

GRADUATE newsletter

Volume L, Number 14

October 2024

Fall Office Hours

MA Advising



Revathi Krishnaswamy

Graduate Coordinator

revathi.krishnaswamy@sjsu.edu

Virtual office hours: MW 12-1 PM & by
appointment

MFA Advising



Nick Taylor

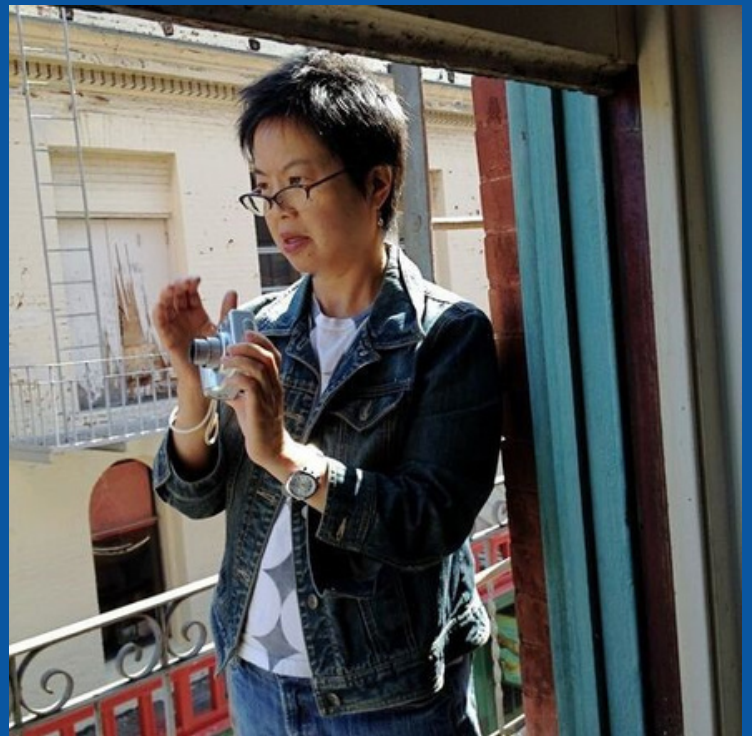
Director of Creative Writing and
Graduate Coordinator

nicholas.taylor@sjsu.edu

Virtual office hours: T 2-4 PM & by
appointment

2025 Lurie Chair Distinguished Writer-In-Residence

Eugenie Chan



Eugenie Chan is an award-winning playwright and screenwriter whose work has been produced or developed across the United States, including at the Asian American Theater Company, Bay Area Playwrights Festival, Centenary Stage, Crowded Fire, Cutting Ball, East West Players, Group Theater, Houston Grand Opera: HGOco, Magic Theatre, Ma-Yi, Northwest Asian American Theatre, Pan Asian Rep, Perishable, Playwrights Horizons, the Public, San Francisco Mime Troupe, and Thick Description. Her screenplays have been seen at the Asians on Film, Berlin, Big Apple, Cinestory, Dis-Orient, Mill Valley, San Diego Asian, and Toronto

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Independent Film Festivals. She is on the Advisory Board of the Kearny Street Workshop, the nation's oldest Asian American arts organization.

Eugenie Chan's Spring 2025 course ENGL 281 will be a course in Playwriting.

Important Policies

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).

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 2025, you should file your official "Petition for Advancement to Graduate Candidacy" by October 1, 2024. Applications (or reactivations of applications) for May 2025 graduation must be filed by February 1, 2025. 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 2024 term, you must submit your proposal by Nov 1, 2024. If you plan to write your thesis in the Fall 2025 term, you must get your proposal to the Graduate Committee no later than April 1, 2025.

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

New! To submit an MFA Thesis Proposal, use the new interactive form found on the "Graduate Forms & Worksheets" page of the Department Website: <https://sjsu.edu/english/graduate/forms.php>

Spring 2025 MFA Exam

Exam distributed 9:00 am, Friday March 7

Exam due by 5:00 pm, Monday March 10

Spring 2025 MA Exam

Part 1 February 28 Friday 10:00am-12:00 pm
on Canvas

Part 2 Exam Distributed on Canvas 9:00
am, Friday March 7; Exam due on Canvas
by 5:00 pm, Monday March 10

Deadline to sign up for Spring 2025 MA exam – December 1, 2024

Full details including deadlines and reading lists: <https://www.sjsu.edu/english/graduate/ma/comp-exam.php>

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 Professor Krishnaswamy.

