

Kevin Casper, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Dept. of English, Film, Languages and Performing Arts
University of West Georgia
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., English w/specialty in Rhetoric & Composition, Louisiana State University, August 2013

Dissertation: *In Spite of Yourself: The Asignifying Force of Laughter.*

Committee: Brooke Rollins (chair), Susan Weinstein, William Demastes.

M.A., English, California State University Northridge, May 2008 (*With Distinction*)

Thesis: *And Baba Booeey to Ya'll: The Art of Defamiliarization in The Howard Stern Show.*

Committee: Guillermo Bartelt (chair), Joel Athey, Jack Lopez.

B.A., English, California State University Northridge, May 2005

ARTICLES

“Outside Meaning and Inside Jokes: The Poems of David Kirby.”
Birmingham Poetry Review. Number 43. (Spring 2021): 4-14.

“So I Don’t Even Know My Own Name?: Digital Vocality, Affirmative Laughter, and Posthuman Ethics in Soundboard Phony Phone Calls.” *Enculturation: A Journal of Rhetoric, Writing, and Culture*. 26 Feb 2020. http://enculturation.net/digital_vocality.

“Stand-Up for Freshmen: The Risky Bets and High Rewards of Stand-Up Comedy in the Writing Classroom.” *New Writing: The International Journal for the Practice and Theory of Creative Writing*. 13.3 (2016): 421-433.

“I’m So Glad You’re Fake: Simulacra Slapstick and The Limits of the Real.”
Ephemera: Theory and Politics in Organization. 15.3 (2015): 581-600.

“I Didn’t Do It, Man, I Only Said It: The Asignifying Force of *The Lenny Bruce Performance Film*.” *Rhetoric Society Quarterly*. 44.4 (2014): 343-362.

CREATIVE NONFICTION

“Outer Sunset.” *Five Points: A Journal of Literature and Art*. 21.1 (2021): 58-63.

REVIEWS

Abstract Reviewer. *Bi-Annual Rhetoric Society of America Bi-Annual Conference*. Fall 2023.

Reading Reviewer. *Common Places: Integrated Reading and Writing*. Reviewed for McGraw Hill. Fall 2023.

Peer Reviewer. *Joking Hazard: Humour and Offensiveness in Contemporary Culture and Politics*. Reviewed for *Bristol University Press*. Summer 2022.

Reading Reviewer (credited). *Writing From the Inside Out*. Reviewed for Bedford/St. Martin's Press. Summer 2019.

Reading Reviewer (credited). *Understanding Rhetoric: A Graphic Guide to Writing, 2E*. Reviewed for Bedford/St. Martin's Press. Summer 2019.

Peer Reviewer. "Comedy Writing as Method: Using Humour to do Research." Reviewed for *New Writing: The International Journal for the Practice and Theory of Creative Writing*. Summer 2018.

Peer Reviewer. "Control, Practice, and Materialism." Reviewed for JAISA, Journal of the Association for the Interdisciplinary Study of the Arts. Summer 2015.

Copyeditor (credited): *Draculas, Vampires and Other Undead Forms: Essays on Gender, Race and Culture*. Ed. John Edgar Browning and Caroline Joan (Kay) Picart. Foreword David J. Skal. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 2009.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS

"Anatomy of a Joke: The Rhetoric of Humor."
Invited Speaker. The Other Night School. UWG Newnan. August 29, 2023

"Future Proof Careers in the Humanities."
Invited Speaker. CACSI Academic Showcase. Saturday, January 22, 2022.

"Laughter's Lingering Liminality: Dave Chappelle's *Sticks and Stones*."
Rhetoric Society of America Conference, Portland, OR (May 21-24, 2020). *Paper accepted; conference canceled by pandemic.

"Future Proof Careers in the Humanities."
Invited Speaker. COAH's "Get on the Bus" High School Recruiting Event. November 1, 2019

"Train to be an Executive in the Humanities."
Invited Speaker. COAH's "Get on the Bus" High School Recruiting Event. January 18, 2019

"Student Success in Graduate Programs."
Invited Speaker. New English Graduate Students Onboarding Event hosted by Graduate Director Patrick Erben. April 19, 2018.

"All Them Names You Callin' Me, They Ain't Making No Sense: Digital Vocality, Affirmative Laughter, and the Ethics of Alterity in Soundboard Phony Phone Calls."
Rhetoric Society of America Conference, Minneapolis, MN (June 1, 2018).

“Longer Than the Whole Iliad: The Rhetorical Tradition’s Desperate Search for the Limits of Humor and Laughter.”

