

Curriculum Vitae
Donnie L. McMahan

University of West Georgia
Dept. of English and Philosophy
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EDUCATION

Doctorate of Philosophy: English, Tulane University, 2013
Dissertation: *Quest for Blackness: Writing against White Visioning and Black Self-Destruction*. Director: Rebecca Mark

Masters of Arts (Honors): English, Clemson University
Thesis: *Their Eyes Were Watching God: Community, Speech, and Primitivism*. Director: Bill Koon.

Bachelor of Arts (Honors): English-Secondary Education, Francis Marion University.

EMPLOYMENT

Limited Term Instructor, University of West Georgia, Department of English and Philosophy, 2009-Present

Part-time Instructor, University of West Georgia, Department of English and Philosophy, 2009-2010

Lecturer, University of North Carolina, Department of English and Comparative Literature, 2006-2009

Teaching Assistant, Tulane University, Department of English, 2003-2006

Lecturer, Clemson University, Department of English, 2000-2002

Teaching Assistant, Clemson University, Department of English, 1999-2000

Writing Center, Clemson University, Tutor: Composition and Research Skills, 1998-1999

Writing Center, Francis Marion University, Tutor: Basic and Advanced Writing Skills, 1995-1996

Teaching Assistant, Southside Middle School, Florence, SC, Instructor of six levels of Language Arts classes, ranging from Remedial to College Preparatory, 1997

PUBLICATIONS

“At Trafalgar Station” (poem) in *The Peach Belt Athletic Conference*, 1997.

“(Dis)embodying the Delta Blues: *Wolf Whistle* and *Your Blues Ain’t Like Mine*.”
Emmett Till in Literary Memory and Imagination. Eds. Harriet Pollack and Christopher
Metress. Baton Rouge: LSU Press, 2008. 202-21.

Rpt. in *Contemporary Literary Criticism*. Ed. Jeffrey W. Hunter. Vol. 304. Detroit: Gale,
2011. Print.

“Between Martyrdom and Machismo: Black Masculinity and the American South: A
Review.” (with co-author Kevin L. Murphy), *Southern Literary Journal* Eds. Fred
Hobson and Minrose Gwin. 41.2 (2009): 151-55. Print.

“Bodies on the Brink: Vision, Violence, and Self-Destruction in *Delta Wedding*” in
Welty, Whiteness, Race, and Civil Rights.* Ed. Harriet Pollack. Athens: UGA Press,
2013. 165-84. Print.

*Nominated for the McLemore Prize awarded by the Mississippi Historical Society.

“‘Remember right’: Disenfranchised Grief and the Commemoration of Queer Bodies in
Welty’s Fiction and Life”* (with co-author Kevin L. Murphy). *Eudora Welty Review*.
Eds. David McWhirter and Sarah Ford. 6 (2014): 69-82. Print.

*Winner of the Ruth Vande Kieft Award presented by the Eudora Welty Society.

“The Lynched Earth: Trees, Trespass, and Political Intelligence in Welty’s ‘A Worn Path’
and Morrison’s *Home*” (with coauthor Kevin L. Murphy). *Eudora Welty, Whiteness,
Race, and Class*. Ed. Harriet Pollack. (forthcoming).

“Strange Bedfellows: Randall Kenan ‘Talks Back’ to the Southern Renaissance.”
Southern Literary Journal. Eds. Minrose Gwin and Sharon Holland. (forthcoming).

TEACHING

The University of West Georgia

2009-Present

Freshman Composition I and II (18 sections each)

Designed and taught courses on basic writing and pre-writing skills such as
developing, organizing, and composing main and supportive ideas. Special topics
for these sections include Women, Sex, and Power, and more currently one called
Growing Pains: Youth, Violence, and Rebellion.

Studies in African American Literature (nine sections)

This course surveys African American literature from America's colonial period to the present day. Students explore such concepts as the mask, the trickster, double consciousness, liminality, and womanism in relation to texts spanning the breadth of the black canon.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

2006-2009

Freshman Writing (six sections)

Writing within the disciplines, students focused on various scholarly discourses concerning the human body. Selected fields of interest included Health Science, Social Psychology, and literary analysis. Each major essay assignment demanded a shift in research, compositional style, and documentation.

Tulane University

2002-2006

*Special Topic: Freaks, Geeks, and Have-nots: Communities on the Edge**Freshman Writing* (seven sections)

Designed and taught a course that looked closely at mainstream and marginal social groups. The class looked specifically at the politics of assimilation, Crab theory, extreme body modification, militias, gangs, school shootings, and other relevant topics.

