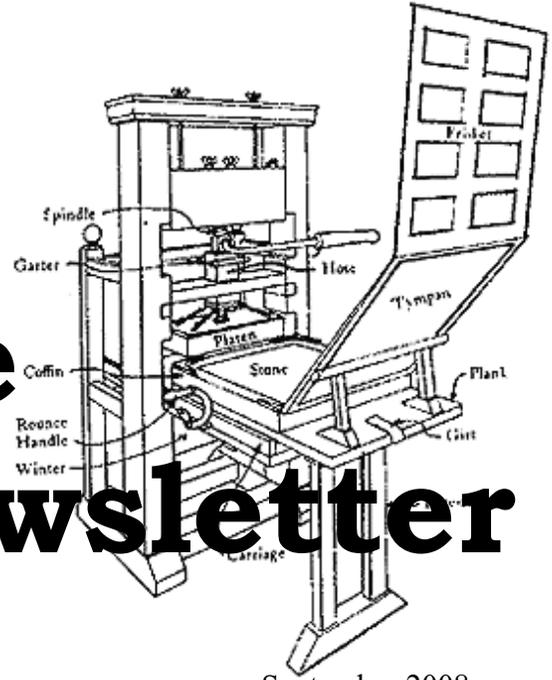


# English Graduate Newsletter



San José State University

Volume XXXXI, Number 1  
Noelle Brada-Williams, MA Advisor

September 2008  
Alan Soldofsky, Director of Creative Writing

## FALL OFFICE HOURS

Professor Brada-Williams' office hours this semester are Monday and Tuesday 2:00-4:00 PM and additional hours by appointment. Phone: 924-4439; email: [Noelle.Brada-Williams@sjsu.edu](mailto:Noelle.Brada-Williams@sjsu.edu). Please feel free to call or to stop by her office (FO 110) if you have any questions about the MA program. MFA students should consult Professor Soldofsky: Office: FO 106: MFA advising hours: Monday through Wednesday 3:00 – 4:30 PM and additional hours by appointment. Phone: 924-4432, email: [soldofsk@email.sjsu.edu](mailto: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 now available on the web at <http://www.sjsu.edu/english/graduate/ma/mafaq.html>.

## DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER 2008 MA AND MFA GRADUATES

September 22 is the last date to file or to reactivate your application (submit form to the Graduate Studies office, 9<sup>th</sup> street Student Services building) for the award of the master's degree in December.

## DEADLINES FOR MAY 2009 MA AND MFA GRADUATES

If you are planning to graduate in May 2009, you should file your official program (the 'Departmental Request for Candidacy' form which can be found at ) before October 1, 2008. (The best policy is to file your program—and be officially Advanced to Candidacy—one year before graduation.) Applications for May 2009 graduation must be filed by February 15, 2009.

## MA COMPREHENSIVE EXAM SCHEDULE

The 2008-2009 MA comprehensive exams will be given the first and second Saturdays in November and the first and second Saturdays in April. This fall, Part 1 will be given November 1, and Part 2 on November 8. In April, Part 1 will be given on April 4 and Part 2 on April 11. Time for all exams is Saturday 9:00 AM to noon and in FO 104 unless otherwise notified. 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).

## MA COMPREHENSIVE EXAM FORMAT

Questions on the first part of the exam cover the reading list to through the 18<sup>th</sup> century and those on the second part cover material from the Romantic period onward. Questions on literary theory may appear 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 will now be 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:

<b>Examiner</b>	<b>email</b>	<b>phone</b>
Professor Trudeau (French):	<a href="mailto:danielle.trudeau@sjsu.edu">danielle.trudeau@sjsu.edu</a>	924-4594
Professor Sabalius (German):	<a href="mailto:Romey.Sabalius@sjsu.edu">Romey.Sabalius@sjsu.edu</a>	924-4616
Professor Eleanor Marsh (Spanish):	<a href="mailto:eleanor.marsh@sjsu.edu">eleanor.marsh@sjsu.edu</a>	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 2009 term, you must get your proposal to the Graduate Committee no later than **Monday, November 3**. Do not wait until the deadline approaches to get started. For guidelines for MFA theses, see Professor Soldofsky. 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 a 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.



