

Matthew Sherling

EDUCATION:

- 1) San Francisco State University – MFA in Creative Writing (Poetry) – Fall 2010 – Fall 2012

During my time at SFSU, I took multiple poetry workshop courses (as well as a fiction workshop) and several “process” courses that focused on specific approaches, such as “Mapping” (writing about place) and “Persona.” I also took a Teaching Creative Course with Michelle Carter, who required us to develop a syllabus for a 301 course that integrated Poetry, Fiction, and Drama.

I worked individually with Paul Hoover on my thesis/manuscript, several poems of which will appear in my first published book, *Bring Me My Absolute Surrender* (Plain Wrap Press, 2014).

- 2) University of West Georgia – BA and MA in English -Fall 2008 through Summer 2010

At UWG I thoroughly cultivated my passion for studying and writing literature. In addition to performing research for the English Department, I got a chance to teach my very own English 1101 class (for which I created my own syllabus). Through this experience I realized the significance of exploring untraditional ways of approaching and interpreting texts in the classroom—i.e. studying not only ‘literature’ but also films, advertisements, and music videos.

During grad school at UWG, I received extensive individual attention from professors Dr. Fraser and Dr. Davidson, who inspired me to pursue the path of teaching at a college level. These two professors also catalyzed my love for teaching and writing poetry in particular. Without them I probably would not have decided to go on to receive my MFA.

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE:

- 1) University of West Georgia – August 2013 – Present

I have had the wonderful opportunity of teaching English 1101 and 1102 at UWG, where I have gained effective experience teaching in a context that I find most compatible with my skills. I desire to teach either English/Literature or Creative Writing in a college setting. This year, since I created each syllabus and chose each text, reminded me how fulfilling and creative teaching can be. I especially engage with the process of seeing

concrete results/growth in the students, especially those who move from having little confidence to a lot in their ideas and writing.

2) Think Tank Learning Teacher / Tutor – August 2010 -August 2013

Upon first arriving in San Francisco, I was fortunate enough to immediately find a job with TTL. Quickly I began teaching classes in addition to performing one-on-one tutoring. I have now taught over 20 classes at TTL, such as Advanced Critical Reading, Perfecting Grammar, Vocabulary Foundations, and SAT Training. Teaching these classes has reminded me how genuinely I enjoy the process of teaching and how fulfilling it is for teacher and student to watch educational growth take place. I am specifically interested in the blend between discipline and spontaneity, between 'critical' and 'creative' approaches.

RELEVANT ADDITIONAL SKILLS:

1) Interviewing

For the past two years, I have involved myself in the art of interviewing. As a teenager forward, I have exhibited a keen interest in reading / listening to interviews with writers, artists, and musicians who particularly strike me. Therefore, I decided to interview these types myself. I conduct my own blog (CUTTY SPOT), on which I initially interviewed primarily musicians but have since shifted my energy toward writers. I have been fortunate enough also to now have interviews published in places like *The Believer* and *Fanzine*. This experience has helped develop my interpersonal skills and has instructed me toward a greater awareness of what draws me to writers / artists. It has also allowed me to speak to several writers and musicians who I admire immensely.

2) Literary Magazine

During my first semester at SFSU, I attended the 14 Hills Course as a staff member for the 14 Hills Graduate Literary Magazine. I got an opportunity to see the inner-workings of how these projects operate. This inspired me to create my own online literary magazine (GESTURE), for which I've released three issues of poetry and short-shorts. Interacting with the online literary world has allowed me to meet a multitude of young writers and editors and, through friendly soliciting, has allowed me to publish writers like Rosemarie Waldrop, Lydia Davis, Phil Elverum, and Franz Wright.

NOTABLE PUBLICATIONS:

Book of poems, *Bring Me My Absolute Surrender*, to be released by Plain Wrap Press in 2013.

Magazines:

The Believer *The
Fanzine* *The
Columbia Review*
Thought Catalog
BIRP! NAP Banango
Lit UP Literature i
am alt lit

AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND OTHER:

- 1) Tuition Scholarship to attend Summer Poetry Workshop at Sarah Lawrence – 2010
- 2) Chaired two panels during 2010 Undergraduate English Conference
- 3) Elected to take poetry workshop with Tom Lux at Georgia Tech – 2010
- 4) Poetry accepted and presented at University of Florida’s Graduate Conference – 2009
- 5) Received the “Insight Award” in 2008 from UWG’s English Department

ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS:

For hobbies I listen to tons of music and enjoy hiking/camping, developing substantial friendships, and experimenting with photography / video.