

College of Humanities and the Arts · English & Comparative Literature

Creative Writing Section 04 ENGL 71

Fall 2024 3 Unit(s) 08/21/2024 to 12/09/2024 Modified 08/25/2024

Hi! I'm Professor Au-Co (O-ka) Tran. And I will be guiding you through our Engl 71 course this semester.



Section	Days/Time	Location
04	M/W 3PM - 4:15PM	BBC 122

This syllabus is a live document, so if you download or print it out, make sure to check back with this link often in case there are any changes.

This is a fully in-person course.



Contact Information

Email: au-co.tran@sjsu.edu, but message me through Canvas or Discord. Emails may get buried under other emails. Canvas/Discord is just for students.

Virtual Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 1PM - 2PM (Zoom only) No appointment necessary. Zoom link can be found on Canvas under GENERAL INFO Module. For meeting times outside of this window, in-person or virtual, appointments are necessary; contact me via Canvas or in class to set it up.

Canvas will be the most important tool for this course. All your course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the course Canvas page. (I highly encourage you to download the Canvas Student app and turn on notifications so you don't miss updates.) Please familiarize yourself with the system so that you can turn in assignments on time.

Contacting me: Contact me through Canvas. I will get back to you within 48 hours on during the week. I generally don't check my message over the weekend so keep that in mind.

Discord: Additionally, I highly encourage you to ask general questions to the whole class on Discord. Most of the time, you'll find that you won't be the only one with that question. Collective discussion can help supplement information and develop ideas. Request Discord info through Canvas messaging or ask a classmate.

Note: the responsibility to reach out when you need help or don't understand something is **on you**. Therefore, you are encouraged to come to office hours if you need clarification or extra help.

Course Information

This course is designed around the belief that there is a story to be mined from every facet of life however ordinary or seemingly boring. You will be asked to observe the world around you--gossip, family stories, mundane trips to Target--and from those nuggets of inspiration, you will craft engaging works of poetry, nonfiction, and fiction.

Course Description and Requisites

Examinations of works of poetry, creative nonfiction and short fiction as expression of human intellect and imagination, to comprehend the historic and global cultural contexts, and recognize issues related to writing of diverse cultural traditions. Students will also write poetry, creative nonfiction, and a short fiction.

GE Area(s): C2. Humanities

Letter Graded

* Classroom Protocols

In our classroom:

If there's anything that 2020 has taught us, it's that life happens. You are in college, so your academics should take priority. However, like stated above, I understand that sometimes putting your studies first can be nearly impossible. Therefore, for larger assignments, I will work with you as the problems arise to help you keep up, but I will not excuse you from those assignments. But it is *your* responsibility to reach out to me so we can work out a plan together. I can't know you need help/accommodations unless you tell me.

All lectures and course materials distributed in this course (including slides, presentations, tests, outlines, handouts, and similar materials) are protected by copyright law ($\underline{S12-7}$

(https://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf)). I am the exclusive owner of copyright in all materials created for the purpose of this class. For students enrolled in this course, I encourage you to take notes and make use of course materials for your own educational purposes, provided that you (1) do not modify it, (2) use it only for the duration of this course, and (3) do not, nor knowingly allow others, to copy, reproduce, re-publish, upload, post, share, or distribute lecture notes or course materials in any way without my expressed written consent. This includes providing materials to commercial material suppliers such as CourseHero and other similar services.

The Golden Rule

Writing can be an extraordinarily vulnerable exercise. Compassion is one of the most important aspects of a writing workshop. This class is a safe space to experiment with voice, style, and subject matter. We are here to support each other's writing journeys and help build each other's confidence as well as reach their writing goals. Be respectful of each other in your critiques and be respectful of yourself.

I will only accept submissions on Canvas. If you are unsure whether or not your submission went through, you can leave a comment with your submission and I will check.

Late Policy: Assignments are due at 11:59 p.m. on the day of the deadline, unless stated otherwise. And I tend to be very annoying about reminders--so you will be reminded repeatedly.

Warm-ups and Activities are usually scaffolding assignments, which means they are intended to build off of previous assignments and to set up future/larger assignments. So the order in which I have assigned them to you are intentional. If you miss one and do it later, that most likely renders the assignment not as helpful. So for that reason, late Warm-ups and Activities are not accepted.

Late work for Peer Review will be accessed case by case. If you are not present for a presentation, that is a zero.

For major assignments, you will lose 5 points from your overall grade every day it is late for two days. After that, it is a zero. Requests for extensions will be treated case-by-case.

