

San José State University
Department of English and Comparative Literature
English 71, Introduction to Creative Writing (23501), Section 07, Spring 2017

Instructor: Tommy Mouton, MFA, **Office Location:** Faculty Offices (FOB) 112, **Telephone:** (408) 924-4479, **Email:** tommy.mouton@sjsu.edu, **Office Hours:** MW 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m., and by appointment **Class Days/Time:** MW 12:00 p.m.-1:15 p.m. **Classroom Location:** Sweeney Hall 411

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:

There are no required textbooks for this class. Most class reading materials will be loaded to Canvas "Files." Some reading materials, however, may be directly accessed from online sites. Directions on when and where to access specific reading materials will be provided.

Other Reading Materials:

Class readings will often come from (but are not limited to) the texts below:

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

The Poet's Companion: A Guide to the Pleasures of Writing Poetry-Addonizio and Laux

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.

Class Materials:

One Journal Notebook/Binder

Pens and Pencils

Stapler

Highlighters

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/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 or Villanelle and Free Verse Poem	200	2 poems @ 100 points per	1, 2, 4-6, 10	1, 3
Fiction: Short Story (1 st /3 rd Person)	100	4-8 pages; Choose preferred POV	1, 2, 4-6, 10	1, 3
Creative Nonfiction: Personal Essay/Memoir	100	4-8 pages	1, 2, 4-6, 10	1-3
Presentations: Meter and Rhyme in music and Experimental Project	100	2 presentations + write-ups @ 50 points per	4, 5, 9, 10	3-5
Peer Reviews	100	4 total assignments @ 25 points per	1-5, 7-9	1, 3, 5
Homework and Quizzes	200	4 homework assignments @ 25 points per and 4 quizzes @ 25 points per	1-10	1-5
Literary Event + Write-up	100	2 event write-ups @ 50 points per	1-3, 5, 7, 9	3, 4
Final Class Reading	100	All lectures, class readings, etc.	4, 5, 9, 10	3-5
	1000 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. Email is *only confirmation* that you have completed the assignment. Upon your next class day’s return, you *must*, however, 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 a 0. *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 (12:00 p.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 (including the final class reading) will negatively impact your grade. If you are absent the day a presentation is due, the presentation, along with its write-up, must be loaded to the Canvas Discussion by the class period's start time (i.e. 12:00 p.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 university 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: Spring 2017

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	In-Class Topics and Due Dates	Next Class Period's Readings/Homework and Assigned Essays
1	M 1/30	Course introductions Syllabus Review Student Introductions	View Canvas "Discussions" and Attach response document + Literary Event Link + One or two questions you have about the syllabus (or the class in general)
2	W 2/1	Scansion HW#1 Due! Introduction to Formal Poetics Read formal poems Discuss Meter (Stressed vs. Unstressed) + Phonics Rules	Complete Scansion HW #1
2	M 2/6	Scansion HW#1 Due! Discuss HW#1 + Complete Meter/Syllable + Rhyme Exercise <i>And...</i> Literary Devices	Bring laptop/tablet
3	W 2/8	Introduction to Meter and Rhyme in Music Project <i>And...</i> Begin working on Project	Complete Meter and Rhyme in Music Digital Project + Reflective Write-up Post Project to Canvas "Discussion" Print out Reflective Write-up
3	M 2/13	Meter and Rhyme in Music Digital Project Due! Prepare for Quiz #1 <i>And...</i> Take Quiz #1	<i>Breathe...</i>
4	W 2/15	Begin Meter and Rhyme in Music Presentations	<i>Breathe...</i>
4	M 2/20	Complete Meter and Rhyme in Music Presentations	Bring laptop

