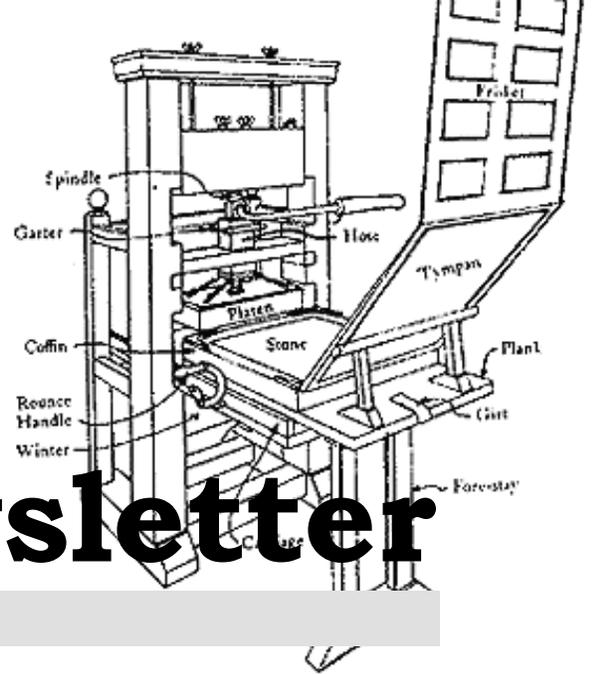


# English Graduate Newsletter



San José State University

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Noelle Brada-Williams, Graduate Coordinator — Alan Soldofsky, Director of Creative Writing

## SPRING OFFICE HOURS

MA students should find Professor Brada-Williams in her office at FO 102 this semester Mondays 1-2 PM, Wednesdays 3:30-4:30, and Friday afternoons and other days by appointment. Phone: 924-4439; email: [Noelle.Brada-Williams@sjsu.edu](mailto:Noelle.Brada-Williams@sjsu.edu). MFA students should consult Professor Soldofsky in FO 106; hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 2:30 to 3:45 PM, and Thursday by appointment; phone: 924-4432; email: [alan.soldofsky@sjsu.edu](mailto:alan.soldofsky@sjsu.edu).

## WELCOME NEW FACULTY!

In addition to Professor Mark Thompson who joined us just last fall in Career Writing, we will have three new faculty members next year including a new Chair. Professor Shannon Miller, a former English Department Chair from Temple University, will become the chair of our department in the fall. Her most recent book is *Engendering the Fall: John Milton and Seventeenth-Century Women Writers*. She has also written on a variety of authors from Shakespeare to Aphra Behn. She will be teaching English 224, Early Modern Literature, in the fall on Tuesdays at 4 PM. Professor Thomas Moriarty will be joining us as the new WAC (Writing Across the Curriculum) Director for SJSU. He will be rotating with the new Writing Program Administrator in the teaching of English 259. His publications include *What we are Becoming: Developments in Undergraduate Writing Majors* (2010) and *Finding the Words: A Rhetorical History of South Africa's Transformation from Apartheid to Democracy* (2003). Professor Richard McNabb will be joining us as the Writing Program Administrator and will teach English 259 on the Pedagogy of Composition on Thursdays at 4 PM next fall. He will also oversee the TA program. His publications include work on both medieval and contemporary rhetoric, including thirteenth-century Spanish letters and contemporary "Graduate Student Submissions and the Expectations of Journal Referees."

## PROGRAM APPROVAL DEADLINE: DECEMBER GRADUATES

If you are planning to graduate in December of 2014, and you have not filed your approved program (i.e. been formally advanced to candidacy) you should see your advisor immediately. Remember, you need to file your program nearly *two* semesters before you plan to graduate. (The best policy is to file your program one full year before graduation. It is always possible to file revisions to the list of courses you plan to complete.) Find the "Petition for Advancement to Graduate Candidacy" form at the GAPE Current Students Forms website: [http://www.sjsu.edu/gape/current\\_students/forms/](http://www.sjsu.edu/gape/current_students/forms/). The advertised university deadline is April 1 for December graduates.