Presentations: You always know in advance when you are expected to have a presentation/interview. If you ask to switch within two days of your assigned presentation day, that is an automatic 50% off of your grade for that portion.

Attendance: You are expected to show up every day we have a meeting and participate. Any assignments/activities given during those meetings cannot be made up if you miss the meeting.

If you have to miss a class, please don't message me and ask "did I miss anything important?" because it hurts my feelings. ② Everything is important! But I understand that sometimes other things take precedence. Discord and your peers are great resources. Additionally, check the Weekly Bulletins (explained below).

Food & Drink: I would prefer it if you didn't eat during class as it can be distracting to your classmates and myself. However, if you absolutely must need to eat something, please only have quiet foods with no overwhelming smells. (No chips, crunchy fruits, fish, etc.) Drinks are fine.

Consideration: We may discuss some topics and view some material which may be considered controversial. Remember that this classroom is a safe place to explore ideas, and make sure that you, personally, are doing your part to make sure that the classroom continues to be a safe place where we respect each other. When reviewing other students' work or responding to other students' comments, remember that your purpose here is to help fellow classmates become better writers (and to let them help you!). Do not take cheap shots at anyone in class.

Accommodations/Assistive Tech: If you need any special accommodations or assistance in technology due to a disability, you should contact the Accessible Education Center (AEC), and me.

The Use of Al

You are welcome to use generative Al tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Dall-e, etc.) in this class. You are responsible for the information you submit based on an Al query (for instance, that it does not violate intellectual property laws, contain misinformation, or unethical content). Your use of Al tools must be properly documented and cited. See these resources for MLA guidance, and for other citation formats. Any assignment that is found to have used generative Al tools in unauthorized ways will be treated according to San Jose State's Al and Plagiarism Policy (https://libguides.sjsu.edu/plagiarism/ai-and-plagiarism). (https://libguides.sjsu.edu/plagiarism/ai-and-plagiarism). When in doubt about permitted usage, please ask for clarification.

The use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Dall-e, etc.) is permitted in this course only for the following activities:

- Finding information on your topic; and
- Checking grammar and style.

The use of generative AI tools is <u>not</u> permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Impersonating you in classroom contexts, such as by using the generative AI tools to compose any assignments given in class;
- Writing a draft of a writing assignment; and
- Writing entire sentences, paragraphs or papers to complete class assignments.

Program Information

Welcome to this General Education course.

SJSU's General Education Program establishes a strong foundation of versatile skills, fosters curiosity about the world, promotes ethical judgment, and prepares students to engage and contribute responsibly and cooperatively in a multicultural, information-rich society. General education classes integrate areas of

study and encourage progressively more complex and creative analysis, expression, and problem solving.

The General Education Program has three goals:

Goal 1: To develop students' core competencies for academic, personal, creative, and professional pursuits.

Goal 2: To enact the university's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and justice by ensuring that students have the knowledge and skills to serve and contribute to the well-being of local and global communities and the environment.

Goal 3: To offer students integrated, multidisciplinary, and innovative study in which they pose challenging questions, address complex issues, and develop cooperative and creative responses.

More information about the General Education Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) can be found on the <u>GE</u> <u>website. (https://sjsu.edu/general-education/ge-requirements/overview/learning-outcomes.php)</u>

English Program Information

The following statement has been adopted by the Department of English for inclusion in all syllabi: In English Department Courses, instructors will comment on and grade the quality of student writing as well as the quality of ideas being conveyed. All student writing should be distinguished by correct grammar and punctuation, appropriate diction and syntax, and well-organized paragraphs. The Department of English reaffirms its commitment to the differential grading scale as defined in the 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.

Within any of the letter grade ranges (e.g. B+/B/B-), the assignment of a +(plus) or -(minus) grade will reflect stronger (+) or weaker (-) completion of the goals of the assignment.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)

Upon successful completion of an undergraduate degree program in the Department of English and Comparative Literature, students will be able to:

- 1. Read closely in a variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes, and articulate the value of close reading in the study of literature, creative writing, or rhetoric.
- 2. Show familiarity with major literary works, genres, periods, and critical approaches to British, American, and World Literature.
- 3. Write clearly, effectively, and creatively, and adjust writing style appropriately to the content, the context, and nature of the subject.
- 4. Develop and carry out research projects, and locate, evaluate, organize, and incorporate information effectively.
- 5. Articulate the relations among culture, history, and texts, including structures of power.

