

GRADUATE newsletter

Volume L, Number 16

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Fall Office Hours

MA Advising



Revathi Krishnaswamy
Graduate Coordinator & MA Advisor
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In-person office hours: MW 10-1 0:30AM & by
appointment

MFA Advising



Nick Taylor
Director of Creative Writing & MFA
Coordinator
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Office hours by appointment in-person
and online

2025 Lurie Chair Distinguished Writer-In-Residence

Diana Arterian



Diana Arterian is the author of the recent poetry collection *Agrippina the Younger* (Northwestern University Press, 2025). Her first book, *Playing Monster :: Seiche*, received a starred review in *Publishers Weekly* and was a Poetry Foundation Staff Pick. *Smoke Drifts*, her edited collection of Nadia Anjuman's poetry co-translated with Marina Omar, is shortly forthcoming from World Poetry Books. A Poetry Editor at Noemi Press and twice-finalist for the National Poetry Series, Diana's creative work has been recognized with fellowships from the Banff Centre, Caldera, Millay Arts, Vermont Studio Center, and Yaddo. Her poetry, nonfiction, criticism, co-translations, and conversations have been featured by The Academy of American Poets, *BOMB*,...

...*Brooklyn Rail*, *Harvard Review*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *NPR*, *New York Times Book Review*, and *Poetry Magazine*, among others. She writes "The Annotated Nightstand" column at *Literary Hub*. Diana holds a PhD in Literature & Creative Writing from the University of Southern California, an MFA in Poetry from CalArts, and has held teaching positions at CalArts, Fordham University, Merrimack College, and Wichita State University. She lives in Los Angeles.

Important Policies

Conditionally Classified Students

Conditionally classified students must complete required undergraduate course work before enrolling in graduate seminars. When you are eligible for classified status, see your advisor to file the necessary form (found at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gape/forms/>). The change is not automatic.

Continuous Enrollment

University Policy requires that graduate students must be continuously enrolled until they finish their culminating experiences (such as theses and exams). Note that students must finish their theses while they are enrolled in 299 units (or in UNVS 1290R, which is basically just a fee, not a class).

Important Courses

All MA students are required to take ENGL 201 and ENGL 297, which are offered only in the Fall. Students planning to apply for TASHips should complete 259, which is also offered only in the Fall.

Enrolling for Fall 2025

MySJSU should give you appointment times and information on how to register for next semester's courses in May. Registration for continuing graduate students will begin in late April. Registration for new graduate students begins in June. It is important that you register as early as possible. If there are not enough people signed up for a course, even a graduate course can be cancelled. Regarding Writing Workshops: MFAs need to be sure to sign up for any workshops they need for their degree as soon as possible. Due to high demand, the fiction workshop (ENGL 241) will be accessible by permission only. Add codes are available from the English Department Office (english@sjsu.edu) and will be distributed according to the following priority order: 1) Incoming Fiction Primary students; 2) Continuing Fiction Primary and Fiction Secondary students; 3) Approved MFA students (send work sample to nicholas.taylor@sjsu.edu for review). After a certain point, space permitting, the fiction workshop will be opened up to all graduates on a first come, first served basis, regardless of program (MA, MFA, or graduate students from other departments). Fiction Secondary students who cannot find space in ENGL 241 are encouraged to take the upper-division undergraduate fiction workshop, ENGL 130 (this course will be counted as one of the two required secondary-genre workshops).

MA Foreign Language Exam

The MA degree program requires a level of fluency in a second language equivalent to one year of college study of a language. If you were conditionally admitted and asked to satisfy this requirement, you can take the language placement exams for the most commonly taught languages in the SJSU World Languages Media Center in Clark 206. See www.sjsu.edu/wll/proficiency-exams/index.php.

If you score higher than a 2nd semester level in a given language, take the printout to the World Language office and the department chair will sign off on it. If you place at the level of 2nd semester or below, you must do whatever coursework is needed for you to achieve a level of language skill equivalent to one year of study. As always, native fluency in a language as shown by schooling in that language or attestation by an academic...

