

Idaho State UNIVERSITY

Department of English and Philosophy
921 South 8th Avenue, Stop 8056 • Pocatello, Idaho 83209-8056

2 April 2019

Dear Arts and Letters Faculty,

In recent years I have noticed two significant problems with students at the 1000 level in English classes: 1) they frequently arrive at ISU with college credit from high school courses that do not meet a university standard, and 2) they have at their disposal more sophisticated means of turning in work that is not their own. I imagine other departments in the humanities encounter similar difficulties, as students in our courses at the 1000 level typically do not become majors in our fields and we are tempted to overlook the problematic quality of their work. The components of this committee that deal with scholastic appeals and minimum standards for students thus particularly interest me as I struggle with low performance among students in my own 1000-level courses.

I am also eager to learn from the Registrar's Office how the academic calendar and course-load requirements affect the performance of our students, as these are two key areas this committee administers.

At present I serve on the Student Conduct Board, which hears particular cases involving academic dishonesty, and I hope to understand and address these problems on a larger scale with the Academic Standards Committee.

Thank you for your consideration.



Curt Whitaker
Professor of English

Curtis L. Whitaker

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Idaho State University
Department of English and Philosophy
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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Professor of English, Idaho State University, 2015-present.
Associate Professor of English, Idaho State University, 2007-2015.
Assistant Professor of English, Idaho State University, 2001-2007.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., English, University of California, Los Angeles. 2001.
M.A., English, University of California, Los Angeles. 1997.
California Teaching Credential in English, University of California, Davis. 1988.
B.A., *summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, double major in English and German, University of California, Davis. 1986.
Year abroad studying German literature and history, Georg-August Universität, Göttingen, West Germany. 1984-1985.

PUBLICATIONS

Articles and Book Chapters

- “Marvell on Renaissance Translation Practice.” *Studies in English Literature* 59 (2019): 177-202.
- “Domesticating and Foreignizing the Sublime: *Paradise Lost* in German.” In *Milton in Translation: Theory and Practice*, ed. Angelica Duran, Islam Issa, and Jonathan Olson. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017. 115-37.
- “Bioaesthetics and the American West.” In *Found in Alberta: Environmental Themes for the Anthropocene*, ed. Robert Boschman and Mario Trono. Waterloo, Ontario: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2014. 333-49.
- “Fairfax, Marvell, and the Mowers of Nun Appleton.” *The Ben Jonson Journal* 20 (2013): 72-94.
- “Herbert’s Pastor as Herbalist.” In *George Herbert’s Pastoral: New Essays on the Poet and Priest of Bemerton*, ed. Christopher Hodgkins. Newark: University of Delaware Press, 2010. 235-52.
- “Baptisms and Burials: The Presence of the Book of Common Prayer in Herbert’s Nature Poetry.” *George Herbert Journal* 27 (2004): 82-104.
- “Andrew Marvell’s Garden-Variety Debates.” *Huntington Library Quarterly* 62 (1999): 296-311.

Encyclopedia Entries and Shorter Articles

- “German Translations of *Paradise Lost*.” *The Milton Encyclopedia*, ed. Thomas Corns. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2012.
- “Klopstock, Frederick,” “Dee, River,” “Cam, River,” “Severn, River,” and “Westphalia, Peace of.” Shorter entries for *The Milton Encyclopedia*, ed. Thomas Corns.
- “Seventeenth-Century Teeth.” *Rendezvous* 36 (2003): 49-54.

Reviews

- “Andrew Marvell, Man Without Qualities.” Review Essay of Nigel Smith, *Andrew Marvell: The Chameleon. Huntington Library Quarterly* 74 (2011): 367-71.
- Review of Adrian Johns, *The Nature of the Book. Comitatus* 32 (2001): 196-99.
- Review of Nicholas Murray, *World Enough and Time: The Life of Andrew Marvell. Comitatus* 31 (2000): 268-69.

REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “Calvinism and the Early Modern Rust Economy,” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, Detroit, MI. June 2017.
- “Calvin, Herbert, and the Steady-State Economy,” *Herbert in Paris*, Paris, France. May 2017.
- “Pre-Industrial Waterways,” *Under Western Skies 4: Water—Events, Trends, Analysis*, Mount Royal University, Calgary, Canada. September 2016.
- “Shakespeare’s Typeface,” Invited lecture for *First Folio on Tour from the Folger Shakespeare Library*, Boise State University, Boise, ID. September 2016.
- “Ecotheology’s Elusive Audience,” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, Moscow, ID. July 2015.
- “Ecotheology and the Problem of Place,” *Under Western Skies 3: Intersections of Environments, Technologies, and Communities*, Mount Royal University, Calgary, Canada. September 2014.
- “Marvell on Translation: The Cases of Dr. Witty and Mr. Milton,” Meeting of the Andrew Marvell Society, South-Central Renaissance Conference, Tucson, AZ. April 2014.
- “American Hesperides: Converting Yards to Gardens in the Western U.S.,” *Under Western Skies 2: Environment, Community, and Culture in North America*, Mount Royal University, Calgary, Canada. October 2012.
- “Insights of the Seventeenth-Century Taxonomists,” Plenary Lecture at Rocky Mountain Medieval & Renaissance Association Conference: Classifying the Medieval and Renaissance World, Pocatello, ID. April 2012.
- “Pharmacology in Cymru: Vaughan, Herbert, and Welsh Medicinals,” *Locating George Herbert: Family, Place, Traditions*, Newtown, Wales. October 2011.
- “Bioaesthetics and the American West,” *Under Western Skies: Climate, Culture, and Change in Western North America*, Mount Royal University, Calgary, Canada. October 2010.
- “Green Performances: The Renaissance Garden as Intellectual Display,” Pacific Northwest Renaissance Conference, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT. May 2009.
- “Herbert’s Metrics,” *George Herbert’s Travels: International Print & Cultural Legacies*, University of North Carolina at Greensboro. October 2008.
- “Herbert’s Pastor as Herbalist,” *George Herbert’s Pastoral: Poetry and Priesthood, Past and Future*, Salisbury, England. October 2007.
- “Green Pastors,” Pacific Northwest Renaissance Society Conference, Calgary, Canada. April 2007.
- “Baptisms and Burials: The Presence of the Book of Common Prayer in Herbert’s Nature Poetry,” Rocky Mountain Medieval & Renaissance Association Conference, Rexburg, ID. June 2006.
- “Sir Thomas Fairfax and the Mowers of Nun Appleton,” Renaissance Society of America Conference, San Francisco, CA. March 2006.
- “George Herbert and Nature’s Watry Things,” The Pacific Northwest Renaissance Society Conference, Banff, Alberta, Canada. May 2005.
- “A Modernist’s ABCs: Ezra Pound’s Advice to Teachers,” The Inland Northwest Council of Teachers of English, Lewiston, ID. March 2005.

“Andrew Marvell’s Garden-Variety Debates,” The Pacific Northwest Renaissance Conference, Puget Sound, WA. April 2000.

“Marvell’s Maecenas,” The Northern California Renaissance Conference, Chico, CA. May 2000.

REFEREED CONFERENCE PANELS CHAIRED

“Deep Waters,” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, Davis, CA. June 2019.

“Taking the View: Vision, Representation, and the Environmental Humanities,” American Society for Environmental History, Riverside, CA. March 2018.

“Religion and Rust: Calvinism, Hinduism, Mormonism,” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, Detroit, MI. June 2017.

“Environmentalism from Robin Hood to Milton,” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, Detroit, MI. June 2017.

“Circulations and Rising Seas,” *Under Western Skies 4: Water—Events, Trends, Analysis*, Mount Royal University, Calgary, Canada. September 2016.

“Urban Designs, Emissions, and Greenwashing,” *Under Western Skies 2: Environment, Community, and Culture in North America*, Mount Royal University, Calgary, Canada. October 2012.

