

San José State University
Department of English and Comparative Literature
English 71, Introduction to Creative Writing (42102), Section 05, Spring 2016

Instructor: Tommy Mouton, MFA, **Office Location:** Faculty Offices (FOB) 112, **Telephone:** (408) 924-4479, **Email:** tommy.mouton@sjsu.edu, **Office Hours:** T/Th 10:30-11:30 a.m., and by appointment **Class Days/Time:** T/Th 9:00-10:15 a.m. **Classroom Location:** Clark 306

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. You are responsible for regularly (at least once every other day) checking with the messaging system through MySJSU to learn of any updates. *Also: In lieu of handouts, I will often upload reading materials to Canvas. Functioning technology (hardware), such as computers (desktops, laptops, and tablets) and printers, are necessary for successful completion of this course. Regarding software: all computers must be running on basic Word processing software. On-campus wireless internet connectivity can be accessed by using your SJSU ID and SJSU Password!

Course Description

Introduction to Creative Writing (English 71) is a 3-unit lower-division course designed, adopted, implemented, and administered by the Department of English & Comparative Literature at San Jose State University in accordance with the University's General Education Program Guidelines to fulfill Core General Education requirements in the Letters area of Humanities & the Arts. In this course you are expected to read and write in the genres of poetry, short fiction, and creative nonfiction. Along with reading and writing, this class is comprised of weekly discussions, multiple presentations, and a number of writing workshops.

Prerequisites: Completion of English 1A or equivalent. You must, however, be willing to show growth in the composition areas of grammar and mechanics, along with an ability to think both creatively and critically.

Department Student Learning Objectives (SLOs):

In the Department of English and Comparative Literature, students will demonstrate the ability to:

1. 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, and/or rhetoric
2. Show familiarity with major literary works, genres, periods, and critical approaches to British, American and World Literature;
3. Write clearly, effectively, and creatively, and adjust writing style appropriately to the content, the context, and the nature of the subject;
4. Develop and carry out research projects, and locate, evaluate, organize, and incorporate information effectively;
5. Articulate the relations among culture, history, and texts.

English 71 GE Course Goals (GELOs):

1. Decipher and understand the form and content of assigned literary works
2. Comprehend the historical and cultural contexts of assigned literary works
3. Recognize the accomplishments of and issues related to writing by men and women representing diverse cultural traditions
4. 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 nonfiction, and short fiction;
5. Communicate such skills with clarity and precision
6. Develop the ability to write literary works that express intellect and imagination and that represent diversity in human cultures
7. Respond to literature through clear and effective communication in both written and oral work
8. Read and respond to texts with both analytical acumen and personal sensibility;
9. Appreciate how literary works illuminate enduring human concerns while also representing matters specific to a particular culture
10. Write works of poetry, creative nonfiction, and short fiction that are of interest and value to the writer, to other students in the course, and to a diverse reading audience

Required Texts:

Imaginative Writing: The Elements of Craft, Fourth Edition, Janet Burroway
Print ISBN 9780134053240

Supplemental Texts:

The Poet's Companion: A Guide to the Pleasures of Writing Poetry-Addonizio and Laux (ISBN-13: 978-0393316544)

Other Reading Materials:

Outside reading materials may be used from *Writing Fiction: A Guide to Narrative Craft, 9th Edition*-Burroway, Stuckey-French; *Imagining America: Stories from the Promised Land A Multicultural Anthology of American Fiction, Revised Edition*-Brown and Ling; *Writing True: The Art and Craft of Creative Nonfiction*-Perl and Schwartz. All other reading materials will be made available to you via Canvas.

In-Class Materials:

One Journal Notebook/Binder
Pens and Pencils
Stapler
Highlighters

Out-of-class Materials:

Laptop/Tablet
Printer access

Classroom Protocol

Attendance/Professionalism: You will arrive on time and be ready to work. Regular attendance is expected of you. If you are not present, you cannot participate. A lack of participation will adversely affect your growth as a writer and your overall grade in this course. Consider this your workplace: appropriate language, dress, and behavior are expected. Technology excuses regarding the failure to compose/type or print work will not be tolerated. Do not text or make/receive phone calls during class. Laptops/ipads, e-readers, etc., will remain off/closed during class, unless told differently. Please eat and drink prior to coming to class. In most instances, however, bottled water will be allowed.