Advanced English Composition: Expository Writing (one section)

This advanced composition course exposed students to challenging essays and a broad spectrum of genres in which to write.

*Advanced American Literature**Special Topic: Big Bad Monster Lit* (one section)

With literature from the 19th and 20th centuries, this class examined how the monster—on the page and big screen, human and otherworldly, real and imaginary—functions as a metaphor for matters as diverse as psychopathy, scientific discovery, and technical innovation.

Clemson University

1999-2002

Rhetoric and Composition: Building Blocks of Writing

Freshman Composition I (eight sections)

Designed and taught courses with class average of 23 students. This class allowed students to develop sound writing skills and practices. Assignments included summaries, nonfiction and literary analyses, reviews, as well as personal narratives.

Rhetoric and Composition: Theories of Argument

Freshman Composition II (eight sections)

With an average of 23 students per class, students concentrated on persuasive writing strategies and research techniques. Students wrote critical analyses of literature as well as on current events and controversies.

Contemporary Literature at Home and Abroad

Sophomore Literature (two sections)

Students read American and British literature produced after the Second World War. The reading list ranged from Samuel Becket and Saul Bellow to Toni Morrison. The average class size was 37 students.

Survey of American Literature II: Major Periods in American Literature: 1865-Present

Sophomore Literature (two sections)

The classes explored American Realism and Modernism as well as some Postmodern works. The class average was 34 students.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Conference Papers

“Interlocking Blues and Body Narratives: *Your Blues Ain’t Like Mine* and *Wolf Whistle*” – Southern Writers Symposium at Methodist College, Fayetteville, N.C. 2005.

“Black Absence and Blues Presence: The Body of Emmett Till in Lewis Nordan’s *Wolf Whistle*” – Society for the Study of Southern Literature Conference in Birmingham, 2006.

“Fearing and Desiring Whiteness in a Posttraumatic South: Randall Kenan ‘Talks Back’ to the Southern Renaissance”—South Central Modern Language Association, Baton Rouge, October 29-31, 2009.

“Alice Walker’s *Open Heart* and Footpath to a Global Black South”—Society of the Study of Southern Literature, New Orleans, April 8-11, 2010.

“Bring in the Dark!: Locating the Black Body in Welty’s *Delta Wedding*”—Society of the Study of Southern Literature, Nashville, March 29-31, 2012.

“Alice Walker’s Model for a Global Black South in *Now is the Time to Open Your Heart*”—MELUS, San Jose, April 19-22, 2012.

“‘Remember right’: Disenfranchised Grief and the Commemoration of Queer Bodies in Welty’s Fiction and Life” (with Kevin L. Murphy)—“To Each Their Own Visioning:” The Eudora Welty International Conference, College Station, Texas, April 3-7, 2013.

“Strange Bedfellows: Randall Kenan Talks Back to the Southern Renaissance”—Society for the Study of Southern Literature. Arlington, VA, March, 2014.

“The Lynched Earth: Landscapes as Buried Histories in Welty’s ‘A Worn Path’ and Morrison’s *Home*”—American Literature Conference, Wash., D.C., May 22-25 2014.

Poetry

“Progenitor,” “At Trafalgar Station,” “Lines for Your Eye,” and “Jupiter”—Sigma Tau Delta Conference in Savannah, Georgia 1997.

Activities

“Emmett Till and the Literary Imagination,” Moderator—*Unsettling Memories Conference* in Jackson, Mississippi, 2004.

English Symposium, FMU, Panelist—“The Fight for Canonicity,” 1997.

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Peer Reader for the *Religion and Literature Journal*, University of Notre Dame

Graduate Teaching Assistant Practicum: Freshman Composition I and II
Director: Dr. Donna Winchell, Clemson University

Sophomore Literature Colloquium: How to Engage Class Discussion
Director: Dr. Lee Morrissey, Clemson University

AWARDS AND HONORS

The Ruth Vande Kieft Award for Young Scholars, 2013
South Carolina Graduate Fellowship, Clemson University
Honorable Distinction, Oral Exams, Clemson University
Eight Academic Achievement Awards for Minority Students, FMU
Senior English Award, Francis Marion University
Three James McCrimmon Poetry Prizes, Francis Marion University

ACHIEVEMENTS (and Associations)

Phi Kappa Phi, Member
Eudora Welty Society, Member
Society of the Study of Southern Literature, Member
Modern Language Association, Member
Sigma Tau Delta, President Nu Rho Chapter, Francis Marion University. 1996-98
English Club, President, Francis Marion University
Snow Island Review, Francis Marion University, Editor, Managing and Business Editor
Education Student Council, Member, Francis Marion University