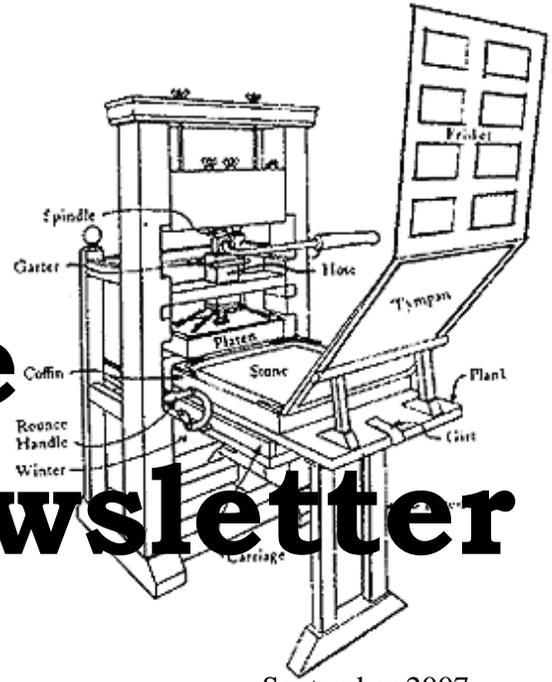


# English Graduate Newsletter



San José State University

Volume XXXX, Number 1

Noelle Brada-Williams, MA Advisor

September 2007

Alan Soldofsky, Director of Creative Writing

## FALL OFFICE HOURS

Professor Brada-Williams' office hours this semester are M 2:00-4:00 PM and W 10:00-11:45 AM and by appointment. Phone: 924-4439; email: [awilli@email.sjsu.edu](mailto:awilli@email.sjsu.edu). Please feel free to call or to stop by her office (FO 110 for Fall semester) if you have any questions about the MA program. MFA students should consult Professor Soldofsky: Office: FO 106: MFA advising hours: TWTH 3:00 - 4:30 PM. Phone: 924-4432, email: [soldofsk@email.sjsu.edu](mailto:soldofsk@email.sjsu.edu).

## THE MA IN ENGLISH: A GUIDE FOR STUDENTS

New students should examine "The MA in English: A Guide for Students" on the web at [www.sjsu.edu/depts/english/faq](http://www.sjsu.edu/depts/english/faq). Print copies of the six-page brochure can also be found in the rack outside the English office. This will answer most questions about the program, and it includes the reading list for the comprehensive exam. Note that we will be revising that list this semester.

## DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER 2007 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.

## DEADLINE FOR MAY 2008 GRADUATES

If you are planning to graduate in May 2008, you should file your official program before October 1, 2007. (The best policy is to file your program—and be officially Advanced to Candidacy—one year before graduation.) Applications for graduation must be filed by February 15, 2008.

## MA COMPREHENSIVE EXAM SCHEDULE

The 2007-2008 MA comprehensive exams will be given the first and second Saturdays in November and the second and third Saturdays in April. This fall, Part 1 will be given November 3, and Part 2 on November 10. In April, Part 1 will be given on April 5 and Part 2 on April 12. Time and place for all exams is 9:00 AM to noon in FO 104. 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 (awilli@email.sjsu.edu).

## 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 the history of English may appear in the first part; questions on rhetoric may appear in the second part; and *questions on literary theory and questions requiring close analysis of verse or prose passages may appear in both parts*. Each exam takes three hours. Students may take one or both parts of the exam in any term and in any order. The reading list for the exam is printed in "The MA in English: A Guide for Students" and as a single handout. You will find copies of both of these in the rack outside the English department office and on the department's web site. Copies of some previous exams are posted on the website. However, please note that the reading list is being revised this year and we should have copies of the newest versions to you soon. Those of you studying for this Fall's MA exam should not worry about the difference between the previous and revised reading lists. Study of the previous list is sufficient for taking the November 2007 exams.

