

The SOTA Creative Writing Senior Thesis 2009-2010

The SOTA Creative Writing Senior Thesis, approved and signed by the Creative Writing Department Head and submitted for outside publication, is a requirement for graduation onstage as a member of the Creative Writing Department. Other requirements for graduation onstage include satisfactory completion of the standards-based portfolio and participation in all creative writing classes, performances, and department activities.

Your senior thesis is a culminating, original, self-directed, book-length manuscript of publishable quality that demonstrates the writing skills you developed while in SOTACW. This can be a collection of poems or short stories (or combination of the two), a play, a novella, or a novel. A poetry collection should contain at least sixty pages of poetry, with no more than one poem per page. A manuscript combining poetry and short stories should be at least sixty pages in length. A short story collection or novella manuscript should be at least fifty pages in length. A novel excerpt must be at least fifty pages and be accompanied by a very detailed outline and plot summary for the rest of the novel. A play should be approximately seventy-five pages. The manuscript may draw upon your body of work over the four years in the department. The senior thesis is an important factor for the Department's *Excellence in Creative Writing* award. This award is the SOTA Creative Writing Department's highest honor, and is conferred upon the graduating senior who over four years has best demonstrated excellence in his or her writing.

I expect you to use all your resources in order to do your best work; however, you are the driving force for your thesis. You decide on what you will be writing and, with my approval, who will be the established writer acting as the mentor/advisor for your manuscript. After obtaining my final manuscript approval, with the help of your thesis advisor you are to do the research necessary to find the appropriate publications/publisher to submit your work. It is not required that your manuscript be accepted for publication, only that you submit your manuscript according to the professional guidelines of the publication/publisher. **THIS YEAR seniors, senior thesis advisors, the senior thesis director, and I will arrange for a May reading focusing on excerpts from your thesis.**

Thesis Requirements:

- 1.) You will not intern with the rest of the Department on Mondays. Instead, you will meet with Senior Thesis Director PK McBee.

- a. You may not leave the library early, or during class other than to use the restroom.
 - b. You must have a thesis-only flash drive with you every Monday.
 - c. You will come prepared for every Monday thesis seminar.
 - d. If you fail to meet these requirements, or are frequently absent Mondays you will be transferred to an internship of my choosing.
- 2.) You are to write a formal thesis proposal that includes:
- a. Genre, working title, theme/s (you need to know what you are writing about), *why* you are writing what you are writing about, and what previous work you plan to incorporate.
- 3.) You and your thesis advisor are to create a schedule of deadlines. These should be no more than one month apart and should coincide with meetings with your advisor.
- 4.) **Your proposal and writing schedule** will be submitted to me no later than **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4**. *Note: You will be held to the proposal and deadlines submitted.*
- 5.) A complete **FIRST draft** will be submitted to me no later than **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16** and will be factored into your MP and semester grade.
- 6.) **Your completed thesis** signed by your thesis advisor is due on **FRIDAY, APRIL 16**.

After you leave the SOTA Creative Writing Department you will never be able to say that you can't write a book—because you will have done exactly that. You are all exceptional writers, and after all the work of yours I've read over the past four years, this will be the last—and best!