Week	Date	In-Class Topics and Due Dates	Next Class Period's Readings/Homework and Assigned Essays
5	W 2/22	Sonnet vs. Villanelle Begin Drafting Formal Poem: Sonnet or Villanelle	Continue drafting Sonnet or Villanelle for Workshop
5	M 2/27	Intro. to Workshop Etiquette Intro. to Peer Review Sonnet/Villanelle conferencing w/Prof. Mouton	Complete Sonnet or Villanelle for Workshop <i>And...</i> Print out Copies for Prof. Mouton and peers (Groups to be assigned by Prof. Mouton)
6	W 3/1	Workshop! <i>And...</i> Peer Review Reminders	Complete Formal Poem Peer Review #1 Print Out Peer Reviews (for Prof. Mouton and for Peers) And... Study for Quiz #2
6	M 3/6	Peer Reviews Due! <i>And...</i> Quiz #2 <i>And...</i> Read more Sonnet(s) and Villanelle(s)	<i>Breathe...</i>
7	W 3/8	Formal Poems Returned w/Prof. Mouton's Comments Introduction to Revision <i>And...</i> Sonnet/Villanelle Conferencing w/Prof. Mouton	Begin Revising Formal Poem <i>And...</i> Bring laptop/tablet
7	M 3/13	Introduction to Fiction (1 st POV vs. 3 rd POV) + Methods of Presentation <i>And...</i> Work on Formal Poem	Complete Sonnet or Villanelle (<i>for Grade</i>) and Bring laptop/tablet
8	W 3/15	Sonnet/Villanelle Due! Begin Brainstorming 1 st person flash story	Complete 1 st person story (no more than 500 words)... HW#2

Week	Date	In-Class Topics and Due Dates	Next Class Period's Readings/Homework and Assigned Essays
8	M 3/20	Debrief 1 st person story w/Prof. Mouton <i>And...</i> Brainstorm 3 rd Person story	Complete 3 rd person story (no more than 500 words)... HW#3
9	W 3/22	Debrief 3 rd person story w/Prof. Mouton <i>And...</i> Literary Event Reminder	Breathe... Enjoy Spring Break
9	M 3/27	No Class!	Enjoy Spring Break!
10	W 3/29	No Class!	Enjoy Spring Break <i>And...</i> Bring laptop/tablet
10	M 4/3	Fiction (Re-introduction) + (Conflict vs. Plot) exercise <i>And...</i> Decide on 1 st Person or 3 rd Person story for grade + Begin drafting	Draft 1 st person <i>or</i> 3 rd person story (no more than 4 double-spaced pages) Print out Story Drafts for Workshop... Groups to be assigned + Bring laptop/tablet
11	W 4/5	Fiction Workshop! <i>And...</i> Begin drafting peer Review	Complete Peer Review #2 Print out Peer Review (for Prof. Mouton and Peer) <i>And...</i> Study for Quiz #3
11	M 4/10	Peer Review #2 Due! <i>And...</i> Quiz #3 <i>And...</i> Introduction to Free Verse Poetry + Read examples + Brainstorm	Draft Free Verse Poem + Print Free Verse Copies for Workshop

Week	Date	In-Class Topics and Due Dates	Next Class Period's Readings/Homework and Assigned Essays
12	W 4/12	Return Short Story w/Comments + Debrief <i>And...</i> Free Verse Workshop	Complete Peer Review #3 <i>And...</i> Continue revising Short Story <i>And...</i> Bring laptop/tablet
12	M 4/17	Peer Review #3 Due! Return Free Verse poems w/comments <i>And...</i> Work on Free Verse Poem	Revise short story <i>And...</i> Revise Free Verse Poem
13	W 4/19	Work on Short Story + Conference w/Prof. Mouton	Complete final revised short story (4-8 pages)... <i>for Grade</i> Print out short story
13	M 4/24	Short Story Due! Introduction to Creative Nonfiction: Personal Essay and Memoir... (Scene, Summary, Reflection) + Where Does "I" Stand	Complete Free Verse Poem... <i>for Grade</i> <i>And...</i> Bring laptop/tablet
14	W 4/26	Free Verse Poem Due! <i>And...</i> Personal Essay/Memoir Brainstorm/In-class Collage (HW#4)	Draft Personal Essay/Memoir (2-4 pages)
14	M 5/1	Personal Essay/Memoir Draft Due! <i>And...</i> Workshop!	Complete Peer Review #4 <i>And...</i> Study for Quiz #4
15	W 5/3	Return Personal Essay w/Comments + Conferencing w/Prof. Mouton <i>And...</i> Quiz #4 + Introduction to Experimental Project	Begin Revising Personal Essay/Memoir <i>And...</i> Complete Experimental Project + Reflective write-up + Load experimental project to Canvas Discussion