***About Participation:** Class participation (being present; engaging in class discussions) is expected of you. An unwillingness to participate will more likely than not keep you from growing and enjoying the class.

Diversity Statement: *Some assignments (reading and writing) may in fact address issues of race, class, gender, etc. I expect you to have an open mind and respect the views of your peers, as they will respect yours. Insensitivity will not be tolerated.*

***About Office Hours:** You should plan on seeing me regularly, especially if you are having a hard time in my class. Make the necessary time to meet with me. Your final grade will often depend on how well you advocate for yourself.

Assignment Procedures

Poetry, Fiction, and Creative Nonfiction Formatting: All poetry that is to be workshopped and turned in to me is to be typed (12pt. font, Times New Roman, single-spaced, except at stanza breaks, one inch margins, stapled when necessary). All prose/short stories and nonfiction essays are to be typed (12pt. font, Times New Roman, double-spaced, one inch margins, with page numbers present somewhere on the page and stapled) and printed single-sided. Failure to follow directions will negatively impact your grade. Your name and the work's title (even if it is *untitled*) are to always appear on the first page of the work's final draft.

Workshop Procedures (SLO 1, 3):

In this class we will workshop approximately twice a month. Groups will be assigned (approximately 8 groups of three). Each student is responsible for printing out the necessary copies for workshop. *Note: See the course schedule below for "Print Out" days.* Failure to workshop (without the necessary absence documentation/doctor's excuse) will *adversely* impact your grade.

Revision (SLO 1, 3, 4, 5): Your ability to go back into your work (after my and your peers' comments have been returned) and very critically look back at your work is crucial. Revision and your commitment to doing so is what often sets published and unpublished writers apart. If you fail to revise, your overall grade will suffer.

Reading/Literary Events (SLO 3, 4):

You are required to attend two literary events over the course of the semester. I do, however, encourage you to attend as many as your schedule will allow. I will alert you to events as they post. Ultimately, however, it is your responsibility to keep an ear and an eye out for events as they post. As a resource, I have provided the links below to help you find literary events.

<http://www.litart.org/> (Center for Literary Arts)

<http://www.sjsu.edu/english/community/index.html> (SJSU English Department)

<http://www.sjsu.edu/steinbeck/index.html> (Center for Steinbeck Studies)

<http://www.pcsj.org> (Poetry Center San Jose)

<http://www.sjsu.edu/english/community/pwc/> (Poets and Writers Coalition)

Course Assignments/What Are They Worth:

Assignment	Points	Details	GELOs	SLOs
Poetry: Sonnet, Villanelle, Self-Portrait, Place poem	200	4 poems @ 50 points per	1, 2, 4-6, 10	1, 3
Fiction: Short Story (1 st /3 rd Person)	50	500-1500 words; Choose preferred POV	1, 2, 4-6, 10	1, 3
Creative Nonfiction: Personal Essay/Memoir	50	500-1500 words	1, 2, 4-6, 10	1-3
Presentations: Meter and Rhyme, Ekphrasis, Experimental Project	60	3 presentations + write-ups @ 20 points per	4, 5, 9, 10	3-5
Peer Reviews	30	3 total assignments @ 10 points per	1-5, 7-9	1, 3, 5
Homework and Quizzes	50	4 homework assignments and 1 quiz, @ 10 points per	1-10	1-5
Literary Event + Write-up	10	2 event write-ups @ 5 points per	1-3, 5, 7, 9	3, 4
Final Class Reading	50	All lectures, class readings, etc.	4, 5, 9, 10	3-5
	500 Total points			

Grading Protocol:

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT GRADING STATEMENT: In English Department courses, instructors comment on and grade the quality of writing as well as the quality of ideas being conveyed. *All your writing should be distinguished by correct grammar and punctuation, appropriate diction and syntax, and well-organized paragraphs.*

Grades given conform to the English Department and university grading policy. The Department of English is committed to the differential grading scale as defined in the official SJSU Catalog (“The Grading System”). Grades issued must represent a full range of student performance: A = excellent; B = above average; C = average; D = below average; F = failure.