“Herbert and Welsh Writers,” “Locating George Herbert: Family, Place, Traditions,” George Herbert Society, Newtown, Wales, UK. October 2011.

ISU PRESENTATIONS

Presentations / panel discussions directed to university and high school faculty

- “Pinyon Jay Press Open House.” Coordinated event, introduced the Press’s website, and explained History of Typography project to ISU students and faculty. October 2015.
- “General Expectations and Syllabi for English 1101.” Early College Program Orientation Workshop. August 2014.
- Department Interest Group on Literature, Language, Philosophy, and Science. Chaired meetings of this group. 2013.
- “Insights of the Seventeenth-Century Taxonomists.” Presented to Idaho Museum of Natural History. September 2012, 2013, 2014.
- Early College Program: Training Workshop. Led two workshops on the subject of Ecocritical Approaches to Literature. February 2011.
- “Can the Discipline of English Be Saved?” Co-Presented colloquium with Professor Roger Schmidt of ISU English Department. April 2010.
- “Panel Discussion on Managing Workload.” Spoke as invited panelist on time management issues in grading composition papers. ISU Department of English and Philosophy. December 2009.
- “Literary Darwinism.” Presented sabbatical colloquium to ISU’s Department of English and Philosophy regarding research completed on the application of scientific methodology to literary content. April 2009.
- “There’s Money on the Table.” Organized and moderated this presentation to the Department of English and Philosophy on grant opportunities in the humanities; featured speaker was ISU history professor Jack Owens. April 2009.
- “Herbert’s Pastor as Herbalist.” Presented essay as part of Work-in-Progress series at ISU English Department. April 2008.
- “Teaching Literature in the Composition Classroom.” Co-coordinated event and made presentation to ISU English Department. April 2006.
- “Academic Interlopers: When English Professors Play Historians,” ISU English Department. Collaborated with Jessica Winston on this “What’s New in Your Field?” presentation. November 2005.
- “Marvell’s Maecenas.” Presented essay as part of Work-in-Progress series at ISU English Department. October 2002.

Presentations / panel discussions / events directed to graduate students

- ISU Graduate Research Symposium, Poster Judge. March 2019.
- “Publishing Interdisciplinary Work,” Intermountain Graduate Conference, Faculty Panelist. March 2019.
- “Resources for Developing as a Researcher.” New Graduate Student Orientation, ISU English Department. August 2013, 2014.
- “Literature Pedagogy.” Spoke to ISU’s English Graduate Student Association (EGSA) on pedagogy in literature vs. composition classes. February 2013.
- Panel Chair at “Challenging Boundaries, Seeking Intersections: The Sixth Annual Intermountain Graduate Conference.” February 2011.
- “Literary Darwinism.” Presented this type of literary criticism to English 612 students as part of their introduction to graduate studies. October 2009.
- Early College Day. Served as invited speaker to advise area high school students interested in majoring in English/humanities at ISU. October 2009.
- “Taking the Master’s Exam.” As previous chair of exam (2008), spoke to ISU’s English Graduate Student Association (EGSA) on test-taking strategies. February 2009.
- “Writing Thesis Proposals,” ISU English Department. Presented to English Department graduate students on how to strengthen their M.A. and D.A. thesis proposals. November 2005.

COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

- Organizer and Moderator, *Five Seasons: Urban Landscaping* Panel Discussion, ISU Student Union. February 2019.
- Organizer and Moderator, *Problems with Plastic* Film Viewing and Panel Discussion. ISU Student Union. February 2018.
- Organizer and Moderator, Acoustic Ecology Panel Discussion. ISU Student Union. February 2017.
- Organizer and Moderator, *Wrenched* Panel Discussion, ISU Student Union. February 2016.
- Organizer and Moderator, *Emptying the Skies* Panel Discussion, ISU Student Union. February 2015.
- Assistant Organizer to Ransom Eddings, *Langston Hughes Project and ISU Poetry Slam*, ISU Student Union. February 2015.
- “Wilderness Pursued.” Invited Presentation for Idaho Humanities Council, Idaho Falls, ID. April 2014.
- Organizer and Moderator, *Tokyo Waka* Panel Discussion, ISU Student Union. February 2014.
- Organizer and Moderator, *Grow!* Panel Discussion, ISU Student Union. March 2013.
- “Human Interaction with the Portneuf River.” ISU Science/Humanities Café. December 2012.
- Organizer and Moderator, *Green Fire* Panel Discussion, ISU Student Union. March 2012.

