oneSan José State University
Department of English & Comparative Literature
ENGL 71: Critical Thinking & Writing
Section 06, Spring 2021

Instructor:	**Au-Co Tran**
Telephone:	Message me through Canvas
Email:	au-co.tran@sjsu.edu, but message me through Canvas. Emails may get buried under other emails. Canvas is just for students.
Office Hours:	M/W 1pm - 2pm & by appointment (virtual meetings only, Zoom info on Canvas) **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. Even in an in-person class setting, I wouldn't be able to read your mind to know when you need help.
Class Days/Time Location:	M/W 10:30AM - 11:45AM Sweeney Hall 444
GE Category	Letters C2

==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.==

Table of Contents:

Course Description

In-person or online, you will be expected to show up to every class meeting and participate. All Zoom information can be found clearly labeled on Canvas. If I make any changes, you will receive ample notice. These synchronous Zoom days should be treated as an in-person class; that means I will take attendance and assignment prompts given "in class" cannot be made up. It is your responsibility to ask your classmates for extra notes.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE: I will post all relevant information--deadline reminders, articles, Google docs, notes--for the week on Sunday evenings. It is your responsibility to check those Sunday announcements for that week before asking me any questions; most likely, the answer could be found there.

ENGL 71 Course Description

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 short fiction.

Section-specific Course Description

In this course, we will study works of literature and study how language is used to paint an image, tell a story, and create worlds that are as vivid and as real as our lives. The understanding that we gain from reading those pieces will hopefully help us gain an understanding of our own stories and how we can best tell them through writing. Lastly, we will learn to recognize that subject matters are all around us and there are no subjects too ordinary or boring to write about.

<mark>The Golden Rule</mark>

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.

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.

Required Texts and Materials
- The Bloomsbury Introduction to Creative Writing (2nd Edition, ISB 978-1350056688)
- You are required to have an electronic device (laptop, desktop, tablet) with a camera and built-in microphone. SJSU has a free equipment loan program 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 Learn Anywhere website 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.

Canvas and Contacting Me
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. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging and announcement system through MySJSU and Canvas to learn of any updates. (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. "I didn't see that assignment," "I don't know how it works," and, "It was only one minute late and it wouldn't let me submit the assignment!" are not acceptable excuses.

Contacting me: Contact me through Canvas. Ask questions well ahead of when you would like a response (24-48 hours before), and keep in mind that 1) I will not see your desperate 2:00 am message, and 2) I am generally unavailable over the weekends except to post updates. Additionally, remember that I am your instructor, not your Facebook friend, so your language should be appropriate and professional.

Messages regarding missed class work and lectures with the question "Did I (will I) miss anything important?" will not be answered. It is your responsibility to ask classmates, show up to office hours, use Discord/Canvas to find out what you missed.

ENGL 71 Course Requirements and Assignments
The University Policy S16-9, Course Syllabi (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) requires the following language to be included in the syllabus: "Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus."

The course writing assignments will give you repeated practice in all phases of the writing process: prewriting, organizing, writing, revising, and editing. You will receive frequent evaluations of your writing from me and your class peers. Evaluative comments will be substantive, addressing both the logic of the argument and the quality and form of the writing. Comments will encourage and acknowledge success as well as note problems and suggest ways to improve.

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in University Policy S12-3 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf.

Assignment Breakdown with Learning Goals and Outcomes

UNIT	PROJECT NAME	GELO	WORD COUNT	POINTS
1	POETRY: Portfolio	4-7, 11	800	50
2	CREATIVE NONFICTION: Personal Narrative	4-7, 11	1500	50
3	FICTION: Short Story	4-7, 11	1500	50
1-3	WORKSHOP PEER FEEDBACK	3-5, 9	1500	50
1-3	MAJOR PROJECT WORKSHOP	4-7, 11	///	10
1-3	WARM-UPS	1-11	1000	20
1-3	ACTIVITIES		1000	20
1-3	CLASS DISCUSSION/WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION	1, 4-6, 8-10	///	30
1-3	FINAL REVISION OF ONE MAJOR PROJECT	4-7, 11	Varies	10
	REVISION RATIONALE ESSAY	4, 5, 8, 10	700	10
Total			8000	300

Assignments
Course instruction includes in-class writing, reading discussions, peer review, group work and workshops during class meeting times. You will be assigned weekly homework to do outside of class (3-6 hours per week) that includes reading, writing, research and responding to texts.

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

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

Library Liaison
Peggy Cabrera, Librarian for English Department
Email: Peggy.Cabrera@sjsu.edu
Phone: 408-808-2034

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.
   a. 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.
   b. Final Exam: There will be no final exam in this course. This will serve as your final.

