

English Graduate Newsletter

San José State University

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Andrew Fleck, MA Advisor

April 2013

Alan Soldofsky, Director of Creative Writing

GRADUATE ADVISORS IN 2013-2014

Professor Brada-Williams will return from sabbatical in time to resume her duties for the Fall semester. Professor Soldofsky will remain as Director of Creative Writing.

DEADLINES: AUGUST AND DECEMBER GRADUATES

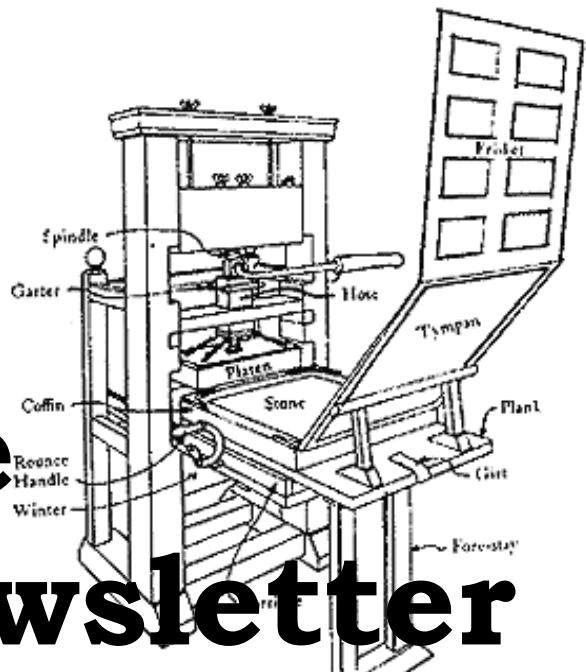
If you are planning to graduate in August or December of 2013, you should already have filed your approved program (i.e. been formally advanced to candidacy). If you missed the deadline, please see your advisor immediately. Remember, you need to file your program nearly two semesters before you plan to graduate. Remember, too, that you must apply for graduation early in the semester you plan to graduate. Forms for both are available at the GAPE website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/gape/forms/> For August graduates, the deadline to apply for graduation is June 7. For December Graduates, the deadline is September 13, 2013. August graduates must present their completed theses to Graduate Studies by July 1, 2013. December graduates must submit completed theses to Graduate Studies by October 31, 2013.

PROGRAM APPROVAL DEADLINE: MAY 2014 GRADUATES

If you plan to graduate in May 2014, you will need to file your approved program ("Departmental Request for Candidacy" form) by October 1, 2013. Course descriptions for the fall seminars are included in this issue of the newsletter. The spring lineup should be publicized by next September. Once you have determined what courses you will take to complete your program, fill out the official form and get your advisor's signature.

REGISTRATION FOR FALL 2013

MySJSU should give you appointment times and information on how to register for next semester's courses very soon. **It is important that you register as early as possible in order to ensure that seminars reach their enrollment minimums.** Contact your advisor if you have any questions. MFA's need to be sure and sign up for any workshops they need for their degree as soon as possible.



MA & MFA FOREIGN LANGUAGE EXAMS

(Outdated information was inadvertently included in the previous newsletter. Please see below for the current information)

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	jean-luc.desalvo@sjsu.edu	924-4620
or Professor Dominique van Hooff (French):	dominique.vanhooff@sjsu.edu	924-4610
Professor Larissa Chiriaeva (German):	larissa.chiriaeva@sjsu.edu	924-4591
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 Fleck or Soldofsky for more information.

ENGLISH GRADUATE SEMINARS FOR FALL 2013

201	Fleck	M	1600-1845
201C	Soldofsky	M	1900-2145
203	Miller	Tues	1900-2145
211	Maio	W	1900-2145
215	Stork	Thurs	1600-1845
225	Eastwood	W	1600-1845
240	Karim	Tues	1600-1845
241	Engell	Tues	1600-1845
253	Douglass	Thurs	1600-1845
255	Shillinglaw	Thurs	1900-2145
259	Cullen	M	1600-1845

English 201. Professor Andrew Fleck. Mondays, 4:00-6:45

“Graduate Study Boot-camp”: In this required course, students will practice the skills necessary for survival in the SJSU M.A. Program. Students will learn the basics of bibliography and the resources available for conducting thorough literary research. An introduction to literary history and a smattering of theoretical approaches will be included as well. Students will make several presentations, work together on several group projects, and complete one longer essay.