Creative writing, though subject to the instructor's individual interpretation, can be evaluated according to general standards used to determine how well a piece of writing “works.” These include: 1) Textual and/or technical competence and eloquence. 2) Imaginative risk. 3) Energy and freshness of language. 4) Effective use of metaphor and other forms of figurative language. 5) Clarity and precision of detail. 6) Capacity for mixed feelings and uncertainty. 7) Effective use of grammar, syntax, rhythm; also meter, rhyme, and other elements of poetic style and form. 8) Naturalness and believability. 9) Appropriateness of style to subject. 10) Compelling audience interest. *Note: Grammar and mechanics are key to developing one’s written craft, since the author him/herself is aware of the deliberate choices he/she must make from a grammar and mechanics level. Poor grammar and mechanics, attempted to be masked as stylistic choices, without the necessary growth, will negatively impact your overall grade.*

The following grading will apply: A+ (100-97), A (96-94%), A- (93-90%), B+ (89-87%), B (86-84%), B- (83-80%), C+ (79-77%), C (76-73%), C- (73-70%), D+ (69-67%), D (66-63%), D- (63-60%), F (0-59%)... *Note: I do not, under any circumstances, round up.*

About Absences/Make-up Work/Late Work:

Homework: If you are absent when homework is due, that work can be submitted by a classmate/friend. Do not email me homework. If you cannot pass on your work to a classmate, the homework is due in my office hours by the next class day. If you do not turn in the work during my office hours, the work will not be accepted and counted as a “0”. Also, if *any* homework is assigned (i.e. an addendum to what is on the syllabus) while you are absent, plan on contacting a classmate. Do not contact me.

Quizzes: If you are absent on a quiz day, the quiz *can* be made up. You must, however, make-up the quiz the day of the next class day you are present. In other words, if you are absent on a Tuesday, you must make-up the quiz during my office hours on Thursday and vice versa. No exceptions! For multiple quiz-day absences, you will need to make time to meet with me. *Note: Multiple quiz-day absences will result in the forfeiting of quiz grades. In other words, zero points will be awarded.*

Poetry, Fiction, Nonfiction, and Drama Drafts: If you are absent on an assigned creative work’s due date (the date you are scheduled to turn in the essay), the essay must be either passed on to a classmate/friend or emailed (by the class’s start time) to me. My receiving via email is only confirmation that you have completed the assignment. Upon your next class day’s return, you *must* print out the assignment and turn it in during my office hours. You must make time to sit with me, during which I will leave comments on

the assignment. Allot at least 10 minutes for this process. *Note: Multiple absences on assignment turn-in days will result in significant grade reductions.*

Workshop/Peer Review Day: You are expected to be present, having read and commented on your peers' work, as they will do for your work. If you are absent on a workshop day, you must return your peers' work, along with the formal peer review write-up. If you do not turn in the peer review write-up on time, you can receive no higher than an 80% on the assignment. The assignment, however, if poorly completed, can in fact receive as low as an 0/F. *Note: Multiple absences on workshop days will result in significant grade reductions on your peer reviews.*

Revised Drafts for Grade: If you are absent the day a revised creative work is due, you must either send the assignment with a classmate/friend or email the assignment to me by the class period's start time (9:00 a.m.). Failure to promptly email the assignment to me will result in a grade reduction, typically five percentage points off the final assigned grade. So, if your poem, story, or essay received a 90% but was late, the grade will drop to an 85%. *Note: For assignments that are not submitted/emailed on the due date, the assignment must be printed out and submitted at the start of class the next class period. An additional five percentage points (totaling 10% points) will be deducted from your final assigned grade. *Note: Multiple absences on turn-in days will result in significant grade reductions.*

Multimodal Presentations: Absences on presentation days will negatively impact your grade. If you are absent the day a presentation is due, the presentation, along with its write-up, must be emailed to me no later than the class period's start time (i.e. 9:00 a.m.). Since two days will be allotted for presentations, if you were scheduled to submit the second/final day of presentations and are absent, a 10% grade reduction will occur. If you miss both presentation days and do not submit all presentation materials, you must visit my office hours, where I will make the necessary decision regarding grading. *Note: Multiple absences on presentation days will result in significant grade reductions.*

The Final Exam/Class Reading: You must be present. If you are not present, you will fail the class!