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 explore concepts outlined in the readings and/or past lectures. You are given time in class to complete the assignment and will have until 11:59pm of that day to complete it. Any later will not be accepted.

Activities: Activities will be done during our class sessions. These activities will most likely be done in groups with classmates.

Workshop Critique, subject & participant: One of the most important steps in the writing process is evaluating the work of your peers. Identifying the pros and cons of other writers will help you do the same for your own writing. You will also have to share a work of your choice with the class, including questions and areas of concern to guide your classmates in their reading of your work.

Participation:** You will be expected to contribute to the class discussion and workshops at least twice during each week. This includes answering Qs or asking Qs of your own. I will be keeping a record of this.

* Late work for Weekly Warm-ups and Activities will not be accepted.
** Participation only counts when you speak up during the class discussions and workshops. I cannot give you participation points for "paying attention," "trying hard," or speaking up during your group meetings because I cannot monitor those things for every individual in the class. Therefore, you can do all of the above listed and still get low participation points if you do not speak up during the class discussions.

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.

A (92-100);	B- (80-81);	D+ (68-69);
A- (90-91);	C+ (78-79);	D (62-67);
B+ (88-89);	C (70-77);	D- (60-61);
B (82-87);	C- (70-71);	F (<60)

- **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.
- **Your grade on Canvas is not accurate**. It will always show your grade being a bit higher than it actually is. The grade I will send out at the end of the semester is the most accurate 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.

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

Course Protocol (Read carefully.)
Note: If there's anything that 2020 has taught us so far, it's that life happens. You are in college, so your academics should take priority. However, 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.

All lectures and course materials distributed in this course (including slides, presentations, tests, outlines, handouts, and similar materials) are protected by copyright law (Title 17, U.S. Code). *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.

Submissions: I will only accept submissions on Canvas. No email. No sharing via Google. If I do not receive a submission from you on Canvas before the deadline, **that is a zero**. It is your responsibility to make sure your submission went through. (If you are unsure whether or not your submission went through, you can leave a comment with your submission and I will check.)

> Keep in mind, it is not my responsibility to seek you out and remind you to submit on Canvas. Excuses like "I wrote my response in my notebook but I forgot to type it up and submit it on Canvas" or sending me your Google doc history will not be acceptable excuses.

Workshop submissions: You must turn in your piece on Canvas one week before the day of your workshop so your peers have a chance to read and comment. You will loose 5 points off the total of your project grade everyday you are late, up to three days. After that, you will get a zero for both the project grade and th workshop portion.

Late Policy: Most assignments are due at 11:59 p.m. on the day of the deadline. For in-class (in person or on Zoom) activities, if you are not present when the prompt is given, that will be a zero. If you are not present for your workshop, that is a zero. For major assignments, you will lose 10 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.*

Feedback for workshops are due before class starts on the day of the workshop.

No late work accepted for smaller assignments (Warm-up, activities, workshop feedback, etc.). No exceptions.

> **For project workshop submissions**: You're given the chance to sign up for the date you want to workshop your piece well in advance, so it is your responsibility to make sure you're ready *one week* before that date (as stated above). If you need to submit at a later date, you have to find someone how signed up workshop at a later date willing to switch with you by the submission deadline. If not, that is an automatic 50% off of the project grade, and a zero on the workshop 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 know you will miss a class ahead of time) it is your responsibility to contact a classmate for notes, assignments, etc. Do not contact me and ask what you missed—the full list of readings is available to you in this syllabus and on Canvas.

Masks: As per the SJSU mask mandate, we are required to wear masks when we are meeting in person. I'll make sure to try and keep the doors/windows open in our room if possible for air circulation.

> No food or drink is allowed in the classroom. Your mask needs to stay on at all times when you are inside. That means over the nose and mouth.

Consideration: We will 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.

If you are a repeat offender for any of the issues listed above, I will ask you to leave.

Zoom Policies:

University policy (S12-7) requires consent from all individuals who appear in a class recording. If you do not wish to be identified in a class recording, you are permitted to turn off identifying info, like name and picture, prior to recording.

I most likely will not record Zoom meetings when we have them. Any recordings that I do have will be deleted at the end of the semester.

Some recordings may be uploaded onto Canvas for study purposes. Please do not download the recordings. You cannot share class recordings with someone who isn't enrolled in the class or without permission. These recordings are protected by the instructor's copyright.

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.