GRANTS

External

Portneuf Valley Audubon Society Event Grants (\$150-\$250), annually from 2011-2018.

Internal

- ISU Travel Grants, from Office of Research, College of Arts and Sciences, College of Arts and Letters, Department of English and Philosophy (\$500-\$1000), 2005-2019.
- ISU Sabbatical Leave, College of Arts and Letters, 2016-2017.
- ISU College of Arts and Letters Course Release, 2015.
- ISU Career Path Internship Funding (\$2000) for web design for Pinyon Jay Press, 2014-2015.
- ISU College of Arts and Letters Course Release, 2014.
- ISU Humanities and Social Sciences Research Committee Grant (\$7234), 2012-2013.
- ISU Faculty Development Funds Grant (\$582), 2013
- ISU Cultural Affairs Council Mini-Grant (\$366), 2012.
- ISU Faculty Development Funds Grant (\$1000), 2011.
- ISU Faculty Research Committee Grant (\$4,483), 2011.
- ISU Sabbatical Leave, College of Arts and Sciences, 2008.
- ISU Faculty Research Committee Grant (\$2,655), 2007.
- ISU Faculty Research Committee Grant (\$4,500), 2002.

HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Master Teacher Award, ISU, 2007, 2015.
- James Phillips Dissertation Fellowship, UCLA, 1999-2000.
- English Department Teaching Assistantships, UCLA, 1995-2001.
- English Department Travel Grants, UCLA, 1997-2000.
- University Fellowship, UCLA, 1994-1995.
- Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship, UC Davis, 1987-1988.
- Phi Beta Kappa, UC Davis, 1986.
- UC Regents Four-Year Undergraduate Scholarship, UC Davis, 1982-1986.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant, Associate, Full Professor, Idaho State University (2001-2019).

I have designed and taught the following semester-long courses in nineteen years at ISU:

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| 1101 | English Composition (5X) |
| 1102 | Critical Reading and Writing (16X) |
| 1110 | Introduction to Literature |
| 1115 | Major Themes in Literature: Literature and the Environment |
| 1115 | Major Themes in Literature: Literature and the Environment (Online) |
| 2257 | Survey of World Literature I |
| 2258 | Survey of World Literature II |
| 2267 | Survey of British Literature I (7X) |
| 3301 | Writing about Literature (6X) |
| 3311 | Writing and Research about Literature (2X) |
| 3321 | Genre Studies in Drama |
| 3322 | Genre Studies in Poetry (3X) |
| 3323 | Genre Studies in Fiction |
| 3341 | Bible as Literature (5X) |
| 4433 | Methods for Secondary School Teachers (5X) |
| 4461/5561 | Classical Literature: Greco-Roman Myth (2X) |
| 4461/5561 | Classical Literature: Roman Empire and Christianity (2X) |
| 4461/5561 | Classical Literature: Poetry of Ancient Rome (2X) |
| 4463/5563 | Renaissance (16C) Literature |
| 4464/5564 | 17C Literature: Renaissance Belief and Doubt |
| 4464/5564 | 17C Literature: Renaissance Sacred and Profane |
| 4464/5564 | 17C Literature: Renaissance Themes: Love, Religion, Health, Money |
| 4464/5564 | 17C Literature: Renaissance Visual Culture and Advent of Printing |
| 4464/5564 | 17C Literature: Science and Religion |
| 4464/5564 | 17C Literature: Renaissance Life Writings |
| 4474/5574 | Milton (6X) |
| 4476/5576 | Shakespeare |
| 4491 | Senior Seminar: Science and Literature |
| 4491 | Senior Seminar: World Religious Texts as Literature |
| 4491 | Senior Seminar: Literature and Our Changing Environment (2X) |
| 6621 | Seminar: Epic and Lyric Voices |
| 6623 | Seminar: The Sciences of Human Nature |
| 6625 | Seminar: Cognitive Science and Renaissance Literature |
| 6625 | Seminar: Greening the Renaissance |
| 6625 | Seminar: Ecocritical Approaches to the Renaissance |
| 6632 | Seminar in Teaching Literature (5X) |
| 6664 | Seminar: Seventeenth-Century Prose |
| 6664 | Seminar: Environmental Approaches to Renaissance Literature |
| 6664 | Seminar: Seventeenth-Century Literature and Philosophy |
| 6672 | Seminar: Marvell and his Circle |