## PROPOSED FALL 2014 GRADUATE COURSES

We plan to offer 9 graduate courses in Fall 2014. These will include:

201: Methods and Materials of Literary Research	M 7-9:45 PM
201C: Methods and Materials of Literary Production	M 7-9:45 PM
224: Early Modern Literature	T 4-6:45 PM
233: Victorian Literature	W 7-9:45 PM
240: Poetry Writing Workshop	M 4-6:45 PM
241: Fiction Writing Workshop	W 4-6:45 PM
242: Nonfiction Writing Workshop	Th 7-9:45 PM
255: Race and Identity in American Literature	T 7-9:45 PM
259: Composition Theory and Pedagogy	Th 4-6:45 PM

## VERY TENTATIVE LIST OF SPRING 2015

We hope to offer nine course in the Spring, including:

- 208 Comparative Literature
- 228 Seminar in Genre Studies: Comedy
- 232 Romanticism
- 240: Poetry Writing Workshop
- 241: Fiction Writing Workshop
- 242: Nonfiction Writing Workshop
- 255 Thematic Studies in American Literature
- 257 History of Rhetoric
- 292 Beowulf

## MA COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS

Please note that the next round of MA Comprehensive exams to be given on the first and second Saturdays of the Fall 2014 semester. Fall 2014 instruction begins on August 25th. Thus the Fall MA Exam Part One (pre-1800) will be offered on Saturday August 30<sup>th</sup> and the Fall MA Exam Part Two (the post-1800 section) will be offered on September 6th. Time and place for both exams is **9:00 AM to 12:30** in **SH 229**. Following our successful exams this Spring, we will be using our department computer lab equipped with PC's for the exams. Please let Professor Brada-Williams know by August 15<sup>th</sup> at the latest if you plan to take either or both parts of the exams. She will then issue you an identification number which will be used for the exam(s) you take. If you have not already done so, she will ask you to fill out the self-inventory of your reading in various fields and show it to her when you sign up (via email or in person). Please plan on taking Spring 2015 MA exams on January 31st (part 1) and February 7th (part 2). The entire reading list and the form to fill out your own inventory of your reading can be found by clicking on "guidelines" at <http://www.sjsu.edu/english/graduate/ma/macomps.html>.

## MFA COMPREHENSIVE EXAM

If you plan to graduate in Fall 2014 or Spring 2015, you should consult your thesis director about taking the Fall Exam. The Fall MFA Comprehensive Exam will be distributed on **Friday, September 26, at 9:00 AM** and is due on **Monday, September 29, at 5 PM**. Sign up to take the Fall 2014 MFA Exam by **May 16** by emailing Prof. Soldofsky your SJSU I.D. number, Primary and Secondary Genre, and Thesis Director's name.

## MA & MFA FOREIGN LANGUAGE EXAMS

Both degree programs require a level of fluency in a second language equivalent to two years of college study of a language. If within five years of filing your program (achieving Candidacy), you have completed the fourth semester (or sixth quarter) of an approved university-level foreign language course sequence with a grade of "B" or better, you have already satisfied this requirement. Please bring that to the attention of your adviser when you file for candidacy. Students who have taken coursework longer than five years previous to filing for candidacy or who have acquired their language skills and knowledge outside of an academic institution can satisfy the foreign language requirement in French, German, or Spanish, by taking the following steps:

1. Contact a language advisor (see below) and request authorization to take a foreign language placement test administered in our Media Center.
2. If the placement test results show a level of 4th semester or higher, the student will take a proficiency exam administered by a faculty member in the World Languages department in order to confirm his or her level and discuss a path to improvement, if needed.
3. If placement test results show a lower than 4th semester language level, the student will have to take the appropriate level language course, based on a conversation with the appropriate World Languages faculty member.