...skilled in that native language are also ways to satisfy this requirement. Evidence of equivalent first-language literacy in languages other than English also satisfies the requirement. For questions about this requirement, or to satisfy this requirement in a language not tested by the World Languages Department, please contact the MA advisor.

Deadlines for MA and MFA Graduates

Please consult the GAPE website for current candidacy and graduation deadlines:
www.sjsu.edu/gape/deadlines/index.php

Note that if you are planning to graduate in May 2026, you should file your official "Petition for Advancement to Graduate Candidacy" by October 1, 2025. Applications (or reactivations of applications) for May 2026 graduation must be filed by February 1, 2026. The relevant forms can be found at the GAPE forms website: www.sjsu.edu/gape/forms/index.php

Deadline for MA and 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 2026 term, you must submit your proposal by Nov 1, 2025. If you plan to write your thesis in the Fall 2026 term, you must get your proposal to the Graduate Committee no later than April 1, 2026.

Guidelines for MFA thesis and thesis proposals: www.sjsu.edu/english/graduate/mfa/thesis-guidelines.php
Guidelines for MA thesis and cover sheet: www.sjsu.edu/english/graduate/ma/thesis.php

After you have secured a thesis advisor or "first reader," and the thesis advisor has read and approved your proposal, you may submit your proposal electronically to the chair of the Graduate Committee (revathi.krishnaswamy@sjsu.edu). Be sure to cc your thesis advisor in the email so that the Graduate Coordinator knows that the first reader has approved the proposal being submitted to the Graduate Committee.

Update: MFA students should now be using the online Docusign form to submit Thesis Proposals. You can find the form at <https://sjsu.edu/english/graduate/forms.php>.

Spring 2026 MFA Exam

Exam distributed 9:00AM, Friday March 13

Exam due by 5:00PM, Monday March 16

Spring 2026 MA Exam

Part 1 10:00AM-12:00PM, Friday February 27
on Canvas

Part 2 Exam distributed on Canvas 9:00
am, Friday March 13; Exam due on Canvas
by 5:00PM, Monday March 16

Deadline to sign up for Spring 2026 MA exam: December 1, 2025

Full Details including Deadlines and Readings Lists: <https://www.sjsu.edu/english/graduate/ma/comp-exam.php>

Spring 2026 Schedule of Classes

Here are the tentative courses, faculty, and meeting times for our Spring 2026 graduate course offerings.

Course	Day	Location	Time	Instructor
ENGL 202	T	FOB 104	7-9:45 PM	Jerry Michael Martinez
ENGL 204	M	Online	4-6:45 PM	Revathi Krishnaswamy
ENGL 240	T	FOB 104	4-6:45 PM	Diana Arterian (Lurie)
ENGL 241	W	FOB 104	7-9:45 PM	Selena Anderson
ENGL 242	W	FOB 104	4-6:45 PM	Brook McClurg
ENGL 254	M	Online	7-9:45 PM	Allison Johnson

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. Check the schedule for upper division undergraduate course offerings that may be of interest, and which will not be covered by the Graduate Curriculum. 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 contact the MA Coordinator, file the necessary form, and await approval. Classes taken outside the department will not count except in unusual circumstances. Get prior approval from your advisor before you take such courses.

Spring 2026 Course Descriptions

ENGL 202: Poetic Craft and Theory

T 7-9:45PM FOB 104 (Professor Martinez)

This course is an introduction to the theory and practice of translating poetry. We will study elements of prosody, essential to the translation of literary works. Students will analyze published translations as well as generate their own. Students will develop their awareness of a range of strategies and techniques used to translate. The class will involve readings of the most important texts in the theory of translation, from the early reflections by Cicero and Horace to those by Jakobson and Derrida. In our discussions, we will reflect on the demands imposed by the aesthetics of literary texts. Additionally, we will ponder translatability, fidelity, and relations of power affecting the translation processes. While knowledge of a foreign language would be helpful, it is not necessary. A practical objective of this course is to build a portfolio of translation exercises and submit a selection of poems to a literary journal or magazine for publication.

