exams (see the “Guidelines” at <http://www.sjsu.edu/english/graduate/ma/macomps.html>)
- Jan. 14:** Deadline for December 2017 graduates to submit thesis for publication (or embargo)
- Feb. 1:** Deadline for August 2017 graduates to file their “Request for Candidacy” forms (requires MA or MFA Advisor’s signature).
- 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. 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 2018 graduates to file their “Request for Candidacy” forms (requires MA or MFA Advisor’s signature).
- April 1:** Deadline for applications for 2018-2019 TA and GAships due to the Graduate Coordinator.
- Feb 17:** Spring MA comprehensive exam, Part 1, SH 229, 9-12:30.
- Feb 24:** Spring MA comprehensive exam, Part 2, SH 229, 9-12:30.
- April 8:** Tentative Deadline for May 2017 graduates to submit signed theses to the Graduate Studies Office.

