

San José State University
Department of English & Comparative Literature
ENGL 71: Introduction to Creative Writing, Section 07, Spring 2019

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Joseph Navarro	Course Management Page and Canvas Messaging Course materials such as announcements, messages from the instructor, syllabus, handouts, notes, and assignment instructions can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. Use this PDF to assist with setting up messages to your phone and personal email: http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/docs/Canvas-Student-Quick-Guide.pdf
Office Location:	FOB 220	
Email:	Joseph.navarro@sjsu.edu	
Office Hours:	Monday and Wednesday : 11:00 am – 1:00 pm	Textbook <i>From Totems to Hip Hop: A Multicultural Anthology of Poetry Across the Americas, 1900-200.</i> Ed. Ishmael Reed. Da Capo P: New York. 2002 (ISBN: 9781560254584) <i>Words Without Borders: The World Through the Eyes of Writers.</i> Ed. Schnee, Samantha, Alane Salierno Mason, & Dedi Felman. Knopf Doubleday P: New York. 2007 (ISBN: 9781400079759) Other Readings Located on Canvas
Class Days/Time:	Monday and Wednesday : 1:30 pm – 2:45 pm	
Classroom:	Boccardo Business Center 124	
Other technology requirements / equipment / material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composition Book or Notepad • Flash Drive / Cloud Storage / Personal Email Account (3 save points) • Internet Access • Laptop or Desktop Computer (there are also several computer labs on campus) 	

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, we will read and write poetry, creative non-fiction, and short fiction. The course will be taught using a combination of discussion, exercises and writing workshops. In the discussion, we will closely read and analyze published works of creative writing. In the writing workshops, you will analyze and critique the creative work of fellow class members. At the end of the semester, each of you will produce a portfolio of work.

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): Core General Education requirements in the Letters area of Humanities & the Arts

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

ENGL 71 Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, you are expected to spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on.

All written work must...

- ...be submitted to the correct folder on the SJSU Canvas portal for this course.
- ...be fully formatted according to MLA standards.
- ...meet the minimum word count to be considered for full credit.

In Class Assignments (30 points each):

We will undertake a number of writing assignments pertaining to readings, videos, podcasts, and other forms of media. Students may write their work in class and submit later that night. All work, both in and out of class, must be submitted to its proper assignment folder on Canvas.

Critical Responses (30 points each | 4 x 500):

You will write (4), 500 word Critical Responses based on readings from the text. See the assignment guidelines on Canvas for grading criteria for the responses.

Attend Poetry Reading or Literary Event, Complete Critical Response (50 points each | 2 x 500):

Attend a poetry reading, or other literary event at the University. Then, complete (2 x 500) critical responses detailing the event. See the following resources for event listings and times.

- Center for Literary Arts at SJSU, www.litart.org
- Poetry Center San Jose, <http://www.pcsj.org/calendar.html>
- English Department Events, <http://www.sjsu.edu/english/events>
- Bay Area Literary Events, <http://www.livesv.com/categories/index/6/0/LITERATURE>
- Kepler's Bookstore, Menlo Park, <http://www.keplers.com/premier>
- Northern CA literary events including the Bay Area Active, <http://poetryflash.org/>

Final Creative Manuscript (100 points):

This will be a collection of your writing assignments, 10-15 pages in length, plus a 700-word artistic statement for the creative manuscript. See handout on grading criteria for final manuscript.

- 4-5 pages Fiction
- 4-5 pages Non Fiction
- 8-10 pages Poetry

Formatting Requirement – Automatic Point Reduction

- (- 10) under minimum word count, additional (-10) if under 50% of count
- (- 5) per MLA/APA/CMS section– Heading / Body / Work Cited

Peer Review Response (30 points each | 2 x 250):

Students will be required to submit two peer review responses for each essay. During the workshop session for each draft, students should take notes and record feedback. Students will then write two, 250 word responses to their peer's essay that was shared during the workshop.

Grading Policy

Student's must receive a "C-" or higher in order to pass this course. The department's standard grading scheme consists of the following: Requirements for particular assignments will vary, but in all cases essay grades will reflect the paper's effectiveness, which is broken down into three major areas: content (this includes maturity and sophistication of thought), organization, and expression.

1. "A" range work is organized and well-developed, demonstrating a clear understanding and fulfillment of the assignment, written in a unique and compelling voice. It will show the student's ability to use language effectively with a solid command of grammar, mechanics, and usage.
2. "B" range work demonstrates competence in the same categories as an "A" essay, but it may show slight weakness in one of these areas. It will respond to the topic suitably and may contain some grammatical, mechanical or usage errors.
3. "C" range work will complete the requirements of the assignment, but it will show weaknesses in fundamentals, such as development. It may show weakness in mastery of grammar, mechanics, usage, or voice.
4. "D" range work will neglect to meet all the requirements of the assignment or may be superficial in its treatment of the topic. It may lack development or fail to stay on topic. It may contain grammatical, mechanical, and/or usage errors that interfere with reader comprehension.
5. "F" essay does not fulfill the requirements of the assignment.

Extra credit

- A fourth critical response will be accepted for extra credit. This is option is only available if you have completed the first three critical responses.
- Attendance for 1 additional Poetic event.

Late work

- *Late work is accepted if you reach out to me and communicate the issue at hand. The only way late work will be accepted, past the due date and without communication, is in the case of an emergency. If there is an emergency, you must provide written documentation.*
- There are four units to this course that are centered on each essay. Work that is submitted past its unit, will receive an automatic ten point reduction, per new unit.

Classroom Protocol

Attendance

- San Jose State University mandates, “Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading according to [University Policy F-69-24](#).” At the same time, all of the essays are contextualized through in-class lectures, discussions, activities, and writing. Failure to attend class at over a 20% rate will directly impact your performance in this class.
- You are adults, if you need to leave early or if you arrive late, please do so on your own accord. Later, send me an email and explain what the issue is.

Respect and Participation

- No one has to like anyone, but everyone has to work together.
- Please bring your laptops, tablets and cell phones to class. Keep the volume off on all electronic devices. If you have an emergency, please step outside at your volition.
- If the discussions are not engaging the subject matter, we will switch to in-class writing assignments.

Safety

- In the case of a fire or active harmer situation, we will review the necessary steps to ensure our safety.
 - Note the correct evacuation procedures and exits
 - Understanding the necessary options in the case of an active harmer scenario
 - Run/Hide/Fight

University Policies

University Policies: the link below contains university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc.: <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/index.html>. Additional information, includes:

- Student Technology Resources
- SJSU Peer Connections
- SJSU Writing Center
- SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services

Course Calendar

Calendar is located on Canvas. Note, the instructor reserves the right to make changes to the course syllabus and overall structure, at any point in the semester. Students will be informed directly from the instructor via email and in-class when any adjustments are made.

