

**San José State University**  
**Department of English and Comparative Literature**  
**English 71, Introduction to Creative Writing (GE C2), Section 02,**  
**Fall 2012**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Peter O'Sullivan
<b>Office Location:</b>	FO 128
<b>Telephone:</b>	(408) 924- 4663
<b>Email:</b>	peter.o'sullivan@sjsu.edu
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00-10:00AM Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:30 - 11:30
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 - 10:15
<b>Classroom:</b>	SH 411
<b>GE Category:</b>	Humanities, Arts, and Letters C2

### **Course Description**

Welcome to English 71, Introduction to Creative Writing. This course meets the requirements for general education in area C2: Humanities and Arts, Letters. We will be embarking on a journey of discovery: discovery of voice, discovery of lyric, and discovery of narrative. We will look at both traditional and modern examples of creative prose and poetry both, and use those models to form our own works of expression. Creative output and class participation shall be the main components of this course. May we find the stories within each of us and let them sing.

### **Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives**

#### ***English Department Student Learning Objectives: DSLOs***

- SLO: 1 Students will demonstrate the ability to read closely in a variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes, and articulate the value of close reading in the study of literature, creative writing, or rhetoric;
- SLO 2: Students will demonstrate the ability to show familiarity with major literary works, genres, periods, and critical approaches to British, American, and World Literature;
- SLO 3: Students will demonstrate the ability to write clearly, effectively, and creatively, and adjust writing style appropriately to the content, the context, and nature of the subject;

- SLO 4: Students will demonstrate the ability to develop and carry out research projects, and locate, evaluate, organize, and incorporate information effectively;
- SLO 5: Students will demonstrate the ability to articulate the relations among culture, history, and texts.

***GE Area C2 Letters Student Learning Objectives: GSLOs***

- SLO 1: Letters courses will enable students to recognize how significant works illuminate enduring human concerns.
- SLO 2: Letters courses will enable students to respond to significant works by writing both research-based critical analyses and personal responses.
- SLO 3: Letters courses will enable students to write clearly and effectively. Writing shall be assessed for correctness, clarity, and conciseness.

***Course Objectives:***

- Decipher and understand the form and content of assigned literary works;
- Comprehend the historical and cultural contexts of assigned literary works;
- Recognize the accomplishments of and issues related to writing by men and women representing diverse cultural traditions;
- Acquire through both individual and collaborative/workshop efforts of a written and oral nature the skills necessary for reading, discussing, analyzing, interpreting, and—most importantly—emulating and writing works of poetry, creative non-fiction, and short fiction;
- Communicate such skills with clarity and precision;
- Develop an appreciation of literary works as expressions of human intellect and imagination, and as representations of diverse human cultures;
- Develop the ability to write literary works that express intellect and imagination and that represent diversity in human cultures;
- Respond to literature through clear and effective communication in both written and oral work;
- Read and respond to texts with both analytical acumen and personal sensibility;
- Appreciate how literary works illuminate enduring human concerns while at the same time representing their particular cultures;
- Write works of poetry, creative non-fiction, and short fiction that are of interest and value to the writer, to other students in the course, and to a diverse reading audience.

You are responsible for reading the following information online at <http://www.sjsu.edu/english/comp/policyforsyllabi.html>

- Academic policies (academic integrity, plagiarism, ADA and DRC policies)
- Adding and dropping classes

## Required Texts/Readings

### Textbook

- King, Stephen. *On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft*; Scribner. ISBN-10: 1439156816
- Turco, Lewis. *The Book of Forms: A Handbook of Poetics*; UPNE. ISBN-10: 1584650222

### Other Readings

Additional readings can be found here: <http://fearlessCW.wordpress.com>

## Classroom Protocol

Students will come to class every day and prepared to discuss that day's readings. I reserve the right to eject any student who comes to class unprepared. Unpreparedness is defined as not having done the readings and not having the materials necessary for class. Each day will begin with a quiz or in class writing assignment based on the readings for that day. The rest of class will be a mélange of small and large group discussions, lectures, student presentations, debates, and activities necessary to facilitate the learning process. Electronic devices such as smartphones and laptops are allowed, as they can be useful in looking up information during class, but I again reserve the right to refuse their use should they become distractions (e.g. facebook during lectures). Also, all cell phones should be silenced (or put on vibrate) before class. I will dance if your cell phone goes off.