## 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:

<u>Examiner</u>	<u>email</u>	<u>phone</u>
Professor Trudeau (French):	<i>trudeau@sjsu.edu</i>	924-4594
Professor Sabalius (German):	<i>sabalius@email.sjsu.edu</i>	924-4616
Professor Sempere-Martinez (Spanish):	<i>jsempere@email.sjsu.edu</i>	924-4592

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 2007 term, you must get your proposal to the Graduate Committee no later than **Tuesday, November 6**. Do not wait until the deadline. 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 MA Coordinator to get a copy of the department's guidelines for



developing proposals, (2) find a faculty member who will direct your work, (3) develop your proposal in consultation with that faculty member, and (4) show the MA Coordinator a draft of your proposal that has been approved by your thesis director. Only after you have done all that will you be ready to submit eight copies of your proposal to the committee. Remember, too, that the committee will be selective in deciding who will be permitted to write a thesis, with preference given to students with particularly strong academic records and with proposals that have been carefully prepared. Again, the principle is: start early.

### **AWARD WINNING STUDENTS**

Congratulations to **Julie Meloni (MA)** and **Peter O' Sullivan (MFA)**, who earned the Mara Steffey Award as Outstanding English Graduate Students for 2006-2007, and to **Thomas Hewitt (MA)**, who won the Harvey Birenbaum award for Outstanding Scholarship in the Graduate Program. 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: Alanna Callaway, Susan Edman, Manita Gautam, Ben Jonas, Stacey Knapp, Alan Solis, Michelle Perry, Gary Shapiro, and Mary Williams. Graduate Assistants this year are: Charanya Arjun, Katrina Jensen, Angela Moore, Sarah Seymour, and Kelly Smead. Congratulations to all!

### **GRADUATE COURSES**

The classes you take toward the 30-unit 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 Coordinator. Classes taken outside the department will not count except in unusual circumstances. Get prior approval from your advisor before you take such courses. MA and MFA courses planned for Spring 2008 are 202 (Pollock), 204 (Brada-Williams or Chow), 208 (Karim), 211 (Maio), 225 (Fleck), 233 (Wilson), 240 (Soldofsky), 241 (Packer), 253 (Engell), and 254 (Douglass). Offerings for Fall 2008 should again include 201, 201C, 240, 241, 242, and 259. We also hope, dependent on funding, to offer 203, 216 or 226, 217 or 227, 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**

Important dates and other useful information will 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. Program descriptions, course descriptions, the current Newsletter, and other documents are posted on the **Department website: [www.sjsu.edu/depts/english/grad](http://www.sjsu.edu/depts/english/grad)**

To receive information about English department activities via email, join the **English Society's** and **English Graduate Group's List Servers**. To join, simply send an email message to this address: [listproc@listproc.sjsu.edu](mailto:listproc@listproc.sjsu.edu). In the body of the text, type this: *SUBSCRIBE EngDept [your first name] [your last name]*. The same protocol works for the Graduate Group: *SUBSCRIBE EngGrad [your first name] [your last name]*. You will receive an automatic reply acknowledging your successful subscription and explaining how to unsubscribe any time you wish. The **SJSU Graduate Studies Office website** publishes important deadlines, rules, and a list of steps for completing a Master's Degree: [www.sjsu.edu/gradstudies/Current/Completing\\_Masters](http://www.sjsu.edu/gradstudies/Current/Completing_Masters)

### **SOME IMPORTANT DATES**

#### **2007:**

- 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 2008 graduates to sign up to take the MFA Exam. (Also December 2007 graduates who have not passed the exam or have received the Advisor's permission to take it.)
- Nov. 2:** MFA comprehensive exam distributed (9:00 AM).
- Nov. 3:** MA comprehensive exam, Part 1, FO 104, 9-noon.
- Nov. 5:** MFA comprehensive exam due (5:00 PM).
- Nov. 6:** Deadline to submit thesis or project proposals (for Spring 2008 299 units) to the English Department Graduate Committee.
- Nov. 10:** MA comprehensive exam, Part 2, FO 104, 9-noon.
- Nov. 13:** Deadline for December graduates to submit signed theses to the Graduate Studies Office.

#### **2008:**

- Jan. 16:** Deadline for December 2008 graduates to Submit thesis copies for binding to Graduate Studies Office.
- Feb. 15:** Deadline for May 2008 graduates to submit application for award of Master's Degree to the Graduate Studies Office.
- April 5:** Deadline for May 2008 graduates to submit signed theses to the Graduate Studies Office.
- April 4:** MFA comprehensive exam distributed (9:00 AM).
- April 5:** MA comprehensive exam, Part 1, FO 104, 9-noon.
- April 7:** MFA comprehensive exam due (5:00 PM).
- April 12:** MA comprehensive exam, Part 2, FO 104, 9-noon.

