

Reed Magazine

English 133, Section 1 – Spring 2015

**Only kings, presidents, editors,
and people with tapeworms
have the right to use the editorial “we.”
— Mark Twain**

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a two-semester sequence in which students produce this year's issue of *Reed*, the San José State literary magazine. Students will perform all editorial duties themselves, including reading submissions, selling advertising, designing the layout, promoting the issue, and distributing the finished product. Previous experience editing a literary magazine (i.e., in high school or at another college) is not required but is certainly an asset.

REED MISSION STATEMENT

With roots which run back to 1898 on the San José State University campus, *Reed* is the oldest literary journal west of the Mississippi. Although we pride ourselves on our Bay Area origins, we publish outstanding fiction, poetry, nonfiction, and art from contributors around the world. We target our journal primarily toward our audience of educated, literary readers, many of whom are writers themselves.

STUDENT LEARNING GOALS

- ❖ Understanding the process required to produce a periodical publication
- ❖ Ability to organize tasks around a deadline
- ❖ Ability to read and evaluate submissions as editors
- ❖ Face-to-face exchange of ideas with faculty and fellow students in a classroom, in office visits, and in shared activities on and off campus

REQUIRED TEXTS AND SUPPLIES

Reed #67 - You are required to read the most recent issue of *Reed*, if you have not done so already. I will provide the class with copies.

Another litmag of your choice - For the Journal Report assignment, you are required to purchase a current issue of a reputable printed literary journal. These are stocked at most bookstores in the magazines area. To get you started with ideas, peruse the list of journals at <http://www.clmp.org/directory/>.

Laptop - Most of *Reed's* business is conducted online. All submissions, for example, come to us through our website, <http://www.reedmag.org>; the content is then managed by Submittables, a cloud-based online platform used by thousands of publishers and organizations. Staff will log in to this system to view and edit material. You may use the computers available in 229 Sweeney Hall or bring your own if you prefer.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

This course requires a mix of individual and group work. I will grade all assignments on effort and thoroughness, taking into account that group work rarely reflects equal effort by all members of the group.

Entrepreneurial spirit is greatly appreciated and will be rewarded. In other words, it is your responsibility in this course to find opportunities to make yourself useful and to help solve the myriad challenges which will arise throughout the semester.

Participation in class discussions is essential. Overall, your grade will be based on your commitment to the successful publication of *Reed*. If at any point in the semester you would like to discuss your performance in the course, come see me during office hours.

Final grades will be determined, roughly, by the following:

Contribution & Effort on Production Team	70%
Journal Report	15%
Class Participation	15%

IMPORTANT NOTE: Since we must publish a magazine by the end of the semester, one of the vital aspects of this course is learning how to manage and schedule a project. For this reason, deadlines are essential and failure to meet them will adversely affect your grade. It is extremely important to keep your commitments to your team and to the class in order to produce a magazine on schedule.

**In art economy is always beauty.
— Henry James**

**Making love to me is amazing.
Wait, I meant: making love, to me, is amazing.
The absence of two little commas nearly
transformed me into a sex god.
— Dark Jar Tin Zoo**

GROUP WORK

Our mission for this term is to take the art and literature chosen by our staff in the fall semester and produce the next issue. At the first class meeting, each student will select a production team; your work as part of this team will be your primary contribution for the semester.

Production teams will cover all the tasks necessary to produce a publication, e.g. design of the magazine and website, copyediting, grantwriting, promotions, sales and distribution. Members of each production team work closely together and leadership positions are usually given to graduate students or those with relevant experience. Enthusiasm and dedication to produce a quality product are also important contributions. Remember that the great thing about this class is that at the end of the semester you will have a portfolio piece with your name on it to show for all your hard work—which can be a helpful tool when entering the job market.

Note that the Faculty Advisor reserves the right to revise membership in any of the teams as needed.

INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT

Journal Report – You will read one literary journal (in print, not online) and present a short report on its style (layout, design, organization) and content (the *substance* of the writing in the journal) to the class. You should compare and contrast the journal to the most recent issue of *Reed*, making sure to highlight any qualities you think *Reed* should imitate. Please bring in a copy of the magazine for show and tell, make a five-minute presentation to the class, and create a two-page report.

CLASS MEETINGS & ATTENDANCE

This seminar is scheduled to meet for three hours per week. The "lecture" part of these meetings is minimal, and we will use most of the time for group work. As deadlines approach, I expect that teams will meet outside of normal class hours as well. We have all made time in our schedules to be here in the classroom. **As a courtesy to your fellow staff members, please be on time.**

You are allowed one unexcused absence before your grade can be dropped, and students who come in after roll call will be considered absent. If you are ill, or are presented with an emergency that will cause you to miss more than one class, please contact me as soon as possible.

CLASS ETIQUETTE

Please observe the following: no eating during lecture and, of course, no cell phone use. During class time laptop use should be limited to *Reed* production, which with our current editorial mission does not include surfing Internet porn sites or playing World of Warcraft.

DEPARTMENTAL GRADING POLICY

The Department of English reaffirms its commitment to the differential grading scale as defined in the official SJSU Catalog ("The Grading System"). Grades issued must represent a full range of student performance: A = excellent; B = above average; C = average; D = below average; F = failure.

SJSU ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University, and the University's Academic Integrity Policy require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty are required to report all infractions to the office of Judicial Affairs. The policy on academic integrity can be found at <http://www2.sjsu.edu/senate/S04-12.htm>. The SJSU rules against plagiarism are set forth in the SJSU Catalog, which defines plagiarism as the act of representing the work of another as one's own (without giving appropriate credit), regardless of how that work was obtained, and submitting it to fulfill academic requirements. Plagiarism at SJSU includes, but is not limited to: (1) the act of incorporating the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof, or the specific substance of another's work, without giving appropriate credit, and representing the product as one's own work. It is the role and obligation of each student to know the rules that preserve academic integrity and abide by them at all times. This includes learning and following the particular rules associated with specific classes, exams, and/or course assignments. Ignorance of these rules is not a defense to the charge of violating the Academic Integrity Policy. All instances of violating the Academic Integrity Policy will be reported to the Dean of Student Services.

CAMPUS POLICY ON COMPLIANCE WITH AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities register with the DRC to establish a record of their disability.

**Would you convey my compliments to the purist
who reads your proofs and tell him or her
that I write in a sort of broken-down patois
which is something like the way a Swiss waiter talks,
and that when I split an infinitive,
God damn it, I split it so it will stay split,
and when I interrupt the velvety smoothness
of my more or less literate syntax
with a few sudden words of bar-room vernacular,
that is done with the eyes wide open
and the mind relaxed but attentive.**

— Raymond Chandler