## **AWARD WINNING STUDENTS**

Congratulations to **Dan Arnold (MFA)** and **Thomas Hewitt (MA)**, who earned the Mara Steffey Award as Outstanding English Graduate Students for 2006-2007, and to **Alanna Callaway (MA)**, who won the Harvey Birenbaum award for Outstanding Scholarship in the Graduate Program. **Quanie Mitchell** won a national student scriptwriting award from the Broadcast Education Association. Congratulations as well to the graduate students who won awards in last spring's Phelan and other writing contests.

## **TEACHING ASSOCIATES AND GRADUATE ASSISTANTS**

Teaching Associates this year are: Charanya Arjun, Lara Hubel, Ben Jonas, Maria Judnick, Matt McCoy, Tanja Nathanael, Georgia Saratsiotis, Gary Shapiro, Heather Stanger, Mary Williams, and Candice Wynne. Graduate Assistants this year are: Vince Bergamo, Josh Cembellin, Gayle Lubeck, Jesse Martin, Tommy Mouton, David Wirth, and Gary Wong. Congratulations to all!

## **GRADUATE COURSES**

At least 21 of the 30 units of classes required for the MA program should be 200-numbered English courses. Upper-division English coursework (100 level) may count 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. The eleven MA and MFA courses planned for Spring 2009 are 202 (Soldofsky), 204 (Brada-Williams), 208 (Krishnaswamy), 211 (Maio), 226 (Cox), 233 (Wilson), 240 (Lurie Chair Sandra Gilbert), 241 (Taylor), 254 (Douglass), 255 (Shillinglaw), and 257 (Gabor). Also note that there will be undergraduate courses in medieval literature and creative nonfiction offered in the Spring. Offerings for Fall 2009 should again include 201, 201C, 240, 241, 242, and 259. We also hope, dependent on funding, to offer 5-7 of the following courses in Fall 2009: 203, 216, 217, 227, 230, 1-2 American courses, and 256.

## **CONDITIONALLY CLASSIFIED GRADUATE STUDENTS**

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. Important dates and other useful information may also be posted on the **English Graduate Bulletin Board** in the first-floor hall of the Faculty Office Building. New information will be posted as we receive it. The number of conferences open only to graduate student presenters is growing, and these represent an excellent opportunity to get your work before a larger audience and to begin to participate actively in the scholarly community. We will post the announcements for these and other conferences on the Graduate Bulletin Board



and on the department's list server. Check the submission dates and keep these in mind as you write your seminar papers. You should also note that the annual convention of the Modern Language Association (MLA), the largest professional organization of literature scholars, is meeting in San Francisco this year from December 27-30. Student registration and membership discounts are available. Program descriptions, course descriptions, the current 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**

### **2008:**

- Sept. 22:** Deadline for December graduates to file their applications (or reactivation forms) for graduation at the Graduate Studies Office, 9<sup>th</sup> Street Student Services Center.
- Sept. 30:** Deadline for December graduates to submit MFA thesis to second and third readers.
- 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 2009 graduates to sign up to take the MFA Exam. (Also December 2008 graduates who have not passed the exam or have received the Advisor's permission to take it.)
- Oct. 24:** Deadline to sign up for MA exam part 1 by submitting a completed reading-self survey (see the online guidelines).
- Nov. 1:** MA comprehensive exam, Part 1, FO 104, 9-noon (also last day to sign up for MA exam part 2).
- Nov. 3:** Deadline to submit thesis or project proposals (for Spring 2009 299 units) to the English Department Graduate Committee.
- Nov. 7:** MFA comprehensive exam distributed (9:00 AM).
- Nov. 8:** MA comprehensive exam, Part 2, FO 104, 9-noon.
- Nov. 10:** MFA comprehensive exam due (5:00 PM).
- Nov. 13:** Deadline for December graduates to submit signed theses to the Graduate Studies Office.

### **2009:**

- Jan. 16:** Deadline for December 2009 graduates to submit thesis copies for binding to Graduate Studies Office.
- Feb. 15:** Deadline for May 2009 graduates to submit application for award of Master's Degree to the Graduate Studies Office.
- April 5:** Deadline for May 2009 graduates to submit signed theses to the Graduate Studies Office.
- April 3:** MFA comprehensive exam distributed (9:00 AM).
- April 4:** MA comprehensive exam, Part 1, FO 104, 9-noon.
- April 6:** MFA comprehensive exam due (5:00 PM).
- April 11:** MA comprehensive exam, Part 2, FO 104, 9-noon.