Department Information:

Department Name: English and Comparative Literature

Department Office: FO 102

Department Website: www.sjsu.edu/english)

Department email: english@sjsu.edu (mailto:english@sjsu.edu)

Department phone number: 408-924-4425



ENGL 71 Learning Outcomes (GELO)

Upon successful completion of this GE course, students will be able to:

- 1. Decipher and understand the form and content of assigned literary works;
- 2. Comprehend the historical and cultural contexts of assigned literary works;
- 3. Recognize the accomplishments of and issues related to writing by men and women representing diverse cultural traditions;
- 4. Acquire through both individual and collaborative/workshop efforts of a written and oral nature the skills necessary for reading, discussing, analyzing, interpreting, and—most importantly—emulating and writing works of poetry, creative nonfiction, and short fiction;
- 5. Communicate such skills with clarity and precision;
- 6. Develop an appreciation of literary works as expressions of human intellect and imagination, and as representations of diverse human cultures;
- 7. Develop the ability to write literary works that express intellect and imagination and that represent diversity in human cultures;
- 8. Respond to literature through clear and effective communication in both written and oral work;
- 9. Read and respond to texts with both analytical acumen and personal sensibility;
- 10. Appreciate how literary works illuminate enduring human concerns while also representing matters specific to a particular culture;
- 11. Write works of poetry, creative nonfiction, and short fiction that are of interest and value to the writer, to other students in the course, and to a diverse reading audience.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Through this course, students will:

- 1. Appreciate the wide breadth of contemporary writing in poetry, fiction, and essay;
- 2. Express themselves creatively in poetry, fiction, and essay;
- 3. Associate reading as a crucial component to writing;
- 4. Consider writing—their own and others'—as contributing to a larger community both inside and outside the university;
- 5. Place their own creative output within the larger contemporary writing community.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

GE Area C2: Humanities

Area C Arts and Humanities courses help students to respond subjectively as well as objectively to aesthetic experiences and to develop an understanding of the integrity of both emotional and intellectual responses. C2 Humanities courses encourage students to analyze and appreciate works of philosophical, historical, literary, aesthetic, and cultural importance.

GE Area C2 Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of a C2 course, students should be able to:

- 1. analyze and understand works of philosophical and humanistic importance, including their temporal and cultural dimensions;
- 2. explore and articulate their own subjective aesthetic and intellectual responses to such texts;
- 3. analyze and assess ideas of value, meaning, and knowledge, as produced within the humanistic disciplines; and
- 4. research and write effective analyses of works of the human intellect and imagination

Writing Practice: Students will write a minimum of 1500 words in a language and style appropriate to the discipline.

🖪 Course Materials

Required Technology

An electronic device (laptop, desktop, tablet): You will need this for almost every class as most of our coursework is on Canvas. SJSU has a free equipment loan program
free equipment loan program
https://www.sjsu.edu/it/services/classroom-tech/equipment-loaning/index.php) available for students.

Internet access: You're responsible for ensuring that you have access to reliable wi-fi for this class. If you're unable to access reliable wi-fi, you must let me know as soon as possible. See <u>Learn Anywhere</u> website (https://www.sjsu.edu/learnanywhere/) for wi-fi options on campus.

The Canvas app on your phone: all announcements, grades, assignments will be posted on Canvas. For example, if I change a deadline for an assignment, you'd want to know and the only way you can be sure you'd find out will be through a Canvas notification on your phone.

Zoom: all office hours will take place on Zoom (in-person appointments available given enough notice).

Discord (optional, but highly recommended): This is a good tool for asking general Qs when I am unavailable and bouncing ideas off of your peers if you're stuck.

Library Liaison: Peggy Cabrera

• Email: <u>Peggy.Cabrera@sjsu.edu</u>

• Phone: 408-808-2034

E Course Requirements and Assignments

This course emphasizes the belief that writing is a process, not product. Assignments are meant to get you into the habit of building effective writing habits (brainstorming, outline, pre-writing, etc). As such, I encourage you to view each assignment as one part of a larger whole as they are all meant to build on top of each other.

Course instruction includes reflective writing, reading discussions, peer review, group work and presentations during class meeting times. You will be assigned weekly assignments to do outside of class (3-6 hours per week) that includes reading, writing, research and layout projects.

Weekly Bulletins: At the beginning of the week, I will post relevant information pertaining to that week's material such as reminders, articles, Google docs, notes. It is your responsibility to check those weekly announcements before asking me any questions; most likely, the answer could be found there.