Zoom Classroom Etiquette: Have your video turn on when possible. Mute when you're not talking. Dress appropriately. Be mindful of your background. You can use the graphic option on Zoom, but if you're not, make sure it's an appropriate setting. Do your tech support before we start. Don't do other

private things while in a meeting. Stay focused. You shouldn't be doing other stuff while in a Zoom meeting for our class.

University Policies

University Policies Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs (http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/.)
Please refer to the Syllabus Contract once you are done reading through this.

Course Schedule

Note: The schedule is subject to change with fair notice in class or via notice on Canvas.
All assignments are due on Canvas by 11:59 on the due date.
Workshop pieces are due one week before the workshop takes place
NO SUBMISSIONS = ZERO

WEEK	DATE	MONDAY	DATE	WEDNESDAY	UNIT
0			1/26	ZOOM MEETING ● Introductions ● Syllabus ● Contract & Writing Questionnaire ● What is a workshop?	
1	1/31	ZOOM MEETING Introduce Poetry Unit Read Week 1 Bulletin ● Reading due: Introduction & Chapter 1 (Mokhtari) ● Sign up for Workshops	2/2	ZOOM MEETING ● Reading due: Check Week 1 Bulletin for reading assignment	1
2	2/7	ZOOM MEETING Read Week 2 Bulletin ● Reading due: Chapter 3 (Mokhtari) ● 2/7 LAST DAY TO DROP WITHOUT A W	2/9	ZOOM MEETING ● Reading due: Check Week 2 Bulletin for reading assignment	
3	2/14	Read Week 3 Bulletin ● Reading due: Chapter 8 (Mokhtari) ○ pg 223 - 243	2/16	● Reading due: Check Week 3 Bulletin for reading assignment	
4	2/21	Read Week 4 Bulletin	2/23	Due: Feedback for workshop pieces *before* class starts **POETRY WORKSHOP DAY 1** **1.** **2.** **3.**	
5	2/28	Read Week 5 Bulletin Due: Feedback for workshop pieces *before* class starts **POETRY WORKSHOP DAY 2**	3/2	Due: Feedback for workshop pieces *before* class starts **POETRY WORKSHOP DAY 3** 1.	

		1. 2. 3.		2. 3. **Due on Canvas if you didn't have a workshop this unit: Poetry Portfolio**	
6	3/7	Introduce Nonfiction Unit Read Week 6 Bulletin ● Reading due: Chapter 5 (Mokhtari)	3/9	● Reading due: Check Week 6 Bulletin for reading assignment	2
7	3/14	Read Week 7 Bulletin	3/16	● Reading due: Check Week 7 Bulletin for reading assignment	
8	3/21	Read Week 8 Bulletin	3/23	● Reading due: Check Week 8 Bulletin for reading assignment	
9	3/28	SPRING BREAK			
10	4/4	Read Week 10 Bulletin	4/6	Due: Feedback for workshop pieces *before* class starts **NONFICTION WORKSHOP DAY 1** **1.** **2.**	
11	4/11	Read Week 11 Bulletin Due: Feedback for workshop pieces *before* class starts **NONFICTION WORKSHOP DAY 2** **1.** **2.**	4/13	Due: Feedback for workshop pieces *before* class starts **NONFICTION WORKSHOP DAY 3** **1.** **2.** **Due on Canvas if you didn't have a workshop this unit: Personal Narrative**	
12	4/18	Introduce Fiction Unit Read Week 12 Bulletin ● Reading due: Chapter 4 (Mokhtari)	4/20	● Reading due: Check Week 12 Bulletin for reading assignment	3
13	4/25	Read Week 13 Bulletin	4/27	● Reading due: Check Week 13 Bulletin for reading assignment	
14	5/2	Read Week 14 Bulletin	5/4	● Reading due: Check Week 14 Bulletin for reading assignment	
15	5/9	Read Week 15 Bulletin Due: Feedback for workshop pieces *before* class starts ● **FICTION WORKSHOP DAY 1** **1.** **2.**	5/11	Due: Feedback for workshop pieces *before* class starts **FICTION WORKSHOP 2** **1.** **2.**	
16	5/16	Read Week 16 Bulletin Due: Feedback for workshop pieces *before* class starts **FICTION WORKSHOP 3**			

		1. 2. **Due on Canvas if you didn't have a workshop this unit: Short Story**
FINALS WEEK	5/19	**FINAL'S SCHEDULE: THURSDAY 9:45AM - 12PM** Due: Feedback for workshop pieces *_before_* class starts **FICTION WORKSHOP** **1.** **2.** **3.** **4.**
	5/20	**DUE BY MIDNIGHT ON CANVAS:** ● **Final Revision of Major Project** ● **Revision Explanation Essay** **(We do not meet this day)**