Spring 2025 Schedule of Classes

Here are the tentative courses, faculty, and meeting times for our Spring 2025 graduate course offerings.

Course	Day	Location	Time	Instructor
ENGL 207	M	Online	7-9:45 PM	Meghan Gorman-DaRif
ENGL 216	M	Online	4-6:45 PM	Nancy Stork
ENGL 240	T	FOB 104	7-9:45 PM	Michael Martinez
ENGL 241	W	FOB 104	7-9:45 PM	Selena Anderson
ENGL 281	T	HGH 227	4-6:45 PM	Eugenie Chan (Lurie)

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 2025 Course Descriptions

ENGL 207: Global Anglophone Literature: The Postcolonial Novel

M 7-9:45 PM Online (Professor Gorman DaRif)

This course examines literature from former British colonies, exploring how texts respond to the violence of empire, and create ways of seeing, resistant ideas, and new visions of the future. Pushing back against an imperial logic and discourse based on racist assumptions and an extractive view of the environment, postcolonial writers make important interventions into both global thinking and literary form. This section of Global Anglophone literatures examines novels from three broad periods of postcolonial literature through the study of novels from India and across Africa to explore how authors grapple with literary form and the English language to comment on the status and future of the postcolony. We will examine early postcolonial novels that are part of the project of cultural nationalism, as well as the novels of disillusionment, especially those written by women, after independence, and will end with considering the status of the postcolonial novel today in light of globalization and climate crisis. This course will serve as a broad introduction to postcolonial literature and relevant theory, and will also help prepare students for Part II of the MA exam.

ENGL 216: Medieval Literature

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

This course will focus on texts useful for Part Two of the M.A. Exam at SJSU and will pay particular attention to the history of the English language, manuscripts, genre and culture with a view toward understanding more deeply how these texts have been transmitted to and transformed by us.

ENGL 240: Poetry Writing Workshop

T 7-9:45 PM (Professor Martinez)

Poetics and poetry writing as preparation for thesis. Includes theory and practice of major trends in contemporary poetry. Intensive workshop experience. May be repeatable for credit for up to 12 units.

ENGL 241: Fiction Writing Workshop

W 7-9:45 PM (Professor Anderson)

In this workshop, students will study a wide range of styles and structures to discover what excites them as readers and transforms them as writers. Style, defined broadly, is the unique way an author presents a story, that which is closely linked to the meaning of the work itself. Structure, as we understand it, is the arrangement of the elements that make up a story and how it shapes meaning. We will examine a variety of sensibilities and aesthetic possibilities, reading authors who work across various traditions—as well as those who take care to buck convention—and we will thus explore the many ways that literature can stir, fascinate, and level us—both magically and irrevocably so. In addition to providing thoughtful written feedback to their peers, students will submit two original pieces of fiction *plus* a major revision.

ENGL 281: Special Topics (Playwriting)

T 4-6:45 PM (Lurie Visiting Writer Eugenie Chan)

From kitchen sink drama to solo performance, playwriting is an investigation into self, society, and transformation. It's a place for the questioning, the critical, the joyful, and the hopeful – for writers and thinkers of all stripes and colors. In this workshop led by Lurie Visiting Writer, playwright and artistic director Eugenie Chan, students will explore plays that mine and challenge issues both personal and social, diverse masterworks that embrace traditional dramatic dialogue and forms, as well as those that present new ways of speaking and new structures. Students will study dramaturgy, playtexts and their historical contexts, as well as engage in writing assignments that will lead to their own individual performance writing project. Playwriting is about writing deeply and for a public. As *Death of a Salesman's* Arthur Miller once said, playwriting is the “art of a writer ... expecting to be heard.”

Playwriting focuses on examining, exploring, and developing the skills, discipline, techniques and knowledge base essential for the playwriting process. Students will:

- Read, discuss, and examine a variety of playscripts, especially the short play, analyzing dramatic devices, structure, character development, form, and technique.
- Examine the sociopolitical and historical context of playscripts and playwriting, and its impact on the creation of a dramatic text and artist.
- Attend 2 theater performances on and off campus.
- Write in and out of class, using prompts, improvisations, and their exercises as starting points.
- Share writing and learn how to give constructive feedback.
- Write and create a 10 - Minute play.

Note for MFA students: This course can be credited toward your degree as either a workshop or a literature course, as necessary.