“University Policies: Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs **maintains university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc.”**

You may find all syllabus related University Policies and resources information listed on GUP's [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

*Below are a couple policies which must be strictly adhered to in this class.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf), <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course:

- “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your

private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”

- It is suggested that the Greensheet include the instructor’s process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
- In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

Academic integrity: PLAGIARISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

English 71: Fall 2016

Course Schedule

Note: I will teach to your needs. This schedule is subject to change. When the need arises, I will make the necessary amendments to this schedule. Updates to homework, quizzes, presentations, and essay due dates will occur at least a class period before the newly revised due date, via in-class verbal notification and via a Canvas reminder message.

Week	Date	Topics and Due Dates	Next Class Period's Readings/Homework and Assigned Essays
1	Th 8/25	*Scansion Exercise Course introductions Syllabus Review Student Introductions	Buy Textbook Complete Scansion Exercise- HW#1 Read <i>Imaginative Writing/IW</i> 298-306 and complete rhyming exercise (Directions via Canvas)
2	T 8/30	Scansion Exercise Due! Read/View Italian & Shakespearian Sonnets Formal Poetry: Format, Meter, and Rhyme Scheme	Study for Quiz #1
2	Th 9/1	Quiz #1 Rhyme Scheme exercise Grammar & Mechanics in Poetry More Sonnet Talk Read and Discuss <i>IW</i> Ch. 3 "Voice" Meter and Rhyme in Music Directions	Complete Meter and Rhyme in Music Presentation + Write-up Email Presentation to Prof. Mouton + Print out reflective write-up
3	T 9/6	Begin Meter Presentations	Breathe....
3	Th 9/8	Complete Meter Presentations	Complete Italian or Shakespearian Sonnet Print Copies
4	T 9/13	Sonnet Workshop! <i>And...</i> Introduction to the Villanelle: "The Story We Know"-Collins; "The Grammar Lesson"- Kowitz and "One Art"-Bishop	Complete Peer Review #1

Week	Date	Topics and Due Dates	Next Class Period's Readings/Homework and Assigned Essays
4	Th 9/15	Peer Review #1 Due! *Sonnets returned w/comments Meter, Rhyme, the Clause + Simile and Metaphor Read "Do not go Gentle into that Good Night"- Dylan Thomas and "The Waking"- Roethke	Complete Villanelle Draft Print Copies <i>And...</i> Bring Sonnet Draft + laptop/tablet
5	T 9/20	Villanelle Workshop <i>And...</i> Work on sonnet revisions/conference w/Prof. Mouton	Bring laptop/tablet + villanelle draft
5	Th 9/22	"Grammar Excursion" + Enjambment and the caesura	Complete Sonnet for Grade Bring laptop/tablet
6	T 9/27	Sonnet Due! *Villanelle's Returned w/comments Work on villanelle revisions/conference w/Prof. Mouton	Begin Revising Villanelle <i>And...</i> Complete HW#2 Exercise 4.1 (<i>IW</i> 97) + Read Baldwin's "Sonny's Blues" (provided via Canvas) and complete short reflective write-up (TBD)
6	Th 9/29	HW#2 Due! Homework Share-outs Introduction to Fiction: Read "Eleven" by Sandra Cisneros Discuss Point of View/Perspective Conflict vs. Plot	Complete Villanelle for Grade
7	T 10/4	Final Revised Villanelle Due! Read from <i>IW</i> Ch. 4 "Character" + Methods of Presentation exercise... and Story and Setting	Complete 1 st Person story Sketch HW #3 (300- 500 words) Print Copy
7	Th 10/6	HW#3 Due! Homework Share-outs Methods of Presentation... Authorial Interpretation	Complete 3 rd Person story Sketch HW#4 (300- 500 words pages) Bring laptop/tablet