English 201C. Professor Alan Soldofsky. Mondays, 7:00-9:45

ENGL 201C introduces MFA students to the resources, traditions, techniques and culture associated with professional creative writing both inside and outside academia. The class will explore the role of the individual writer within literary and academic communities, and explore various forms of literary activity that commonly support “the literary life.” Students will learn what's published in dominant and alternative literary magazines and journals, write book reviews, write essays for presentation at literary conferences and for publication in creative writing and academic journals (print and online), and write a practice thesis proposal. Through this course, students will apply their knowledge and skills in ways useful to their own writing, and in fulfilling their other MFA requirements.

English 203. Professor Cathleen Miller. Tuesdays, 7:00-9:45

“Women of the World”: We will look at the literary lives of ten female icons of politics, journalism and art and study how they shaped the world around them. Since this is a craft course we will also be examining the nonfiction methods the authors use to create these lives on the page. Some of the subjects will be Lola Montez, Colette, Frida Kahlo, Eva Peron, Nafis Sadik, Oriana Fallaci and Gloria Steinem.

English 211. Professor Sam Maio. Wednesdays, 7:00-9:45

The seminar will explore the salient themes and artistic innovations of Modernism in general, concentrating specifically on selected work of influential poets such as Hardy, Yeats, Frost, Pound and Eliot, and extending to some poets of the latter-half of the twentieth century, tentatively including Elizabeth Bishop, Derek Walcott and Carol Ann Duffy, among others. Students will present a paper to the seminar and will have the option of writing either a creative project or a more traditional research paper.

English 215. Professor Nancy Stork. Thursdays, 4:00-6:45

A seminar dedicated to the following topics:

fairy tales

Celtic mythology

Norse mythology

Creation myths

some selections from Arab, Buddhist and Hindu mythologies.

Texts:

The Classic Fairy Tales, ed. Maria Tatar

Malory's Morte Darthur, Norton Critical Edition, ed. Stephen Shepherd

The Volsung Saga, ed. and trans. Jesse Byock.

Other texts available on-line or in course reader.

English 225. Professor Adrienne Eastwood. Wednesdays, 4:00-6:45

“Not of an Age, but for All Time:” While it is always edifying to read and study Shakespeare, his influence on other writers is seldom explored. In this course, students will get the opportunity to

study him in relation to his contemporaries and also in relation to modern texts that respond to his works. In this course, students will study several of Shakespeare's plays in depth, including a critical history of major essays about them. In addition, I will be pairing each play with a different text that either directly or indirectly responds to it: either a different play on a similar theme by one of Shakespeare's contemporaries, or a modern (20th – 21st Century British or American) novel that alludes to Shakespeare, reframing his themes for our age. It is my hope that this approach will help to emphasize the ways in which Shakespeare's works continue to resonate in this post-postmodern global age.

Some of the pairings I am considering using are listed below.

Shakespeare	Other
<i>Merchant of Venice</i>	Marlowe's <i>Jew of Malta</i>
<i>Taming of the Shrew</i>	Heywood's <i>A Woman Killed with Kindness</i>
<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	Ford, <i>Tis Pity She's a Whore</i>
<i>Richard II</i>	Marlowe's <i>Edward II</i>
<i>Hamlet</i>	Kidd, <i>The Spanish Tragedy</i> Stephen Elliott, <i>The Adderall Diaries</i>
<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Kalyan Ray's <i>Eastwords</i>
<i>The Tempest</i>	
<i>Twelfth Night</i>	Philip Roth's <i>Indignation</i>

English 240. Professor Persis Karim. Tuesdays, 4:00-6:45

"Poetry as Witness"

In this workshop, we will concentrate on reading and writing poems with the goal of revising and seeking to polish them so we can send them out to online or print publications. The workshop theme is designed to move our poetry writing from a reflection of "self" (the confessional "I") and instead to push out into the world and use poetry as a kind of witness to larger human events, struggles, themes taking place in our world. The class will also emphasize reading poetry by internationally recognized poets (in translation) such as Pablo Neruda, Derek Walcott, Roque Dalton, Mahmoud Darwish, Audre Lorde, Ahmad Shamlu, Ama Ata Aidoo, and Wislawa Szymborska among others.