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 2025 Graduate Student Conference

Be on the lookout for a Call for Papers for the Spring 2025 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

Oct 1	Deadline for May 2025 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 2025 ENGL 299 units) to the English Department Graduate Committee.
Nov 13	Deadline for December 2024 graduates to submit signed theses to the Graduate Studies Office.
Dec 1	Deadline for signing up to take the Spring 2025 MA Comprehensive Exam.
Dec 14	Deadline for signing up to take the Spring 2025 MFA Comprehensive Exam.
Jan 29	Deadline for December 2025 graduates to submit thesis for publication (or embargo).
Feb 1	Deadline for May 2025 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 28	MA Part 1 Exam 10-12 pm online via Canvas
Mar 1	Deadline for applications for 2025-26 TAships due to Prof. Ryan Skinnell
Mar 7	MA (Part 2) and MFA Comprehensive Exam given (9:00 am).
Mar 10	MA (Part 2) and MFA Comprehensive Exams due (5:00 pm).
Mar 14	MFA theses (May & Aug graduates) due to faculty committee readers
Apr 1	Deadline for December 2025 graduates to file their “Request for Candidacy” forms (requires MA or MFA advisor’s signature).
Apr 1	Deadline for applications for 2025-2026 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	Deadline for May 2025 graduates to submit signed theses to the Graduate Studies Office or to the English Department for Departmental Thesis (299D).
Apr 22	MFA thesis reading (Fall '24, May '25 & Aug '25 graduates)

Graduate Faculty, Student, and Alumni Accomplishments!

Ching Ching Tan

Ching Ching Tan's manuscript, *An Extra*, has been named first runner-up for this year's Red Hen Press Women's Prose Prize Award.

Congratulations to the
2024 Winner and Finalists of the



RED HEN PRESS

WOMEN PROSE PRIZE AWARD

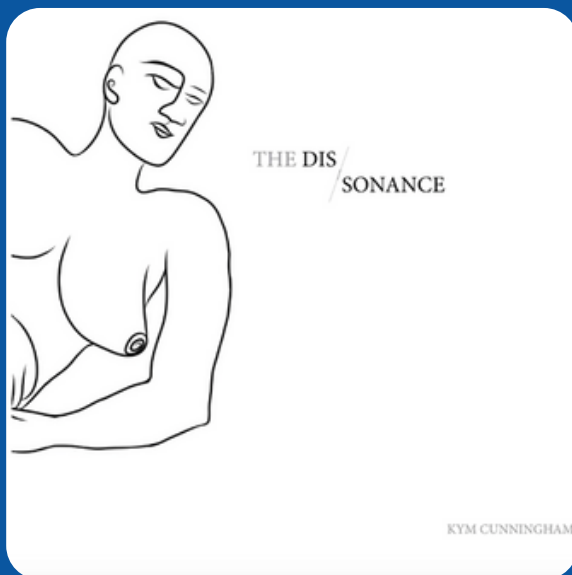


Winner:
Mud on the Moon
by Nita Noveno
PRIZE: \$1,000 + Book Publication

First Runner-up:
An Extra
by Ching Ching Tan

Second Runner-up:
Pangaea: A World Once One
by Courtney Elizabeth Young

JUDGED BY LAILA HALABY



Kym Cunningham

Kym Cunningham's first full-length collection of poems, "the dis/sonance," was published by EMP.

Graduate Faculty, Student, and Alumni Accomplishments!

Erin Kelley

MFA student Erin Kelley had a nonfiction essay, "Penniless in Nowhere, Nevada," published in the spring issue of *Stonecrop Magazine* under the pen name, Erin Mayes.

Daniel Bulone

Daniel Bulone, also MFA, had a poem "The Bog Dragon" published in April by *Eye to the Telescope*, the online magazine by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Poetry Association.

Allegra Balbuena

MFA student Allegra Balbuena's essay titled "House of Blue" was accepted by Months to Year, an online magazine that publishes work that explores grief and loss. "House of Blue" will appear in their Fall 2024 digital magazine issue which will be available in October.

Mara Olivas

Mara Olivas's novelette, "Sangronas" releases in *Uncanny Magazine's* issue 60 on October 1st, and their debut novel, "Sundown in San Ojuela" releases on November 19th through Lanternfish Press, with the book launch event on November 21st, at Books Inc. Alameda, at 7PM!

Emily Coletta

Emily Coletta, MFA class of 2023, had a short story ("Other People") published in the most recent issue of *The Chicago Quarterly Review*.