Week	Date	In-Class Topics and Due Dates	Next Class Period's Readings/Homework and Assigned Essays
15	M 5/8	Experimental Project Due! Begin Experimental Project Presentations	<i>Breathe...</i> Bring laptops/tablet
16	W 5/10	Continue Experimental Project presentations <i>And...</i> Work on Personal Essay/Memoir + Conference w/Prof. Mouton	Complete final revised personal essay/memoir (4-8 pages)
16	M 5/15	Personal Essay/Memoir Due! <i>And...</i> Complete Experimental Project Presentations <i>And...</i> Final Class Reading Clarifications	Choose work/genre to read And... Print Out Copy of Poem, Story, Essay (To be Ready @ Final Reading)
Final	T 5/23	Final Class Reading + Reception Sweeney 411 @ 9:45 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.	Have a Great Summer!

Spring 2017 Important Dates

Monday, January 2	New Year's Day - Campus Closed
Tuesday, January 3	Winter 2017 First day of instruction
Monday, January 9	Excess Units Petition for Spring'17 available on Forms' page
Friday, January 13	Enrollment Unit Cap increase to 19 for Students with Good Academic Standing

Tuesday, January 24 - Wednesday, January 25	No Registration Activity
Monday, January 16	Dr. Martin Luther King Day - Campus Closed
Friday, January 20	Winter 2017 Last day of instruction
Monday, January 23	Winter 2017 Grades due from faculty
Tuesday, January 24	Winter 2017 Grades viewable on MySJSU
Thursday, January 26	First day of Instruction for Spring semester
Thursday, January 26 - Tuesday, February 14	Late Registration for Spring semester. Registration via MySJSU starting after 7am
Tuesday, February 7	Last day to Drop a Class without a "W" grade. To Drop a class after this date, Late Drop petition will be required. See AARS's petition page .
Tuesday, February 14	Last day to Add via MySJSU online and without a Petition & Late fee Last day to submit Audit option(PDF) Last day to submit Credit/No Credit grading option(PDF) Last day to submit Instructor Drops(PDF) To add a class after this date, Late Enrollment Pre-Census petition(PDF) will be required.
Wednesday, February 22	Enrollment Census Date for Spring. To add a class after this date, Late Enrollment Post-Census petition(PDF) will be required.
Monday, March 27 - Friday, March 31	Spring Recess - no classes
Friday, March 31	Cesar Chavez Day - Campus Closed
Wednesday, April 26	Last Day to Withdraw for Spring - Withdrawal from the Semester Request on AARS website

	Last Day to submit a Late Enrollment Petition for Post-Census Requests(PDF) for current term
Tuesday, May 16	Last day of Instruction for Spring
Wednesday, May 17	Faculty Web Access for Spring Grade Posting Opens at 8am
Thursday-Friday, May 18-19 & Monday-Wednesday, May 22-24	Spring's Final Exams (see Exam Schedule)
Saturday, May 27	Commencement
Monday, May 29	Memorial Day - Campus Closed
Tuesday, May 30	Spring 2017 Grades Due from Faculty (Preliminary Deadline)
Wednesday, May 31	Initial Spring 2017 Grades Viewable on MySJSU(HTML)
Monday, June 5	Deadline to Clear Spring 2015 Incomplete Grades Spring 2017 Grades Due from Faculty (Final Deadline). Grade Roster will be Closed at 11:59pm.
Monday, June 12	Academic Standing Viewable on MySJSU - unofficial transcript(HTML)