Instructor and Teaching Assistant, UCLA (1995-2001)

Designed and taught own courses in literature and composition (7 Terms).

Taught as a T.A. for literature courses (8 Terms).

Taught Shakespeare at UCLA summer program in Stratford-upon-Avon, England (4 Summer Sessions, 1996-1999).

High School Teacher (1988-1994)

Taught at Leuzinger High School, an inner-city school in Los Angeles, all levels of instruction from remedial to AP English. Coached Academic Decathlon Team for six years.

SERVICE**University**

Faculty Appeals Panel (2017-present)
 Scholastic Appeals Panel (2018-present)
 Student Conduct Board (2018-present)
 Pinyon Jay Press Advisory Board, Chair (2013-2016), Member (2017-present)
 Campus Maintenance and Beautification Committee (2012-2016)
 Tenure and Promotion Review for Terry Ownby (2015-2016)
 Special Budget Coordinating Committee (2010-2012)
Rendezvous Editorial Board (2004-2012)
 Campus Planning Council (2011)
 Budget Council (2009-2011)
 Task Force for University Restructuring (2009-2010)
 Early College Program Liaison (2009-present)
 University Library Committee (2006-2009)
 Faculty Research Committee (2007-2008)
 Tenure and Promotion Review Committee for Kathleen Tarp (2006)
 Graduate Council (2003-2005)
 Sabbaticals Committee (2002-2004)
 Appeals Committee (2002-2004)
 Cultural Affairs Council (2002)
 Graduate Faculty Representative (GFR) (Eleven times, 2002-2015)

Department

Policy & Personnel Committee (2018-present)
 Set Text Exam Committee (2019-present)
 Periodic Performance Review for Thomas Pfister, Chair (2018)
 Early College Program Committee (2017-2018)
 Three-Year Review Committee for David Lawrimore, Chair (2017)
 Undergraduate Committee (2001-2002; 2007-2008, 2014-2016)
 Liberal Arts Building Renovation Committee, Chair (2007-2009, 2012-2015)
 Professional Development and Publicity Committee, Member and Chair (2009-2014)
 Periodic Performance Review (PPR) Committee, Chair (2014)
 Master's Set Text Exam Committee, Chair (2004, 2006, 2007, 2009-2011)
 Promotion Review Committee for Jessica Winston (2011)
 Graduate Committee (2002-2007; 2009)
 Library Liaison for Journal Cuts (2009)
 Town Hall Meetings on Proposed PhD in English, Moderator (2009)
 M.A. Exam Committee (Member, 2001, 2002; Chair 2003, 2006, 2008)
 Liaison for Education Department Curriculum Accreditation in English (CATE) (2008)
 Search Committee for Tenure-Track Position in Composition (2007)
 Tenure and Promotion Review Committee for Steve Adkison (2004)
 Ad Hoc Committee to Revise Requirements of English Major (2003-2004)
 Promotion Review Committee for Alan Johnson (2003)
 Search Committee for Tenure-Track Romanticist Position (2003)