ENGL 204: Seminar in Modern Approaches to Literature

M 4-6:45PM Online (Professor Krishnaswamy)

This course is an introduction to the complex interdisciplinary field of Literary Theory which not only includes literary criticism but also cuts across other disciplines like philosophy, psychology, sociology, economics, political science, history, and biology. While literary theory has a long and diverse history in different parts of the world, we will focus mainly on dominant theories and methodologies of the 20th century. As such, we will try to understand influential intellectual schools such as New Criticism, Structuralism, Deconstruction, New Historicism, Marxism, Feminism, Postcolonialism etc., and engage with fundamental questions about language, literature, reading, and writing. While this is an intensive course that will challenge you to engage with a great deal of complex material, it will also give you a deeper understanding of literary study and equip you with the tools you will need as a professional in the field. The course will also be helpful to prepare for the MA part 2 exam in Literary Theory and Criticism.

ENGL 240: Poetics of Resistance Workshop

T 4-6:45PM FOB 104 (Lurie Chair)

In this class, we will encounter the many possible shapes resistance can take through the written word. Some examples will be more obvious, like the poems that attend to oppressive governmental circumstances by Osip Mandelstam, Nikki Giovanni, and Irina Ratushinskaya. Yet we will also consider poets whose methods are more oblique—those who write about the personal, the historical, or of deviant joys. Throughout the semester, we will read and write poetry in equal measure. In the workshop intensive, students are welcome to emulate approaches in the assigned texts in their own poetry or forge their own.

ENGL 241: Fiction Writing Workshop

W 7-9:45PM FOB 104 (Professor Anderson)

In this workshop, students will study syntax and structure to discover what excites them as readers and transforms them as writers. Syntax refers to the arrangement of words and phrases to create well-formed sentences in a language that comes to characterize the piece itself. Structure is the arrangement of the elements that make up a story and how it shapes meaning. Over the course of the semester, we will examine a variety of sensibilities and aesthetic possibilities, reading authors who work across various traditions as we explore the many ways that literature can stir, fascinate, and level us—sometimes irrevocably. In addition to providing thoughtful written feedback to their peers, students will submit two original pieces of fiction plus a major revision.

ENGL 242: Nonfiction Writing Workshop

W 4-6:45PM FOB 104 (Professor McClurg)

Memoir is the perennial underdog of the literary world—works that critics and writers love to hate and hate on; yet, as a genre, it remains amongst the bestsellers year after year. In this course we will navigate the history of memoir, highlight the “rise of the nobody memoir,” and explore postmodern approaches to conveying a true-life story, all to inform and further develop your own work. As such, we will face the questions that plague the genre: what differentiates literary memoir from the schtick-lit varietal? Are these narcissistic narratives or acts of agency? And finally, how do we carefully craft truth when memory becomes fuzzy, contested, or otherwise can't be known? We will balance our reading of literary works with craft and critical essays. We will also interrogate the generic borders of Creative Nonfiction, considering the ethical implications—to facts, to those we write about, amongst others—that complicate our writing practices.

ENGL 254: The American Novel, Beginnings to 1900

M 7-9:45PM Online (Professor Johnson)

This course charts the development of the novel in the early republic, its growth as a vehicle of social change and forum for marginalized voices and groups, and its portrayal of racial and gender identities. We will cover multiple texts from the MA Part 2 Exam reading list.

Join Reed Magazine!

Join a legacy of over 150 years—and earn marketable credits toward your degree! English 133— Reed Magazine, California's oldest literary journal—eagerly encourages graduate students to enroll. This unique, four-credit course exposes students to the work of thousands of writers and offers real-world experience in editing and promoting a publication that has held fast through world war, cultural revolution, and the turns of two centuries. See www.reedmag.org. For an add code, contact Editor in Chief Brook McClurg at brook.mcclurg@sjsu.edu.