<b>Examiner</b>	<b>email</b>	<b>phone</b>
Professor Jean-Luc Desalvo (French)	<a href="mailto:jean-luc.desalvo@sjsu.edu">jean-luc.desalvo@sjsu.edu</a>	924-4620
Professor Romey 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

(it is usually best to call Professor Marsh or meet her in person in office hours)

*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 for more information.

### **GRADUATE ASSISTANT AND TEACHING ASSOCIATE POSITIONS FOR 2014-2015**

Both current MA and MFA students and applicants who are eligible for admission to the program in Fall 2014 are invited to apply to our Teaching Associate and Graduate Assistant positions. New admits to the department and applicants with little or no teaching experience may be assigned as Graduate Assistants for a semester or for a year. They will assist faculty teaching composition courses or large sections of literature courses, or sometimes other duties. Applicants who have served as Graduate Assistants or who have otherwise acquired the necessary experience may be assigned as Teaching Associates. They will usually teach one section of composition, English 1A, under the guidance of the Writing Program Administrator. Graduate Assistants can expect to work an average of 10 hours a week and gross about \$443.50 a month during the course of the academic year. Teaching Associates earn just over \$526 a month. Teaching Associates are also given fee reimbursements which pay for state and campus fees at the California-resident level for up to 6 units per section taught (if the TA is not already covered by a grant for fees). TAs must successfully complete English 259 (the Pedagogy of Composition) during or before their first semester of teaching.

To apply, write to Professor Brada-Williams and submit a résumé, a cover letter which includes your reasons for applying, and two letters of reference from faculty in the department. If you are currently applying for admittance to the program in the Fall, you may use letters from people outside SJSU, preferably faculty who know your undergraduate work or who have supervised you in some kind of employment related to education. Also include your undergraduate GPA in English and a list of any English graduate courses you have taken with the grade you earned in each. All materials should be sent directly to Professor Brada-Williams. **Applications must be received no later than April 1st.** Please note that SJSU's Spring break lasts from March 22nd to March 31st this year. We will conduct interviews during the first and second week of April for 2014-2015 appointments. Appointments are generally for the full academic year and we will not consider applications for TAships again until Spring 2015

### **DEADLINE FOR MA AND MFA THESIS PROPOSALS**

Thesis proposals must come to the Graduate Committee in the semester preceding the semester in which you will enroll for English 299. If you plan to write your thesis in the **Fall 2014** term, you must get your proposal to the Graduate Committee by **April 2nd**. Those planning to write theses in the **Spring 2015 term** will need to get proposals to the committee by **October 24th 2014**. Before you can present your proposal to the committee, you must 1) find a faculty member who will direct your work, 2) see your program coordinator to get a copy of the program's guidelines for developing proposals, and 3) develop

your proposal in consultation with your thesis director/first reader, and 4) show your program coordinator a draft of your proposal and coversheet that has been approved by your director. (MFA students should also propose the names of second and third readers.) Only after you have done all this will you be ready to submit eight copies of your proposal to the committee. All this must be done *before* the deadline. Also note: the committee will be selective in deciding who will be permitted to write an MA thesis, with preference given to students with particularly strong academic records and to proposals that have been carefully prepared.

### **DEADLINE FOR COMPLETING THESES**

English department policy requires that every thesis must be approved by the thesis director, revised according to the director's instructions, and placed in the hands of the second and third readers in plenty of time to meet the Graduate Studies deadline for submission of theses. In Spring 2015 the department expects the revised thesis will be in the hands of the second and/or third readers by **March 1st**. Readers need time to consider your work and you need time to revise it according to their suggestions. Ideally, you should be working closely with the second reader well before this date. Even if you meet the March 1st deadline, required revisions may still be so extensive that they cannot be completed in time to meet the university deadline at the beginning of April. The Fall deadline for submitting completed theses to Graduate Studies is the end of October. *Start early.*

### **CONDITIONALLY CLASSIFIED GRADUATE STUDENTS**

Conditionally classified students must complete required undergraduate course work before enrolling in graduate seminars. A list of upper-division literature courses approved for conditionally classified students is available from Professor Brada-Williams. When you are eligible for classified status, the change is not automatic; see your advisor to file the necessary form ([http://www.sjsu.edu/gape/docs/change\\_classification.pdf](http://www.sjsu.edu/gape/docs/change_classification.pdf)).