Assignment Format: All assignments should be typed in 12-point font, one-inch margins, in Times New Roman font, and MLA format. Improperly formatted papers will lose points.

Formatting Resource: Owl Purdue Online Writing Lab (https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/)

Major Assignments

- 1. Poetry Portfolio: You will produce a poetry portfolio consisting of four poems, each responding to a specified requirement in the project prompt
- 2. Creative Nonfiction Personal Narrative: You will produce a personal narrative about a topic or event of your choosing
- 3. Fiction Short Story: You will produce produce a short story whose genre, style, topic, voice, etc will be all of your own choosing
- 4. Final Revision: You will choose ONE of the above projects to revise following guidelines I will provide.
 - 1. In addition, you will provide a Revision Rationale essay where you detail what you changed and your reasoning for it, as well as your thought process.
 - 2. Final Exam: There will be no final exam in this course. This will serve as your final.

Note on word count requirement: Specified word count requirements are final. I give you a leeway of 100 words above or below. More than that and you will lose points.

Minor Assignments

Weekly Warm-Ups*: You will have daily warm-ups to help you prepare for the day's discussion. Your responses to these assignments are meant to help you brainstorm and build up for the unit's project. You are given time in class to complete the assignment and will have until the end of class to complete

it. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Writing Exercises: Writing exercises will most often be done in class. You must be present in class when the assignment is given to get full credit. If you are absent and submit work, you will only get half credit.

Peer Review: For your all projects, you will be given time to read your peers' rough drafts, as well as have them read yours. This is an essential step in the writing process: to step away from your work and get fresh eyes on it

Rough Drafts: To be submitted on Canvas BEFORE class on the day of the peer review. The draft should be as close to complete as you can get it; otherwise, your peers and I will not have much to provide feedback for your revision.

Participation: My lectures are discussion-based, meaning I aim to be more of a moderator rather than someone talking at you for an hour and 15 minutes. I do not want to be the only one talking; you do not want me to be the only one talking. So please show up, ask good questions, listen with care and compassion. (Bonus: you get a little prize from me for speaking up!)

Conferences: This is an opportunity for me to check in on your progress for that project and for you to ask me any questions you may have.

* Late work for Weekly Warm-ups and Activities will not be accepted.

Grading Information

The Department of English reaffirms its commitment to the differential grading scale as defined in the 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. Courses graded according to the A, B, C, No Credit system shall follow the same pattern, except that NC shall replace D or F. In such cases, NC shall also substitute for W (or Withdrawal) because neither grade (NC or W) affects students' GPA.

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A (92-100); A- (90-91);
B+ (88-89); B (82-87); B- (80-81);
C+ (78-79); C (70-77); C- (70-71);
D+ (68-69); D (62-67); D- (60-61);
F (<60)
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- I use conventional rounding methods when determining percentages. 0.1 to 0.4 means I round down. 0.5 to 0.9 means I round up.
- I do not round up whole percentages. For example, if your total percentage at the end of the semester is 89.2%, that rounds down to 89%, which is a B+. The grade you received should be the grade you earned (barring any calculation errors). Do not message me at the end of the semester to ask me to round up to an A-. The answer will be no.
- Attendance grade. Canvas will show your grade for attendance. Disregard that. It's not included in your overall grade.

• You have two weeks from the date the grade is posted to make an appointment with me to ask about it. (Canvas always notifies you when your grades are posted, along with any comments. That's why it's encouraged to have the Canvas app on your phone.) Any later, and it's too late. Do not ask me at the end of the semester about an assignment from the beginning of the semester. Exceptions for this will be for your final project and final scores because I have about two weeks after the final meeting to get your grades in. So for that, you have one week to ask me.

Criteria

A note on grading in this course: Creative writing cannot be assessed the way we would a regular academic essay. So the following is generally how I will assess your work throughout the semester:

- An A meets the requirements of the project and is publishable as is, with very minor revisions
- A B meets the requirements of the project
- A C does not meet the requirements of the project
- A D is incomplete
- An F is no submission by the deadline without prior discussion with myself

A specific rubric will be provided for each major project

Breakdown

Assignment Breakdown with Learning Goals and Outcomes

I grade on a weighted system for the following sections. See below for detailed breakdown.