Supervision of Students

Director of Ph.D. Dissertation (Kyle Jenks, in progress)
 Director of Ph.D. Dissertation (Yousef Deikna, in progress)
 Director of Ph.D. Dissertation (Carla Dando, 2016)
 Director of Ph.D. Cooperative Internship (Yousef Deikna, 2017)
 Director of Ph.D. Cooperative Internship (Chris Brock, 2014)
 Director of Ph.D. Cooperative Internship (Steven Hall, 2011)
 Director of Ph.D. Independent Internship (Shelley McEuen, 2015)
 Director of Ph.D. Independent Internship (Zachary Dilbeck, 2014)
 Director of D.A. Thesis (Robin Dudley, 2009)
 Director of D.A. Thesis (Wesley Connally, 2008)
 Director of D.A. Thesis (Waveney Olembo, 2006)
 Second Reader to Ph.D. Dissertation (Quinn Grover, in progress)
 Second Reader to Ph.D. Dissertation (Jacob Thomas, in progress)
 Second Reader to Ph.D. Dissertation (Shelley McEuen, in progress)
 Second Reader to Ph.D. Dissertation (Melinda Linscott, in progress)
 Second Reader to Ph.D. Dissertation (Steven Hall, 2014)
 Second Reader to Ph.D. Dissertation (Elise Barker, 2014)
 Second Reader to Ph.D. Dissertation (Sheldon Lawrence, 2012)
 Second Reader to Ph.D. Dissertation (Michael Lee, 2012)
 Second Reader to D.A. Thesis (Tamara Wood, 2010)
 Second Reader to D.A. Thesis (Tamara Wood, 2009)
 Second Reader to D.A. Thesis (Valerie Reneau Smith, 2005)
 Second Reader to M.A. Thesis (Emily Thornton, 2018)
 Second Reader to M.A. Thesis (Deon Martineau, 2018)
 Second Reader to M.A. Thesis (Jason Clark, 2013)
 Second Reader to M.A. Thesis (Jennifer Kent, 2012)
 Second Reader to M.A. Thesis (Matt Lucas, 2003)
 Chair of D.A. Colloquium (Robin Dudley, 2009)
 Chair of D.A. Colloquium (Valerie Reneau Smith, 2005)
 Director of Independent Study in Pedagogy (Robin Dudley, 2006)
 Supervisor of D.A. Independent Internship (two times, 2004-2005)
 Supervisor of Student Teachers in English 101 (three times, 2003-2005)
 Mentor to Graduate Students in English 101 (fourteen times, 2002-2019)

Community

Member and Board Member, Portneuf Valley Audubon Society (2005-present)
 Speaker, Idaho Humanities Council Speakers Bureau (2011-present)
 Early College Program Mentor for Area High School Teachers (2009-present)
 Volunteer, Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows (2016-present)
 Member, Idaho Native Plants Society (2011-present)
 Member, Teaching Literature Book Award Committee (2014-2016)
 Reviewer, Idaho Humanities Council, Grant for “Digital Wonderland,” PI Yolonda Youngs (2014)
 Conference Assistant Coordinator, Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association (2011-12)
 Reviewer, *Huntington Library Quarterly* (2011)
 Guest Speaker, Portneuf Valley Audubon Society. “Birding with Shakespeare” (2011)
 Guest Speaker, “Studying English in College,” Pocatello High School (2011)
 Guest Speaker, “Ecocritical Approaches to Literature,” Early College Program for Area High School Teachers (2011)
 Guest Presenter, KISU Radio, “Trip-Hop” (2010) and “Heavy Metal and Religion” (2011)
 Researcher, Volunteer for Idaho Conservation League (2005-2010)
 Researcher, Copy Editor for Idaho Museum of Natural History (2006-2007)

Volunteer for Old Town Pocatello Improvement Association (2004)
Judge for Selection of Poet Laureate at Pocatello High School (2003)

Membership in Professional Organizations

External Referee, *Mosaic: An Interdisciplinary Critical Journal* (2016-present)
Member, Andrew Marvell Society (2014-present)
Member, Usk Valley Henry Vaughan Association (2011-present)
Member, George Herbert Society (2011-present)
Member, Idaho Conservation League (2005-present)
Member, Amnesty International Human Rights Educators Network (2004-present)