### **APPROVED COURSES FOR THE ENGLISH MA AND MFA**

Except for undergraduate courses you have to take if you are a conditionally classified student, most graduate work will consist in 200-numbered English classes. Courses taken outside the department will not count except in unusual circumstances. Get prior approval from your advisor before you take such courses. A limited number of upper-division undergraduate English courses can count towards the degree but you must secure the cooperation of the instructor and notify your graduate advisor of your plans. Again, get approval in advance.

### **PHD APPLICATIONS**

The department would very much like to know about students applying to PhD programs and their success. Please let us know where you are applying and how things are working out. For those of you graduating this May, stopping by the coordinator's office for an informal "exit" interview should be considered a necessary part of your preparations for graduation.

### **KEEP INFORMED**

Please be sure to sign up for the google group for our English Graduate Program. To sign up, send a blank email to: [enggrad-group+subscribe@sjsu.edu](mailto:enggrad-group+subscribe@sjsu.edu). Key information is sent out via the google group that is essential for all MA and MFA students. Program descriptions, course descriptions, the most recent 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)

## IMPORTANT DATES IN 2014-2015

### March 22-March 31st: Spring Break and Cesar Chavez Day

- April 1:** Last day to submit materials for the TA and GA applications for the 2014-2015 school year.
- April 1:** Deadline for December 2014 graduates to submit approved official programs (“Petition for Advancement to Graduate Candidacy”/“Departmental Request for Candidacy Form”) to Graduate Studies.
- April 2:** Deadline to submit thesis proposals (for fall 299 credits) to department Graduate Committee.
- April 4:** Deadline for May graduates to submit approved thesis to Graduate Studies.
- May 16:** Sign-up for the Fall MFA exams with Professor Soldofsky
- May 22:** Department Graduation ceremony and reception at 5:30
- June 6:** Deadline for August 2014 graduates to file or reactivate application for graduation at the Graduate Studies Office.
- June 13:** Last day for May 2014 graduates to submit MA and MFA thesis copies for electronic publication (or embargoing).
- July 1:** Last day for August 2014 graduates to submit approved theses to Graduate Studies.
- Aug. 15:** Sign-up for the MA Comprehensive Exams by this date.
- Aug. 25:** Fall Courses Begin.
- Aug. 30:** MA Comprehensive Exam Part I 9:00 AM in Sweeney Hall 229
- Sept. 6:** MA Comprehensive Exam Part II 9:00 AM in SH 229
- Sept. 12:** Deadline for December 2014 graduates to file or reactivate application for graduation at the Graduate Studies Office.
- Sept. 12:** Last day for August 2014 graduates to submit MA and MFA thesis copies for electronic publication (or embargoing).
- Sept. 26:** MFA Comprehensive Exam distributed electronically (9:00 A.M.)
- Sept. 29:** MFA Comprehensive Exam due (5:00 P.M.)
- Oct. 1:** Deadline for May 2015 graduates to submit candidacy forms to GAPE
- Oct. 24:** Deadline to submit thesis proposals for Spring 2015 299 credits to Grad Committee.
- Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>:** Deadline for December graduates to submit approved thesis to Graduate Studies.
- Jan. 31:** Spring MA Comprehensive Exam Part I 9:00 AM in Sweeney Hall 229
- Feb. 7:** Spring MA Comprehensive Exam Part II 9:00 AM in SH 229