Rhetoric Society of America Conference, Atlanta, GA (May 28, 2016).

“The Big Three of Humor Theory.”

Invited Presentation. Advanced Academy Thursday Night Dinners Speaker Series, East Commons, University of West Georgia (January 21, 2016).

“This Here Giraffe Laughed: Animal Rhetorics and the Metaphysical Musical Humor of The Flaming Lips.”

South Central Modern Language Association Conference, Nashville, TN (November 2, 2015).

“Supporting Student Success with Block Scheduling.”

Innovations in Pedagogy Conference, Center for Teaching and Learning, University of West Georgia (April 28, 2015).

“The High Risk and Higher Rewards of Stand-Up Comedy in the Composition Classroom.”

Conference on College Composition & Communication, Tampa, FL (March 20, 2015).

“TurnItIn iPad Grading.”

Inventing the Beyond Focus Group, University of West Georgia (January 13, 2015).

“The Features and Benefits of TurnItIn.”

Quality Enhancement Plan Workshop, University of West Georgia (August 19, 2014).

“So I Don’t Even Know My Own Name?: Approaching Alterity in Soundboard Prank Phone Calls.”

Rhetoric Society of America Conference, San Antonio, TX (May 23, 2014).

“I’m So Glad You’re Fake: Postmodern Slapstick and the Creation of the Real.”

Interdisciplinary Conference in the Humanities, University of West Georgia (November 1, 2013).

Chair, “Professing Negative Affect: Fear, Anxiety, and Strain in the English Classroom,” Interdisciplinary Conference in the Humanities, University of West Georgia (November 1, 2013).

“The Performative Force of Stand-Up Comedy in *The Lenny Bruce Performance Film*.”

Rhetoric Society of America Conference, Philadelphia, PA (May 26, 2012).

“Classical Rhetoric and the Comedy of Lenny Bruce.”

Rhetoric Society of America Conference, Minneapolis, MN (May 30, 2010).

Invited presentation, “Defamiliarization in the Howard Stern Show.”

Dr. Brooke Rollins, ENG 4300: Rhetoric of Humor, Louisiana State University
(February 26, 2009).

“Keep Some Sunshine of Your Face: Signifying, Lying, and Word Play in the
Comedy of Richard Pryor.”
New Directions in Southern Studies Conference, Baton Rouge, LA (December 3,
2008).

“Ghosts and Empties: The Surrealist Mining of the Arcades.”
CSUN Student Research and Creative Works Symposium, Northridge, CA
(November 5, 2005).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of West Georgia, 2013 – present

Undergraduate Courses:

Composition I (ENGL 1101)
Composition II (ENGL 1102)
Composition I & II ACCESS Art Block (ENGL 1101 & 1102 paired sections)
Arts & Ideas: Comedy (XIDS 2100)
British Literature - Honors (ENGL 2120H)
African American Literature (ENGL 2180)
Research and Methodology (ENGL 3000)
Intermediate Creative Writing: Creative Nonfiction (ENGL 3200)
Pedagogy and Writing (ENGL 3400)
Professional and Technical Writing (ENGL 3405)
Studies in Genre: Humor in American Literature & Film (ENGL 4106)
Advanced Writing in the Disciplines (ENGL 4304)
Studies in Literary Theory (ENGL 4310)
Senior Seminar: Ideology of Sports in Literature (ENGL 4384)

Graduate Courses:

Studies in Genre: Humor in American Film & Literature (ENGL 5106)
Advanced Writing in the Disciplines (ENGL 5304)
Studies in Literary Theory (ENGL 5310)
Special Topics: Rhetoric of Humor and Laughter (ENGL 6385)
Special Topics: Teaching Writing (ENGL 6385)

Online & Hybrid Sections:

Composition I (ENGL 1101)
Composition II (ENGL 1102)
African American Literature (ENGL 2180)
Intermediate Creative Writing: Creative Nonfiction (ENGL 3200)
Professional and Technical Writing (ENGL 3405)
Studies in Genre: Humor (ENGL 4106)
Advanced Writing in the Disciplines (ENGL 4304)
Studies in Genre: Humor (ENGL 5106)
Advanced Writing in the Disciplines (ENGL 5304)
Special Topics: Teaching Writing (ENGL 6385)

Louisiana State University, 2008 - 2013

Composition (ENGL 1001)
 Advanced Composition (ENGL 2000)
 Advanced Composition: The Rhetoric of Humor (ENGL 2000 Special Emphasis)
 Advanced Composition: Writing in the Health Professions (ENGL 2001)
 Critical Strategies (ENGL 2024)
 Technical Writing (ENGL 3002)

California State University Northridge, 2007 - 2008

Composition (ENGL 155)

GRANT FUNDED COURSE DEVELOPMENT

Co-designer *ENGL 4304: Advanced Writing in the Disciplines* at UWG with support from “Expanding Impact of Undergraduate Research: Literary Undergraduate Research at the University of West Georgia and Beyond,” an NEH Access Grant.

