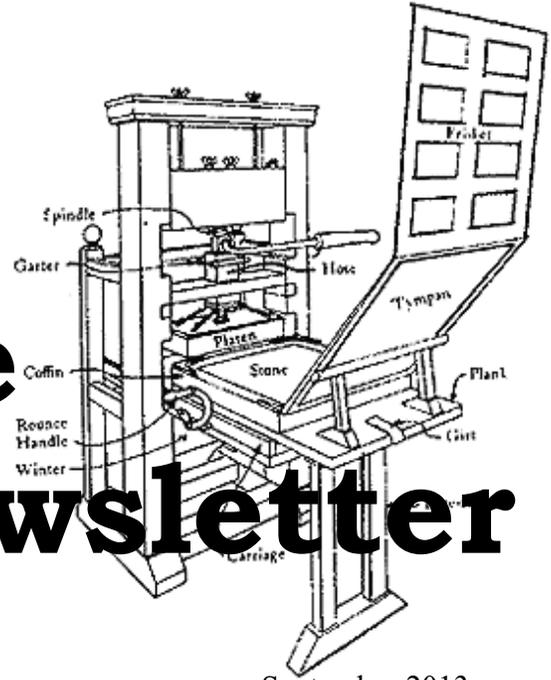


# English Graduate Newsletter



San José State University

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## FALL OFFICE HOURS

MA Advising: Professor Brada-Williams' office hours this semester are Mondays 1 to 2 PM, Tuesdays 1-3 PM,,and Fridays 1-3 PM. Additional times are available by appointment. Please feel free to call or to stop by her office at FO 110. Phone: 924-4439; email: [Noelle.Brada-Williams@sjsu.edu](mailto:Noelle.Brada-Williams@sjsu.edu). Professor Soldofsky's hours are Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday 1:30-2:45 in FO 106. His office phone is 924-4432 and his email is [alan.soldofsky@sjsu.edu](mailto:alan.soldofsky@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 available on the web at <http://www.sjsu.edu/english/graduate/ma/mafaq.html>.

## DEADLINES FOR MAY 2014 MA AND MFA GRADUATES

If you are planning to graduate in May 2014, you should file your official program (the 'Departmental Request for Candidacy' form which can be found at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gape/forms/>) by October 1, 2013. Applications (or reactivations of applications) for May 2014 graduation must be filed by February 14, 2014. These forms can also be found at the GAPE forms website.

## MA COMPREHENSIVE EXAM SCHEDULE

The Spring 2014 MA exam will be given January 25, 2014 (Part I) and February 1, 2014 (Part II). The time and place for both parts is Saturday 9:00 AM to 12:30 in FO 104 (unless you are notified of a change). 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: <http://www.sjsu.edu/english/graduate/ma/macomps.html>).

## MA COMPREHENSIVE EXAM FORMAT

Questions on the first part of the exam cover the reading list through the 18<sup>th</sup> century and those on the second part cover material from the Romantic period onward. Expect questions on or informed by literary theory 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. Please note that section C of the Part 1 exam is a close reading of a poem and section C of the Part 2 exam is on World Literature.

## 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	<a href="mailto:jean-luc.desalvo@sjsu.edu">jean-luc.desalvo@sjsu.edu</a>	924-4620
or Professor Dominique van Hooff (French):	<a href="mailto:dominique.vanhooff@sjsu.edu">dominique.vanhooff@sjsu.edu</a>	924-4610
Professor Larissa Chiriaeva (German):	<a href="mailto:larissa.chiriaeva@sjsu.edu">larissa.chiriaeva@sjsu.edu</a>	924-4591
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.

## 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 2014 term, you must get your proposal to the Graduate Committee no later than **Friday, November 1**. Do not wait until the deadline approaches to get started. For guidelines for MFA theses, see <http://www.sjsu.edu/english/graduate/mfa/mfathesis.html>. 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 Adviser the 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.

### GRADUATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Chris Kohn (MFA) and Jan McCutcheon (BA) will be hosting a book launch party for their anthology of two-page long nonfiction stories: *Two@SJSU* on October 16 at 7 PM at the AS building. Jessy Goodman and Sarah Rogers are the new assistant fiction editors for *TheRumpus.net*, which will begin publishing fiction for the first time this fall. MFA Colette O'Connor's "How I Got My Oh-La-La" was published in *The Best Travel Writing*, Volume 9, this year. MA alumna Danielle Crawford is now working on her doctorate at UC Santa Cruz. Her peer-reviewed essay, "'vinagar soup improved his womb': Food, Appetite, and the Redefining of Asian American Masculinity in Kingtson's *China Men*," was just published in the 2013 volume of *Asian American Literature: Discourses & Pedagogies*. MA alumnus David Coad is working on his doctorate at UC Davis.

### FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

In 2013, the faculty have published six books, including Persis Karim's *Tremors: New Fiction by Iranian American Writers* (University of Arkansas Press), Jonathan Lovell and Mary Warner's *Teaching Writing Grades 7-12 in an Era of Assessment: Passion and Practice* (Pearson), Cathleen Miller's *Champion of Choice: The Life and Legacy of Women's Advocate Nafis Sadik*. (University of Nebraska Press), Susan Shillinglaw's *Carol and John Steinbeck: Portrait of a Marriage* (University of Nevada Press), Alan Soldofsky's *In the Buddha Factory* (Truman State University Press), and Nick Taylor's *Father Junipero's Confessor: A Novel* (Heyday Books).

### SPRING 2014 GRADUATE COURSES

At least 21 of the 30 units of classes required for the MA program should be in 200-numbered English courses. Of the 30, only 6 units can be taken as credit/no credit independent study of thesis units. Upper-division English coursework (100 level) may count for graduate students 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. Here are the courses, faculty and meeting times for our eight Spring 2014 graduate course offerings:

- 204, Modern Approaches to Literature: Krishnaswamy, Wednesday 4 PM
- 208, Comparative Literature, Karim, Thursday 4 PM
- 230, Eighteenth-Century British Literature, Brada-Williams Tuesday 7 PM
- 240, Poetry Writing Workshop, Soldofsky, Monday 7 PM
- 241, Fiction Writing Workshop, Lurie Chair Greer Monday 4 PM
- 242, Nonfiction Writing Workshop, Miller, Thursday 7 PM
- 255, Thematic Studies in American Literature, Engell, Tuesday 4 PM
- 256, Twentieth-Century British Literature, Wilson, Wednesday 7 PM



Check the schedule for additional upper division undergraduate course offerings that may be of interest, such as Professor Cullen's 166 or Professor Wilson's English 150 which will be a 7-9:45 PM Monday evening class focused on Victorian Literature.

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**

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)

### **SOME IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2013-2014:**

- Oct. 1:** Deadline for May graduates to file their "Department Request for Candidacy" forms (requires MA or MFA Advisor's signature).
- Oct. 31:** Deadline for December graduates to submit signed theses to the Graduate Studies Office.
- Nov. 1:** Deadline to submit thesis or project proposals (for Spring 2014 299 units) to the English Department Graduate Committee.
- Dec. 1:** Deadline to submit reading lists to sign up for the Spring MA exams (see the "Guidelines" at <http://www.sjsu.edu/english/graduate/ma/macomp.html>)
- Dec. 10:** Deadline for signing up to take the Spring 2013 MFA Comprehensive Exam. Recommended for May, August, and December 2013 MFA graduates.
- Jan. 10:** Deadline for December 2013 graduates to submit thesis for publication
- Jan 25:** Spring MA comprehensive exam, Part 1, FO 104, 9-12:30.
- Feb. 1:** Spring MA comprehensive exam, Part 2, FO 104, 9-12:30.
- Feb. 7:** Deadline for August 2014 graduates to file their "Department Request for Candidacy" forms (requires MA or MFA Advisor's signature).
- Feb. 14:** Deadline for May 2013 graduates to submit application for award of Master's Degree to the Graduate Studies Office.
- Feb. 21:** MFA Comprehensive Exam Distributed (9:00 A.M.)
- Feb. 24:** MFA Comprehensive Exam Due (5:00 P.M.)
- March 29:** Deadline for December 2014 graduates to file their "Department Request for Candidacy" forms (requires MA or MFA Advisor's signature).
- March 1:** Likely deadline for applications for 2014-2015 TA and GAships due to the Graduate Coordinator.
- April 5:** Deadline for May 2014 graduates to submit signed theses to the Graduate Studies Office.