UNIT	PROJECT NAME	GELO	%
1	POETRY PORTFOLIO: 4 poems	4-7, 11	10%
2	NONFICTION: Personal Narrative	4-7, 11	10%
3	SHORT FICTION: Short Story	4-7, 11	10%
FINAL	MAJOR PROJECT REVISION	4-7, 11	15%
	REVISION RATIONAL ESSAY	4, 5, 8, 10	
1-3	PEER REVIEWS, ROUGH DRAFTS, CONFERENCES	3-5, 7, 9, 11	15%
1-3	DAILY WARM-UPS	1-11	15%

1-3	WRITING EXERCISES/ACTIVITIES/PARTICIPATION	1, 4-6, 8- 10	15%
1-3	READING DISCUSSION PRESENTATION	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	5%
1-3	SELF-EVALUATIONS & PORTFOLIO	3, 4, 5	5%
Total		///	100%

university Policies

Per <u>University Policy S16-9 (PDF) (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf)</u>, relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the <u>Syllabus Information</u> (https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

a Course Schedule

WEEK	DATE	MONDAY	DATE	WEDNESDAY	UNIT

0			8/21	Introductions Syllabus Contract & Writing Questionnaire First Day Writing Exercise	
1	8/26	Introduce Poetry Unit Read Week 1 Bulletin Reading: Inconsequentialism "Once Long Ago" "superpowers" by Au-Co Tran	8/28	In-Class Discussion Reading: "Phenomenal Woman" by Maya Angelou "We Real Cool" by Gwendolyn Brooks	1
2	9/2	LABOR DAY: NO CLASS	9/4	Read Week 2 Bulletin Reading: "Having a Coke with You" by Frank O'Hara "The Moon and the Yew Tree" by Sylvia Plath "Shitty First Drafts" by Anne Lamott	

3	9/9	Read Week 3 Bulletin Reading: "Gate A-4" by Naomi Shihab Nye	9/11	In-Class Discussion Reading: "Diving into the Wreck" by Adrienne Rich "won't you celebrate with me" by Lucille Clifton
4	9/16	Read Week 4 Bulletin	9/18	DUE: COMPLETED POETRY PORTFOLIO ROUGH DRAFT - On Canvas, before class. (Peer Review in class)

5	9/23	Introduce Nonfiction Unit Read Week 5 Bulletin Reading: Introduction to The Opposite of Loneliness by Anne Fadiman "The Opposite of Loneliness" by Marina Keegan DUE: FINAL DRAFT OF POETRY PORTFOLIO	9/25	In-Class Discussion Reading: "Goodbye to All That" by Joan Didion DUE: POETRY PORT FOLIO SELF- EVALUATION	2
6	9/30	Read Week 6 Bulletin Video: <u>"Modern Family" by Sara Barron</u>	10/2	In-Class Discussion	
7	10/7	Read Week 7 Bulletin Reading: "The Death of a Moth" by Virginia Woolf	10/9	In-Class Discussion	
8	10/14	Read Week 8 Bulletin DUE: COMPLETED PERSONAL ESSAY ROUGH DRAFT - On Canvas, before class. (Peer Review in class)	10/16	CONFERENCES DAY 1	

9	10/21	Read Week 9 Bulletin CONFERENCES DAY 2	10/23	Introduce Fiction Unit Read Week 10 Bulletin Reading: "The Story of an Hour" by Kate Chopin "The Flowers" by Alice Walker DUE: FINAL DRAFT OF NONFIC ESSAY	3
10	10/28	Read Week 10 Bulletin Reading: "The Paper Menagerie" by Ken Liu DUE: NON-FIC SELF-EVALUATION	10/30	In-Class Discussion Reading: "Sweat" by Zora Neale Hurston	
11	11/4	Read Week 11 Bulletin Reading: "The Landlady" by Roald Dahl	11/6	In-Class Discussion Reading: "In a Grove" by Ryunosuke Akutagawa	
12	11/11	VETERAN'S DAY: NO CLASS	11/13	Read Week 12 Bulletin In-Class Discussion Reading: "Girl" by Jamaica Kincaid	

13	11/18	Read Week 13 Bulletin DUE: COMPLETED SHORT STORY ROUGH DRAFT - On Canvas, before class. (Peer Review in class)	11/20	In-Class Discussion CONFERENCES DAY 1
14	11/25	Read Week 14 Bulletin CONFERENCES DAY 2	11/27	THANKSGIVING: NO CLASS
15	12/2	Read Week 15 Bulletin Introduce Revision Project	12/4	DUE: FINAL DRAFT OF SHORT STORY
16	12/9	Read Week 16 Bullet	in	
FINAL DATES (We do meet the	o not	12/13: Final Revision Explar12/15: SHORT S	nation E	