ADDITIONAL WRITING INSTRUCTION EXPERIENCE

Volunteer Writing Tutor, UWG Writing Center, Fall 2013 – Spring 2020
Writing Consultant, California State University Northridge, Fall 2007 – Spring 2008
Writing Tutor, California State University Northridge, Fall 2006 – Spring 2007
Supplemental Instructor, California State University Northridge, Spring 2006
Writing Tutor, Los Angeles Valley College, Spring 2005

HONORS AND AWARDS

English Department Service Award
University of West Georgia, 2019
 English Department Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award
Louisiana State University, 2012
 Graduate Student Travel Award
Louisiana State University, 2012
 Alumni Association Teaching Graduate Teaching Assistant Award
Louisiana State University, 2011-2012
 Graduate Student Travel Award
Louisiana State University, 2010

SERVICE**University of West Georgia**

Faculty Sponsor, “West Writers Workshop”, University Student Organization, Fall 2022 – Present
Undergraduate Research Conference Subcommittee, Fall 2022 – present
ACCESS Block Schedule BFA Cohort, Fall 2014 – Spring 2020
John N. Gardener Institute (JNGI) Gateway to Completion (G2C) Steering Committee, Fall 2016 – Spring 2018
Complete College Georgia Learning Support Committee, Fall 2017
Faculty Sponsor, League of Legends University Student Organization, Spring 2015 – Spring 2017
University QEP Writing Consultant – Fall 2013 – Spring 2015

English Department/University of West Georgia

Chair, First Year Writing Committee, Fall 2013 – Spring 2020
Chair, EPIC FYW Curriculum Pilot Steering Committee, Spring 2017 – 2020
Creative Writing Committee, Fall 2022 – present
Faculty Status Committee, Spring 2018 – present
English Education Committee, Spring 2020 – Fall 2022
Chair, Faculty Status Committee Lecturer Evaluation Subcommittee, Spring 2019
Search Committee, Multi-Ethnic Scholar, Fall 2017
Chair, Hiring Committee, FYW Associate Director, Spring 2017
Sigma Tau Delta Faculty Advisor, Fall 2014 – Fall 2016
First Year Writing MOOC Development Committee, Spring/Summer 2014 – Fall 2015
First Year Writing Lab Development Committee, Spring 2014
First Year Writing Handbook Selection Committee, Fall 2013

Director of First Year Writing, Fall 2013 – Spring 2020

Chair, FYW Funded Faculty Reading Group
Writing With Power (Elbow), Fall 2018
Teach Students to Learn (McGuire), Fall 2017
Engaging Ideas (Bean), Fall 2016

Organizer, “Employing Holistic CourseDen Gradebook for FYW EPIC Pilot.”
November 15, 2019: FYW Faculty Development Workshop. Guest Speakers
David Lloyd and Mandi Campbell (Online Faculty Development)

Organizer and Presenter, “Labor Based Contract Grading”
October 9, 2018: FYW Faculty Development Workshop

Organizer and Presenter, “Grade Norming”
August 9, 2018: FYW Faculty Development Workshop

Organizer, “What Do We Really Know About How People Learn?”
April 13, 2018: FYW Faculty Development Workshop and Catered Lunch.
Guest Speaker Dr. Claire Major, Chair of Educational Leadership,
Technology, and Policy Studies department at University of
Alabama

Organizer and Presenter, “ARC Writing Prompt Development”
January 26, 2018: FYW Faculty Development Workshop

Organizer, FYW Faculty Development Workshop “Hamilton Shared Text”
October 20, 2017: Guest Speaker Josh Sewell

Co-Organizer, “Teach Students How to Learn: Student Metacognition, Study Skills, and
Motivation”
September 7, 2017: FYW Faculty Development Workshop and Catered
Lunch. Guest Speaker Sandra McGuire, Director

Emerita of the Center for Academic Success and Professor of Chemistry at
Louisiana State University

