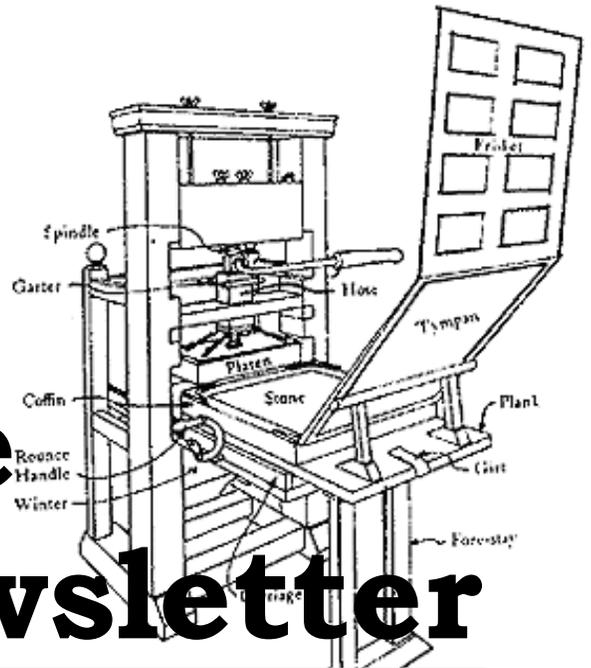


# English Graduate Newsletter



San José State University

Volume XXXXII, Number 3

February 2010

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

## SPRING OFFICE HOURS

MA students should find Professor Brada-Williams in her office at FO 110 this semester Tuesdays 1:00 – 3:00 PM and Thursdays 1:00 – 2:00 PM as well as on other days by appointment. Phone: 924-4439; email: [Noelle.Brada-Williams@sjsu.edu](mailto:Noelle.Brada-Williams@sjsu.edu). MFA students should consult Professor Soldofsky in FO 106; hours: Monday, and Wednesday 1:30 – 2:45 PM, Tuesday 2:30-4 PM and by appointment; phone: 924-4432; email: [soldofsk@email.sjsu.edu](mailto:soldofsk@email.sjsu.edu).

## PROGRAM APPROVAL DEADLINE: AUGUST AND DECEMBER GRADUATES

If you are planning to graduate in August or December of 2010, 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 “Petition for Advancement to Graduate Candidacy” form at the GAPE Current Students Forms website: [http://www.sjsu.edu/gape/current\\_students/forms/](http://www.sjsu.edu/gape/current_students/forms/) or <http://www.sjsu.edu/gape/docs/candidacy.pdf>. The university deadline is February 12 for August graduates, April 5 for December graduates.

## PROPOSED FALL 2010 GRADUATE COURSES

We plan to offer ten graduate courses in Fall 2010.

201: Methods and Materials of Literary Research

201C: Methods and Materials of Literary Production

203: Narrative Craft and Theory

215: Myth and Symbolism

232: Romanticism

240: Poetry Writing Workshop

241: Fiction Writing Workshop

253: Periods in American Literature

256: Twentieth-Century British Literature

259: Composition Theory and Pedagogy

## MA COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS

Please note that the next round of MA Comprehensive exams to be given on the first and second Saturdays of the Fall 2010 semester which formally begins August 23<sup>rd</sup> (instruction begins on the 25<sup>th</sup>). Thus the Fall MA Exam Part One (pre-1800) will be offered on Saturday August 28<sup>th</sup> and the Fall MA Exam Part Two (the post-1800 section) will be offered on September 4<sup>th</sup>. Time and place for both exams is **9:00 AM to 12:30** 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 the month before if you plan to take either or both parts of the exams. 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). Please plan on taking Spring 2011 exams on the first and second Saturday of the new semester (usually last Saturday in January for Part One and first Saturday in February for Part Two), just as they were offered this semester. The entire reading list and the form to fill out your own inventory of your reading can be found at <http://www.sjsu.edu/english/graduate/ma/macomps.html>. The form is at <http://www.sjsu.edu/english/graduate/ma/forms/ReadingListGuidelines0907.pdf>.

## MFA COMPREHENSIVE EXAM

The MFA Comprehensive Exam will be distributed on **Friday, April 16, at 9:00 AM** and is due on **Monday, April 19, at 5 PM**. Sign up to take the MFA Exam by **March 15** 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

*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.

## GRADUATE ASSISTANT AND TEACHING ASSOCIATE POSITIONS FOR 2010-2011

Both current MA and MFA students and applicants who are eligible for admission to the program in Fall 2010 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 under the guidance of the T.A. supervisor, Professor Robert Cullen. Graduate Assistants can expect to work an average of 10 hours per week and earn about \$2000 per semester. In 2008-2009, Teaching Associates earned about \$6319 per semester for teaching two composition courses (\$3,160 for one course) and received fee reimbursement during the semester(s) in which they taught. The fee reimbursement or “waiver” covered mandatory campus miscellaneous fees

and mandatory state university fees at the California-resident tuition level. Currently the fee waiver is under negotiation between the University and the TA/GA union.

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 5<sup>th</sup>** (our usual deadline of April 1<sup>st</sup> falls during Spring break this year). We will conduct interviews during the week of April 5<sup>th</sup> and/or April 12<sup>th</sup>. Please note that SJSU's Spring break lasts from March 26<sup>th</sup> to April 4<sup>th</sup> this year, so it is best to **plan on having your applications in by March 25**.

### **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 2009** term, you must get your proposal to the Graduate Committee by **April 5<sup>th</sup>**. 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) 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. Those planning to write theses in the **Spring 2011 term** will need to get proposals to the committee by **October 25, 2010**.

### **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 2010 the department expects the revised thesis will be in the hands of the second and third readers by **March 5<sup>th</sup>**. 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 5<sup>th</sup> deadline, required revisions may still be so extensive that they cannot be completed in time to meet the university deadline (**April 5<sup>th</sup>**). *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](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 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.

## IMPORTANT DATES IN 2010

- Feb. 16:** Deadline for May graduates to apply for (or reactivate earlier application of) Award of Master's Degree
- March 5:** Deadline for May graduates to submit MA or MFA thesis to second and third readers.
- March 15:** Deadline to sign up to take the April 2010 MFA Exams.
- March 25:** **Last business day before the numerous April deadlines.**
- March 26-April 4th: Spring Break and Cesar Chavez Day**
- April 5:** Last day to submit materials for the TA and GA applications for 2010-2011 due (note that March 25th is last day of school before this Spring break deadline so prepare ahead of time).
- April 5:** Deadline for December 2010 graduates to submit approved official programs ("Petition for Advancement to Graduate Candidacy"/"Departmental Request for Candidacy Form") to Graduate Studies. See your advisor in March.
- April 5:** Deadline to submit thesis proposals (for fall 299 credits) to department Graduate Committee.
- April 5:** Deadline for May graduates to submit approved thesis to Graduate Studies.
- April 16:** MFA Comprehensive Exam distributed (9:00 AM).
- April 19:** MFA Comprehensive Exam due (5:00 PM).
- May 22:** MFA Graduation and new MFA orientation
- June 7:** Deadline for August 2010 graduates to file or reactivate application for graduation at the Graduate Studies Office.
- July 1:** Last day for August graduates to submit approved theses to Graduate Studies.
- Aug. 28:** MA Comprehensive Exam Part I 9AM in FO 104
- Sept. 4:** MA Comprehensive Exam Part II 9AM in FO 104
- Oct. 1:** Approximate deadline for May 2011 graduates to submit candidacy forms to GAPE
- Oct. 25:** Deadline to submit thesis proposals for Spring 2011 299 credits to Grad Committee.