Week	Date	Topics and Due Dates	Next Class Period's Readings/Homework and Assigned Essays
8	T 10/11	HW#4 Due! Begin Drafting Short Story/conference w/Prof. Mouton	Complete short story Draft (500-700 words) Print Copies
8	Th 10/13	Workshop! <i>And...</i> Introduction to Free Verse Poetry: Speaker/Persona, "The Poetic Line" from <i>IW</i>	Complete Peer Review #2 <i>And...</i> Continue revising short story draft
9	T 10/18	Peer Review #2 Due! Read "Facing It" from <i>IW</i> + "Oranges" + "The Portrait" Discuss <i>IW</i> Ch. 2 "Image"	Complete Short Story for Grade (500-1500 words) <i>And...</i> Bring laptop/tablet
9	Th 10/20	Short Story Due! Image-Brainstorm Begin work on Self-Portrait Poem and Place Poem	Complete Self-Portrait Poem and Place Poem Drafts Print Copies!
10	T 10/25	Workshop!	Breathe...
10	Th 10/27	Simile and Metaphor in-class exercise(s) Introduction to Exphrasis	Complete Exphrastic Poem + Presentation + Reflective Write-up
11	T 11/1	Return Free verse poems w/comments Begin Ekphrastic Poem presentations	Breathe... <i>And...</i> Begin Revising free verse poems
11	Th 11/3	Complete Ekphrastic Poem presentations	Continue revising Free verse poems Bring laptops/tables
12	T 11/8	Free verse poem conferencing w/Prof. Mouton	Complete Free Verse poem revisions for Grade

Week	Date	Topics and Due Dates	Next Class Period's Readings/Homework and Assigned Essays
12	Th 11/10	Free Verse Poems Due! Read "Under the Influence" Introduction to Creative Nonfiction: See <i>IW</i> Ch. 8 + Scene, Summary, and Reflection	Complete Personal Essay Sketch HW#5 (300-500 words) Print Copies
13	T 11/15	Personal Essay Sketch Due! + Personal Essay Share-outs Discuss Point of View: Where Does "I" Stand	Breathe... <i>And...</i> Bring laptop/tablet
13	Th 11/17	Begin Drafting Personal Essay + Conference w/Prof. Mouton	Complete Personal Essay Draft (500-600 words) And... Complete Literary Event Write-up #1
14	T 11/22	Personal Essay Drafts Due! Literary Event Write-up #1 Due! Introduction to Experimental Project... Drama...	Breathe...
14	Th 11/24	No Class!	Happy Thanksgiving!
15	T 11/29	Return Personal Essay w/comments	Print out Personal Essay Copies
15	Th 12/1	Personal Essay Workshop!	Complete Peer Review #3 + Begin Experimental Project <i>And...</i> Bring laptop/tablet
16	T 12/6	Peer Review #3 Due! Work on Experimental Project	Complete Experimental Project!
16	Th 12/8	Begin Experimental Project presentations	Complete Personal Essay Revisions (500-1500 words) for Grade
17	T 12/13	Personal Essay Due! Complete Experimental Project Presentations	Prepare for Final in-class reading Complete Literary Event Write-up #2

Week	Date	Topics and Due Dates	Next Class Period's Readings/Homework and Assigned Essays
Final	F 12/16 7:15-9:30	Literary Event Write-up#2 Due! Final Class Reading Clark 306!	Happy Holidays!

Fall 2016 Important Dates

Wednesday, August 24	First day of Instruction
Monday, September 5	Labor day - Campus Closed
Tuesday, September 6	Last day to Drop a Class without a "W" grade
Tuesday, September 13	Last day to Add Last day to submit Audit option(PDF) Last day to submit Credit/No Credit grading option(PDF) Last day to submit Instructor Drops(PDF)
Wednesday, September 21	Enrollment Census Date
Saturday, October 1	Spring/Summer 2017 Graduation Application deadline for Undergraduate students (for 1 semester priority registration) Fall 2017 Graduation Application deadline for Undergraduate students (for 2 semester priority registration)
Friday, November 11	Veterans Day - Campus Closed
Thursday, November 17	Last Day to Withdraw - Withdrawal from the Semester Request on AARS website
Thursday, November 24 - Friday, November 25	Thanksgiving Holidays - Campus Closed

Monday, December 12	Last day of Instruction
Tuesday, December 13	Faculty Web Access for Fall Grade Posting Opens at 8am
Wednesday-Friday, December 14-16 & Monday-Tuesday, December 19-20	Final Exams (Exam Schedule)
Friday, December 23	Fall 2016 Grades Due from Faculty (Preliminary Deadline)
Saturday, December 24	Fall 2016 Grades Viewable on MySJSU(HTML)
Tuesday, December 27 – Tuesday, January 24	Winter Recess
Monday, December 26	Holiday observed - Campus Closed