Researcher, Conference on College Composition & Communication

Information literacy best practices, Portland, OR. May 15-19, 2017

Organizer, FYW Faculty Development Workshop "Material Collaboration"

March 10, 2017: Guest Speaker April Oglesbee

Organizer, Campus-Wide FYW Shared Text Colloquium

Spring 2017: *Fight Club* (film); Faculty representatives: Sal Peralta (Political Science); Neema Noori (Sociology); Marie-Cecile Bertau (Psychology); Mark Hendrix (English); Student speaker: Sam Zimmerman

Organizer, FYW Faculty Development Workshop "Streamlining IT Issues in FYW Classroom"

February 17, 2017: Guest Speakers David Lloyd (Online Faculty Development); Wendy Grisham (Instruction Design); Stephanie Westine (Center for Academic Success)

Organizer, "Cultivating Inquiry through Research Assignments: A Teaching Workshop"

October 19 & 21, 2016: Guest Speaker Andrea Baer, UWG Librarian

Organizer, 1102 Shared Text High Museum Field Trip

March 5, 2016: High Museum, Atlanta.

Organized and Presenter, "Improving Work/Life Balance"

March 5, 2015: FYW Faculty Development Workshop

Organizer and Presenter, "Professionalism in the FYW Classroom"

January 23, 2015: FYW Faculty Development Workshop

Organizer and Presenter, "The Triage Approach to Grading First Year Writing"

April 11, 2014: FYW Faculty Development Workshop

Organizer and Presenter, "Metacognition and the Writing Process"

October 25, 2013: FYW Faculty Development Workshop

Supervisor of Peer Tutoring

Fall 2013 – Spring 2020: University Writing Center

Faculty Adviser/Sponsor for Student Research and Conference Presentations

Publications:

Kristen Leonard: "Superiority Theory, Humor's Messianic Power, and Changing the Situation in Forrest Gump."

Published in *LUR*, Vol. 6 (2016).

Conference Presentations:

Sadie Smith: "Life in a 'Computer Hotel': Critchley's Humor Theory in Marcel the Shell"

with Shoes On”

Jannette Emmerick: “How Gene Luen Yang’s *American Born Chinese* Plays with Ethnic Humor and Explores the Superego.”

Panel Presenters, “*Adolescence as Funny and Scary*.”

EFPLA Undergraduate Research Conference, University of West Georgia,
October 19, 2023.

Bethany Blackman: “The Storm Within”

Panel Presenter, “*Research as Creative*.”

Undergraduate Research Conference, University of West Georgia, October
20, 2022

Shaquira Harvey, Achonti Breion Stanley, Sianni A’kemi Robinson:

Panel Presenters, “*Blues People: African American Protest Music and Literature
from Gospel to Hip Hop*,” LURe Undergraduate Research Conference,
University of West Georgia, February 25, 2021.

Marisa Sorensen: “Grace Paley’s Use of Humor: Revealing the Oppressed Female
Position”

Panel Presenter.

LURe Undergraduate Research Conference, University of West
Georgia, April 4, 2017.

Judy Jones, Kayle Milligan, Marisa Sorensen:

Panel Presenters, “*Indecent Exposure: Humor in American Literature and Film*,”

Undergraduate Research Conference and LURe Release, University of West
Georgia, October 27, 2016.

Anastasia Latson: “*Paying the Rent: Ideology, Subjectivity, and Resistant Submission in Octavia
Butler’s ‘Bloodchild’*”

Presenter, “*The Power of Place: Investigating the Interactions between Ideology and Influence*,”
University of North Carolina-Greensboro Graduate Conference,
Spring 2015.

Mark Hendrix: “*Diffusing the Disgusting: The Power of Reclaiming Ownership in Spalding
Gray’s Confessional Monologues*”

Presenter, National Creative Writing Conference, University of West Georgia, Spring
2015.

Wanjiku Kihanya, Destin Gordon, Courtney Arndt, Shelly Bressner, William Brown, Katherine
Trial:

Panel Presenters, “*Indecent Exposure: Humor in American Literature and Film*,”

Undergraduate Research Conference and LURe Release, University of West
Georgia, November 12, 2015

Katie Saba, Christopher Wilson, Sheldon Hunter:

Panel Presenters, “Professional & Technical Writing,” Research Day Humanities
Division, University of West Georgia, March 26, 2014.

