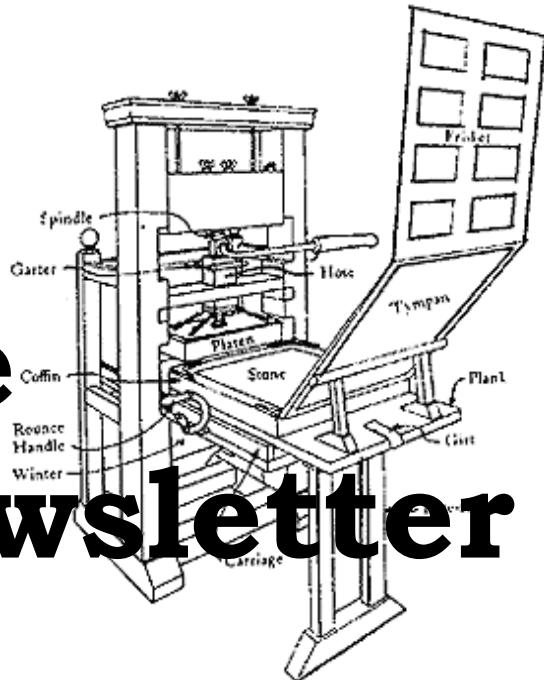


# English Graduate Newsletter

San José State University



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Noelle Brada-Williams, Graduate Coordinator

Alan Soldofsky, Director of Creative Writing

## FALL OFFICE HOURS

MA Advising: Professor Brada-Williams' office hours this semester are Wednesdays 11-1 PM and additional hours by appointment. Phone: 924-4439; email: Noelle.Brada-Williams@sjsu.edu. Please feel free to call or to stop by her office at FO 110.

MFA Advising: Professor Soldofsky: Office: FO 106: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 3:00-4:30 PM. Phone: 924-4432, email: soldofsk@email.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 2010 MA AND MFA GRADUATES

If you are planning to graduate in May 2010, you should file your official program (the 'Departmental Request for Candidacy' form which can be found at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gape/forms/>) by October 1, 2009. Applications (or reactivations of applications) for May 2010 graduation must be filed by February 15, 2010. These forms can also be found at the GAPE forms website.

## MA COMPREHENSIVE EXAM SCHEDULE

The Fall 2009 MA exam will be given November 7 (Part I) and November 14 (Part II). The time and place for both parts is Saturday 9:00 AM to 12:30 and in FO 104 (unless you are notified of a change). Bring a supply of pens and *unmarked* large bluebooks (your bluebooks will be identified by number only). You may bring a dictionary but no other materials. Please let Professor Brada-Williams know at least a week 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).

<http://www.sjsu.edu/english/graduate/ma/macomps.html>). With the Spring 2010 exam will we begin the new policy of offering exams at the first and second Saturday of the semester so that study for the exam does not compete with coursework or teaching and that the exams can be taken before applications for graduation are due. Thus, Part I of the MA exam will be offered on January 30 and Part II will be offered on February 6<sup>th</sup>. You will need to notify the MA Advisor of your wish to take the exams no later than January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010.

## 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 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. However, please note that section C of the Part 2 exam is now on World Literature.

## MA & MFA FOREIGN LANGUAGE EXAMS

Students wishing to satisfy the foreign language requirement in French, German, or Spanish, should take an examination offered in the Foreign Language Department. You must contact:

Examiner	email	phone
Professor Trudeau (French):	danielle.trudeau@sjsu.edu	924-4594
Professor Sabalius (German):	Romey.Sabalius@sjsu.edu	924-4616
Professor Eleanor Marsh (Spanish):	eleanor.marsh@sjsu.edu	924-4614

You will be excused from the examination if, within five years of filing your program (achieving Candidacy), you have completed the fourth semester of an approved university-level foreign language course sequence with a grade of "B" or better. 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.

## 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 2010 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, see <http://www.sjsu.edu/english/graduate/mfa/mfacomps.html>. If you are an MA student you must, before submitting your proposal to the committee, (1) see the guidelines for theses and the cover sheet at <http://www.sjsu.edu/english/graduate/ma/mathesis.html> (2) find a faculty member who will direct your work and advise you in developing your proposal, and (3) show the MA Coordinator the draft of your proposal that has been approved by your thesis director. After you have completed these steps you will be ready to submit eight copies of your proposal to the committee.



## GRADUATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

The application process for TA's and GA's was highly competitive this past April. Those who garnered Teaching Associate positions for this academic year are: Vince Bergamo, Josh Cembellin, Dave Kern, Jen Jebens, Floralei Luib, and David Wirth. Charanya Arjun, Lara Hubel, Matt McCoy, Tanja Nathanael, Georgia Saratsiotis, and Candice Wynne are continuing with the TA program for their second year. Graduate Assistantships for the 2009-2010 academic year went to Carla Bendito, Crystle Bruno, Peter Gambrill, Jennifer McClelland, Thao Nguyen, Congratulations to all!

Other achievements by graduate students include the first place won by MFA Kellie Rice for her screenplay *Andromache* at both the CSU Media Festival and the national BEA Screenwriting Contest. MFA alumnus Dan Arnold's book, *Early Days in the Range of Light*, is being published by Counterpoint Press and he will be doing a reading and book signing on October 28<sup>th</sup> at the MLK library, sponsored by the CLA. Dan will also discuss the process of turning a thesis into a book on October 28, 4 p.m., in FO 104.

## SPRING 2010 GRADUATE COURSES

At least 21 of the 30 units of classes required for the MA program should be 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 ten Spring 2010 graduate course offerings:

- 204 Modern Approaches to Lit, M 1600-1845, Krishnaswamy
- 208 Comparative Literature, R 1600-1845, Karim
- 229 17th century British Lit, W 1900-2145, Fleck
- 230 18th century British Lit, T 1600-1845, Brada-Williams
- 240 Poetry Writing Workshop, M 1900-2145, Soldofsky
- 241 Fiction Writing Workshop, R 1900-2145, Taylor
- 242 Nonfiction Writing Workshop, T 1600-1845, Cahill (Lurie Prof.)
- 253 Period Studies in American Lit, T 1900-2145, Shillinglaw
- 254 Genre Studies in American Lit, W 1600-1845, Douglass
- 292 Beowulf, R 1900-2145, Stork

Check the schedule for additional undergraduate course offerings that may be of interest. Offerings for Fall 2010 should include 201, 201C, 240, 242, and 259. We also hope, dependent on funding, to offer 5-7 of the following courses in Fall 2010: 202, 203, 211, 215, 216, 217, 232, the American 253-255 series, and 256.

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.



## KEEP INFORMED

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. 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/gape/current_students/index.htm)

## SOME IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2009-2010:

- Oct. 1:** Deadline for May graduates to file their “Department Request for Candidacy” forms (requires MA or MFA Advisor’s signature).
- Oct. 7:** Deadline for May 2010 graduates to sign up to take the MFA Exam. (Also December 2009 graduates who have not passed the exam or have received the Advisor’s permission to take it.)
- Oct. 30:** Deadline to sign up for MA exam part 1 by submitting a completed reading-self survey (see the online guidelines).
- Nov. 2:** Deadline to submit thesis or project proposals (for Spring 2010 299 units) to the English Department Graduate Committee.
- Nov. 6:** MFA comprehensive exam distributed (9:00 AM).
- Nov. 7:** MA comprehensive exam, Part 1, FO 104, 9-12:30 (also last day to sign up for MA exam part 2).
- Nov. 9:** MFA comprehensive exam due (5:00 PM).
- Nov. 9:** Deadline for December graduates to submit signed theses to the Graduate Studies Office.
- Nov. 14:** MA comprehensive exam, Part 2, FO 104, 9-12:30.
- Jan. 19:** Deadline for December 2009 graduates to submit thesis copies for binding to Graduate Studies Office.
- Jan 30:** MA comprehensive exam, Part 1, FO 104, 9-noon.
- Feb. 6:** MA comprehensive exam, Part 2, FO 104, 9-noon.
- Feb. 15:** Deadline for May 2010 graduates to submit application for award of Master’s Degree to the Graduate Studies Office.
- Mar. 15:** Deadline for December 2010 MFA graduates to sign up for the MFA Exam. (Also May 2010 graduates who have not passed the exam or have received the Advisor’s permission to take it.)
- April 1:** Applications for 2010-2011 TA and GAships due to the Graduate Coordinator.
- April 5:** Deadline for May 2010 graduates to submit signed theses to the Graduate Studies Office.
- April 16:** MFA Comprehensive Exam Distributed (9:00 A.M.)
- April 19:** MFA Comprehensive Exam Due (5:00 P.M)