English 241. Professor John Engell. Tuesdays, 4:00-6:45

Fiction writing as preparation for thesis. Study of canonical and contemporary fiction and fiction produced by students. Intensive workshop experience.

English 253. Professor Paul Douglass. Thursdays, 4:00-6:45

"Seminar in Period Studies of American Literature": "Modernism" alludes to a period occurring mainly between the two World Wars (1914 to 1940, though sometimes as late as 1950). If Modernism revolted against Realism, it also embraced technology and urban culture, including film, jazz, and psychology. Modernist poetics drew from the psychology of James, Freud and Bergson, making prose and poetry emulate the flow of human consciousness—its most extreme forms included Surrealism. American Modernists were influenced by the work of French, Italian, Irish, and English writers, particularly Gide, Camus, Cocteau, Rimbaud, Marinetti, Joyce, Yeats, Shaw, and Woolf. While Modernism generally was international and even cosmopolitan, American Modernism was more locally inflected. English 253 attempts to help develop the student's

appreciation for this rich, tumultuous period while also enhancing the sense of what may—and what may not—clearly define any literary period.

English 255. Professor Susan Shillinglaw. Thursdays, 7:00-9:45

“Books that changed America.” In this course, we will look at books that, in some way, impacted American social history, examining the cultural histories of these books. *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, for example, was the book that “started the Civil War,” a remark supposedly made by Lincoln to Stowe. Student writing for this course will be modeled on the reading--creative responses to the social issues that inform each book: race, ecology, food safety, poverty, rebellion. Texts include: Frederick Douglass, [*Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*](#); Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*; Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle*; John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*; Rachael Carson, *Silent Spring*; Jack Kerouac, *On the Road*.

English 259. Professor Bob Cullen. Mondays, 4:00-6:45

English 259 is the department's foundation course for graduate students who contemplate teaching college composition; the course is a prerequisite or co-requisite for Teaching Associates. The seminar will address a broad range of topics in composition studies, including how students write and revise, how teachers evaluate compositions, and how instructors can design effective courses for a diverse student community. The seminar will offer an introduction to composition theory; address a range of highly practical issues (grading, plagiarism, technology in the classroom); and survey the SJSU and CSU landscapes in composition instruction. Our primary text will be the third edition of Cross-Talk in Comp Theory, edited by Victor Villanueva. Despite the size of this tome, the required reading load will be relatively light by graduate seminar standards, so expect to do substantial independent research. Assignments may include a seminar paper or project, brief presentations, preparation of professional documents such as a resume or statement of teaching philosophy, and observation of at least two college writing classes.

ADDITIONAL COURSES OF INTEREST FOR THE ENGLISH MA AND MFA

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. See the latest online schedule of classes for days and times.

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 Fleck. 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/gape/current_students/forms/).

ENGLISH GRADUATE GOOGLE-GROUP

The English Grad listserve is now defunct. 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 on the listserv. Joining the listserv is essential for all MA and MFA students.

PH.D. AND OTHER FUTURES

The department would very much like to know about your plans after graduation. Are you staying with your current employment? Looking for a teaching gig in the area? Applying to Ph.D. programs? Please let your advisors know what you are planning and how things are working out. For MA's graduating this May, stopping by the coordinator's office (FO 111) or calling for an

informal “exit” interview should be considered a necessary part of your preparations for graduation. Letting us know about your future plans helps us to evaluate the program and assess how well we are preparing students for their chosen paths.

ELECTRONIC THESES

Graduate Studies is now accepting theses electronically and making them available to the public via open access on the web. For those of you who hope to publish your thesis, we suggest you file a form to see that your thesis is “embargoed.” That means it will still be available electronically within the library (just as the hard copies of our alumni’s theses are available to visitors to the MLK library), but will not be available to people who do not have access to the SJSU library. Currently Graduate Studies’ policy is that you can request an embargo for a set number of years (three) and then file an additional form to have the thesis embargoed further. This is new territory for the university and policy is being made as we speak; but the graduate faculty encourages those of you with the desire to later publish part or all of your thesis to protect your creative and intellectual property. For those of you with no desire to publish your thesis materials in print form, open access will provide you with the immediate and ultimate distribution of your scholarship (or creative work).