Graduate Creative Capstone/Thesis Reader and Exam Committees

Landrin Sheldon, Fall 2023
 Shelly Bressner, Fall 2023
 Kelly Shane, Spring 2021
 Melissa Johnson, Spring 2021
 Katherine Trial, Fall 2020
 Ashley Carroll, Fall 2020
 Katherine Trial (Chair), Fall 2020
 Emani Collins (Chair), Fall 2019
 Bryan Murphy, Fall 2017
 Nathan Keener, Spring 2016
 Mark Hendrix, Spring 2016
 Lucas Chance, Summer 2016
 Anastasia Latson (Chair), Summer 2016
 Jess Bohlens, Fall 2016
 Aubrey Wilson, Fall 2015

Additional Student Mentorship

Mentor to GRA Chyna Gowan (ENGL 3200), Summer 2021
 Mentor to GRA Ashley Carroll, (ENGL 1101) Spring 2019
 Mentor to GRA Matt Rood (XIDS 2100), Fall 2016
 Mentor to GRA Mark Hendrix (ENGL 1101), Fall 2015
 Mentor to GRA Jenna Harte (ENGL 1101), Fall 2015
 Mentor to GRA Elizabeth Wood (ENGL 1101), Fall 2013
 EGADS Faculty Sponsor, "Let's Get Childish," January 14, 2015
 EGADS Faculty Sponsor "Prom Night," February 21, 2014

Faculty Mentorship

Mentor to First Year Writing Instructor Matt Rood, 2019
 Mentor to First Year Writing Instructor Mark Hendrix, 2018
 Mentor to First Year Writing Instructor Jenna Harte, 2018
 Mentor to colleague Matt Franks, Fall 2015
 Mentor to First Year Writing Instructor Ashley Dycus, Spring 2015
 Mentor to First Year Writing Instructor Elizabeth Steele, Fall 2014
 Written observations of First Year Writing instructors: Ashley Carroll (2019), Kelly Frank (2018), Matt Rood (2017), Mark Hendrix (2016), Crystal Shelnut (2016), Ashley Dycus (2015), Elizabeth Steele (2014)

Additional Service to Department

English Department Representative, Preview Day, 2014, 2017, 2019.
 Faculty Senate English Representative, March 29, 2019
 Presenter, Outstanding FYW Student and Faculty Awards, English Department Honors Day, Spring 2017, Spring 2019, Spring 2019
 Host, English Department Honors Day, Spring 2015, Spring 2014.
 Organizer, Michael and Andrea Stone Visiting Artist Series (filmmaker Zack Godshall), October 28, 2014
 TurnItIn e-portfolio Consultant, May 13, 2014

Louisiana State University

Contributor (photography), New Delta Review, Winter 2011 issue 2.1
Rhetoric, Writing, and Culture Program Development Committee, 2010
Advanced Composition Implementation Committee, 2009

California State University, Northridge

Writing Center Faculty Outreach Committee, 2006-2008

GRANTS

ACCESS Block Schedule BFA Cohort Grant
University of West Georgia, 2014, 2015
 First Year Writing MOOC Grant
University of West Georgia, 2014
 University Corporation Research Grant
California State University, Northridge 2007-2008
 Graduate Equity Fellowship
California State University, Northridge 2005-2006, 2006-2007

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

CourseDen+ Self-Guided Faculty Course
Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL), Spring 2020
 Concourse Training Courses
Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL), Spring 2020
 Quality Matters Training
Designing Class Module, March 2016; Applying Rubric Module, April 2016.
 Faculty Study Group
How Learning Works, University of West Georgia, Spring 2014.
 Research and Interdisciplinary Collaboration
"Transadaptation," Louisiana State University, February 8-9, 2012.
 Research and Interdisciplinary Collaboration
"The Modern Rhetoric Project," University of Minnesota, May 27, 2010.
 Teaching Associate Program
Dr. Irene Clark, Director of Rhetoric and Composition, California State University Northridge, Spring 2006 – Fall 2007
 Research Assistant
Dr. Irene Clark, Director of Rhetoric and Composition, California State University Northridge, Spring 2007 – Fall 2008.

MEMBERSHIPS

Association of Literary Scholars Critics and Writers
 Rhetoric Society of America
 Modern Language Association
 South Central Modern Language Association
 American Humor Studies Association
 National Council of Teachers of English

American Association of University Professors
United Campus Workers of Georgia Local 3265

REFERENCES

Chad Davidson, Director of the School of the Arts, University of West Georgia
Dionne Irving Bremyer, Associate Professor, English, Notre Dame
David Newton, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of West
Georgia
Meg Pearson, Dean, School of Arts and Sciences, SUNY Plattsburgh
Brooke Rollins, Director of First-Year Writing, Lehigh University