MA/MFA Reminders and Guidelines

Stay 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. 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 English Department website: www.sjsu.edu/english/graduate.

The SJSU Graduate Admissions and Program Evaluations (GAPE) Office website publishes important deadlines, forms, and information for current students at: www.sjsu.edu/gape

Spring 2026 Graduate Student Conference

Be on the lookout for a Call for Papers for the Spring 2026 graduate student conference! Share a seminar paper or creative piece during a mini-conference in April with other SJSU English MAs and MFAs. Full details will be announced soon.



Important Dates & Deadlines in 2024-2025

MFA students: An up-to-date list of dates and deadlines can always be found at <https://sjsu.edu/english/graduate/mfa/deadlines.php>.

Oct 1	Deadline for May 2026 Graduates to submit their "Departmental Request for Candidacy" form to GAPE. Requires the MA or MFA advisor's signature.
Nov 1	Deadline to submit thesis or project proposals (for Spring 2026 ENGL 299 units) to the English Department Graduate Committee.
Nov 10	Deadline for December 2025 graduates to submit signed theses to the Graduate Studies Office.
Dec 1	Deadline for signing up to take the Spring 2026 MA Comprehensive Exam.
Dec 14	Deadline for signing up to take the Spring 2026 MFA Comprehensive Exam.
Jan 29	Deadline for December 2026 graduates to submit thesis for publication (or embargo).
Feb 1	Deadline for May 2026 graduates to submit graduation application to Graduate Studies Office. OR request change in graduation date.
Feb 1	MFA applications due. Submit to CSU Apply.
Feb 27	MA Part 1 Exam 10-12 pm online via Canvas
Mar 1	Deadline for applications for 2026-27 TAships due to Prof. Ryan Skinnell
Mar 13-16	MA and MFA Comprehensive Exam
Mar 14	MFA theses (May & Aug graduates) due to faculty committee readers
Apr 1	Deadline for December 2026 graduates to file their "Request for Candidacy" forms (requires MA or MFA advisor's signature).
Apr 1	Deadline for applications for 2026-2027 GAship due to the Graduate Coordinator.
Apr 1	Deadline to submit MFA Thesis Proposals to the Graduate Committee for review and approval to take 299/299D units in Fall.
Apr 8	Submission deadline for Creative Writing Awards and Scholarships
Apr 20	Deadline for May 2026 graduates to submit signed theses to the Graduate Studies Office or to the English Department for Departmental Thesis (298D).
May 9	MFA thesis reading (Fall '25, May '26 & Aug '26 graduates)

GRADUATE FACULTY, STUDENT, AND ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS!

Sherri Harvey, Fulbright Appointment and Recipient of the AIAEC Grant, has published the following:

- *If I Were Homeless, Free Spirit: On the Building Terrace*, Short Stories, Tanglewood Journal, July 2025
- *Decolonizing and Humanizing Education Through Travel and Adobe Express*, in *Building Capacities: Applied Humanities and the Active Life of Literature*, edited by Virginia Ramos, Critical University Studies Series, NP Press (Forthcoming, November 2025)
- *Do Animals Make Us Human?*, Camas, Summer 2025, Art & Photography section, March 2025
- *Perspectives*, Burningword Literary Journal (publication date/details to be confirmed)

Hilary King's book of poems, *Stitched on Me*, was longlisted for the Last Syllable Book Award; other poems are forthcoming in *85 South*, *TAB*, and *MER*.

Erin Kelley's short story, "Ignition" will appear in the Winter 2025 issue of *The Coachella Review* under the pen name, Erin Mayes.

Natalka Fydyshyn (MFA '25) will have five poems in *Notre Dame Review*.

Courtney Caldwell (MFA '25) will have poems in the next issue of *Sho Journal*.