## Assignments and Grading Policy

**Grading:** A-F.

### Grade Distribution:

- Pre and Post-course Diagnostic: 2 @ 25 Points Each = 50 Points
- Blog Entries: 10 @ 25 Points Each = 250 Points
- Short Stories: 3 @ 100 Points Each = 300 Points
  - Totaling 12-14 pages
- Poems: 5 @ 50 Points Each = 250 Points
  - 1 Sonnet
  - 1 Villanelle
  - 1 Blank Verse
  - 1 Open (Free Verse or another form)
  - 1 Open (Free Verse or another form)

- Written Critiques of Others' Work: 10 @ 10 Points Each = 100 Points
  - 5 Blog Entries (in comments)
  - 2 Short Stories
  - 3 Poems
- Blog and Participation Activities: 20 @ 2.5 Points each = 50 points
- Total = 1000 Points

### **Assignments and Grading Policy:**

**Reading:** One of my most cherished beliefs is that you cannot be a good writer if you do not read. It's like being a musician who never listens to music or a director who never watches film. The notion is ludicrous. While there isn't an inordinate amount of reading, I am asking that you read everything that is assigned to you. We are going to read both for content as well as for form and technique. This is a different kind of reading than the kind to which you are most used.

**Writing:** English 71 is a course in creative writing, and as such, it is a writing intensive course. You will be asked to write on a daily basis, everything from small poems and creative exercises, to long, multi-page short stories.

All material to be turned in must be typed. Hard copies of stories and poems will not be necessary as I plan on us distributing work electronically and saving some paper. On workshop days, however, you must bring your written critiques with you to share with the class.

**Participation:** Participation is a measurement of how much of the assigned reading you do and how much you participate in class. As such, I will assign writings, usually of no more than one page, on the blog. These writings will be exercises in creativity meant to expand your toolset.

**Diagnostic:** There is a common pre and post diagnostic assignment for this class. This diagnostic must be done as a poem.

**Workshops:** You will workshop at least one short story and two or three poems, depending on time. These are opportunities to share your work openly with a group of peers and receive verbal feedback. These workshops are required and are part of your critique grade.

All workshops are structured group exercises in which you will give and receive valuable feedback on your writing.

- **Workshops cannot be made up.**

### **Class Blog**

Updated information about the class and supplemental readings will be frequently posted to the blog at <http://fearlessCW.wordpress.com/> and you are encouraged to visit it before each and every class. While there will be in class reminders whenever a reading from the blog is due, you are invariably responsible for accessing the material on there.

### **Student Technology Resources**

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Clark Hall and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include digital and VHS camcorders, VHS and Beta video players, 16 mm, slide, overhead, DVD, CD, and audiotape players, sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

### **SJSU Writing Center**

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. The [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/) is located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/>.