ADDITIONAL REMINDERS WHEN FINISHING YOUR THESES

Both MA and MFA students need to be aware that the MLA modified their works cited format in 2009 with the seventh edition of the *MLA Handbook*. Please be aware that Graduate Studies will expect your thesis to be consistently formatted in whatever style you choose for your thesis. They will not allow you to mix styles and they will expect you to be up to date or they will require you to revise before they accept your thesis. MFA students should note that MFA theses must be accompanied by a 2000 - 3000 word (approximate length) preface, in which the author provides a literary context for her/his work, including literary influences, stylistic and theoretical influences, the influence of historical events, cultural and/or linguistic background, etc. It is hoped that the proposal-writing process will help MFA’s to flesh out their ideas for their preface.

GRADUATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

On May 8th, the department will gather to honor its scholarship and Phelan award winners. We hope you’ll join us!

There have been a number of graduate student achievements this semester. Alicia McClintic will present a paper entitled “Home Lost, Home Regained: The Search for the Church in Willa Cather’s Fiction,” in June at the annual Willa Cather Seminar in Flagstaff, Arizona. Jessy Goodman and Andrew Tucker presented papers with Michelle Hager on a panel entitled "Running a Writing Center as a Business: Creating a Professional Tutoring Environment to Enhance Student Success," at the 2013 Northern California Writing Centers Association Conference.

Amanda Moore has been accepted into the Ph.D. program in Comparative Literature at the University of Oregon. Also, Danielle Crawford has been accepted into the doctoral program in Literature at UC Santa Cruz for Fall 2013. In addition, David Coad will be entering the doctoral program at UC Davis next fall as well. Congrats to all of these students.

If others have news to share, please contact the Graduate Coordinator!

MFA AND MA EXAM SCHEDULES

Please note that the MFA exams for Fall 2013 are now scheduled September 20th to 23rd. Please contact Professor Soldofsky this semester in order to sign up for them. The MA exams will be the first two Saturdays of the Fall semester or August 24 (part 1) and August 31, 2013 (part 2).

MFA GRADUATION READING

The MFA Graduation Reading will take place at 2:30 on May 11 in MLK 225/229. The event is free and open to the public. Please join us as our graduates read from the work. The program will include readings from

Annie Heath, Nonfiction	Tim Heath, Nonfiction
Kevin Manning, Fiction	Maria Mesa, Fiction
Amanda Moore, Fiction	Shabana Serang, Fiction
Evelyn So, Poetry	Daniel Scarpa, Poetry

Come and support your fellow students and celebrate their achievement!

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2013

- May 11:** MFA Graduation Reading, 2:30 PM, MLK Library, rms. 225/229.
- May 13:** Fall 2013 MFA Exam sign-up deadline.
- May 23:** Department Graduation ceremony and reception at 5:30
- June 7:** Deadline for August 2013 graduates to file or reactivate application for graduation at the Graduate Studies Office.
- June 14:** Last day for May 2013 graduates to submit MA and MFA thesis copies for electronic publication (or embagoing).
- July 1:** Last day for August 2013 graduates to submit approved theses to Graduate Studies.
- Aug. 24:** MA Comprehensive Exam Part I 9:00 AM in FO 104
- Aug. 31:** MA Comprehensive Exam Part II 9:00 AM in FO 104
- Sept. 9:** Deadline for 2013 graduates to submit MFA or MA Thesis to Thesis Director
- Sept. 13:** Deadline for December 2013 graduates to file or reactivate application for graduation with Grad Studies
- Sept. 20:** MFA Comprehensive Exam distributed (9 AM).
- Sept. 23:** MFA Comprehensive Exam due (5 PM).
- Oct. 1:** Deadline for May 2014 graduates to file Department Request for Candidacy form with GAPE
- Oct. 24:** Deadline to submit thesis proposals for Spring 2014
299 credits to Grad Committee.