English 71, Fall 2012, Course Schedule

OW = On Writing; BoF = Book of Forms; Blog = fearlessCW blog

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</b>
1	Thursday, 8/23/2012	Introductions: Syllabus; Who are you? Why creative writing? Assign Pre-course diagnostic {GSLO 3} {DSLO 2,3}
2	Tuesday, 8/28/2012	Introduction to Creative Non-Fiction Blog writing 101 {GSLO 2,3} {DSLO 3,4,5} Assign Blog Project {GSLO 2,3} {DSLO 3,4,5} Finding your passion.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
	Thursday, 8/30/2012	Who is your audience? {DSLO 3} Critiques OW: Beginning - CV 19 (not page 19, subchapter 19) {DSLO 1} {GSLO 1} Blog {DSLO 1} {GSLO 1}
3	Tuesday, 9/4/2012	Incorporating research into your blog {GSLO 2,3} {DSLO 3,4,5} OW: CV 20 - 38 {DSLO 1} {GSLO 1} Blog {DSLO 1} {GSLO 1}
	Thursday, 9/6/2012	Generating ideas {GSLO 2,3} {DSLO 3,4,5} OW: What Writing Is and Toolbox
4	Tuesday, 9/11/2012	Supplementing your words with other media {GSLO 2,3} {DSLO 3,4,5} OW: On Writing - 8 {DSLO 1} {GSLO 1} Blog {GSLO 1} {DSLO 1}
	Thursday, 9/13/2012	Hooking your audience {GSLO 2,3} {DSLO 3,4,5} OW: 9-14 {DSLO 1} {GSLO 1}
5	Tuesday, 9/18/2012	Life after Class OW: 15 - All of On Living: a Postscript {GSLO 1} {DSLO 1} Blog {GSLO 1} {DSLO 1}
	Thursday, 9/20/2012	Editing our own work {GSLO 2,3} {DSLO 3,4,5} OW: And Further More - end {GSLO 1} {DSLO 1}
6	Tuesday, 9/25/2012	<b>Final Blog Entries Due</b> {GSLO 2,3} {DSLO 3,4,5} An introduction to Short Fiction Assign Short Fiction {GSLO 2,3} {DSLO 3,4,5} Blog {GSLO 1} {DSLO 1} Narratives
	Thursday, 9/27/2012	Blog {GSLO 1} {DSLO 1} Characters
7	Tuesday, 10/2/2012	Blog {GSLO 1} {DSLO 1} Plot

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
	Thursday, 10/4/2012	Blog {GSLO 1} {DSLO 1} Settings
8	Tuesday, 10/9/2012	Blog {GSLO 1} {DSLO 1} Themes
	Thursday, 10/11/2012	Blog {GSLO 1} {DSLO 1} Pacing, description, and metaphor
9	Tuesday, 10/16/2012	Workshop #1
	Thursday, 10/18/2012	Workshop #2
10	Tuesday, 10/23/2012	Workshop #3
	Thursday, 10/25/2012	Workshop #4
11	Tuesday, 10/30/2012	Workshop #5
	Thursday, 11/1/2012	Workshop #6
12	Tuesday, 11/6/2012	<b>Short Fiction Assignments Due</b> {GSLO 2,3} {DSLO 3,4,5} Assign Poems {GSLO 2,3} {DSLO 3,4,5} Poetry: Form versus Free Verse --- Master then Break.
	Thursday, 11/8/2012	BoF: Sonnet, Villanelle {GSLO 1} {DSLO 1} Blog {GSLO 1} {DSLO 1}
13	Tuesday, 11/14/2012	BoF: Blank Verse, Sestina, Terza Rima {GSLO 1} {DSLO 1} Blog {GSLO 1} {DSLO 1}
	Thursday, 11/16/2012	Workshop #1
14	Tuesday, 11/20/2012	Blog {GSLO 1} {DSLO 1}
	Thursday, 11/22/2012	<b>Thanksgiving: No Class</b>
15	Tuesday, 11/27/2012	Workshop #2

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
	Thursday, 11/29/2012	Workshop #3
16	Tuesday, 12/4/2012	Workshop #4
	Thursday, 12/6/2012	Workshop #5 <b>Post Course Diagnostic Due</b>
Final Exam	Tuesday, 12/18/2012 7:15 AM	Leftover Workshop Breakfast? <b>All Revisions Due</b>

#### Important SJSU dates Fall 2012

Thursday	August 22	First Day of Instruction – Classes Begin
Tuesday	September 3	Labor Day - Campus Closed (L)
Tuesday	September 4	Last Day to Drop Courses Without Permanent Record
Tuesday	September 11	Last Day to Add Courses & Register Late (A)
Thursday	September 19	Enrollment Census Date (CD)
Tuesday	November 12	Veteran's Day Observed - Campus Closed (V)
Thursday	November 21	Classes that start at 5:00 PM or later will not meet.
Thursday	November 22	Thanksgiving Holiday - Campus Closed (T)
Friday	November 23	Rescheduled Holiday - Campus Closed (RH)
Tuesday	December 10	Last Day of Instruction - Last Day of Classes
Tuesday	December 11	Study/Conference Day (no classes or exams) (SC)
Wed-Tues	Dec 12-18	Final Examinations (exams)
Thursday	December 19	Final Examinations Make-Up Day (MU)
Thursday	December 20	Grade Evaluation Day (E)
Friday	December 21	Grades Due From Faculty