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Sul Ross State University
Department of Languages and Literature
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Employment

Assistant Professor of English, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, fall 2014- present

Visiting Assistant Professor of English, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, fall 2013-spring 2014

Instructor, Karen Merritt Writing Program University of California at Merced, Merced, California, fall 2011-spring 2013

Adjunct Lecturer, Karen Merritt Writing Program University of California at Merced, Merced, California, spring 2009-spring 2011

Adjunct Lecturer, Department of English Merced College, Merced, California, fall 2009-present

Charles R. Blackburn postdoctoral fellow Department of English, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington, 2008-2009

Education

Ph.D., English 2003-2008 Washington State University, Pullman, Washington
Research interests: Identity politics, culture of the south Texas borderlands, twentieth century American literature, discourse of space and place, critical race theory
Director: Victor Villanueva

M.A., English 1998-2000 Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas

B.A., English 1994-1997 The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas

Dissertation

Medusas and Mestizas: (Re)Thinking Mestizaje in the Sociopolitical Landscape of the South Texas Borderlands

My dissertation focuses on the geo and cultural-political notions of space and place, particularly how they complicate the formative sense of self. My research challenges popular theoretical approaches to living in the borderlands. I question the Chicano Movement's reliance on pre-Cortesian temporality, on the mythical space and place of Aztlán, which has been widely adopted as a cure-all discourse that attempts to solve problems of race, culture, gender, and identity in a Euroamerican society. I argue that certain aspects of Gloria Anzaldúa's *The New Mestiza* are flawed

because they rely on embracing an indigenous (Aztec) mythical mindset as a means of rejoining a cleaved cultural identity. Situating discourse in indigenous, mythical temporality can estrange, rather than communicate solidarity, in an already anxious cultural outsider, one whose identity is not grounded in the history of indigenous resistance. This notion of cultural estrangement is further complicated by the psychology and physiology of gender identity formation, since the politics of the Chicano Movement and the constructs of Aztlán are patriarchal.

Publications

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

“Not for the Male Gaze: (Un)Gendering the Heroine in Cinematic Space.” *The Apollonian: A Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies*. 1.1 (2014): n. pag. Web. 2014.

Web-Based Journal Articles

Road to Hell.” Rev. of *Gangster Tour of Texas*. T. Lindsay Baker. *Books of the Southwest* (2014).

Other Publications

“Carlos Fuentes: *The Campaign*.” *Compendium of 20th Century International Novelists and Novels*. Ed. Michael D. Sollars. New York: Facts on File, 2007.

“Carlos Fuentes: *A Change of Skin*.” *Compendium of 20th Century International Novelists and Novels*. Ed. Michael D. Sollars. New York: Facts on File, 2007.

“Carlos Fuentes: *The Good Conscience*.” *Compendium of 20th Century International Novelists and Novels*. Ed. Michael D. Sollars. New York: Facts on File, 2007.

“Carlos Fuentes: *The Hydra Head*.” *Compendium of 20th Century International Novelists and Novels*. Ed. Michael D. Sollars. New York: Facts on File, 2007.

“Carlos Fuentes: *Where The Air Is Clear*.” *Compendium of 20th Century International Novelists and Novels*. Ed. Michael D. Sollars. New York, Facts on File, 2007.

“Full Flavor Smokes.” *LandEscapes*. Ed. Katie Rosenthal. Pullman, WA, 2005.

Symposia

“Not Just For the Male Gaze: The Heroine of Tomorrow... Today” at the 35th Annual SWPACA Conference, “Popular and Culture American Studies: Yesterday, Tomorrow, and Today,” February 2014.

“Mestiza Consciousness Re-Defined: A Borderland of Our Own?” at The University of California-Riverside, 12th Annual Humanities Conference, “(dis) junctions: Theory Reloaded” May 2005.

“Space and Place in Sandra Cisneros’s *The House on Mango Street*.” St. Mary’s University, National Latina Letters Conference, San Antonio, Texas, July 2005.

“Short Term Sacrifices for Life-Long Benefits: Real World Challenges Facing Latinas in Higher Education” at the 8th Annual Children of Aztlán Sharing Higher Education Conference (CASHE), Washington State University, Pullman, Washington, November 2005.

“Chicana de Hoy: Negotiating Culture and Tradition in Sacred Spaces,” at the Comparative Ethnic Studies colloquium series titled, *Encuentros*, sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts at Washington State University, Pullman, Washington, November 2004.

Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

Charles R. Blackburn postdoctoral fellow Department of English, Washington State University, 2008-2009

Given for the best dissertation of the year in the departments of English and American Studies, and for excellence in teaching. The Blackburn recipient also reviews undergraduate applications for several departmental scholarships, and makes recommendations for finalists to the Chair.

Department travel grants Department of English, Washington State University
July 2005, April 2006, March 2007

Summer Teaching Assistantship Department of English, Washington State University, May 2004 through May 2006

This award is competitive and is based upon teaching excellence and satisfactory academic progress. Each recipient’s academic progress is re-evaluated by the Department of English at WSU every academic year. I was awarded a Summer Teaching Assistantship every summer semester beginning in 2004.

Liberal Arts Teaching Fellowship Department of English, Washington State University, 2003-2004

A stipend in the amount of approximately \$11, 000 (the same as a Teaching Assistantship) for one academic year. It is awarded for excellence in teaching prior to beginning the PhD program. The award allows the graduate student to forgo teaching obligations in the first academic year of doctoral program of study.

Courses Taught

Assistant Professor of English Sul Ross State University, Department of Languages and Literature, Alpine, TX 2014-present

Advanced Composition An intensive study of writing techniques useful to the advanced writer. Areas of concentration include grammar, rhetorical strategies, and style.

Bibliography and Theory This is a graduate course designed to introduce graduate students to the basic methods of research and literary study.

Children’s and Adolescent Literature A survey of children’s and adolescent literature and a familiarization with outstanding authors and illustrators of that literature. Includes the

application of literary evaluation to children's and adolescent literature and a survey of resources available.

Composition I This is an introductory college course which emphasizes the composition of short essays and reading skills. Required of all students.

Composition II This course includes the study of various writing modes, with emphasis on exposition, critical analysis, and research techniques. Students will write well-developed, critical, persuasive, documented papers. Required of all students.

Forms of Literature Techniques of critical analysis of major literary types: prose, fiction, poetry, and drama.

Women's Studies Survey course in understanding of the contributions, challenges, needs, and aspirations of women and of the way that gender shapes the lives of both women and men.

Visiting Assistant of Professor of English Sul Ross State University, Department of Languages and Literature, Alpine, TX 2013-2014

Composition II This course includes the study of various writing modes, with emphasis on exposition, critical analysis, and research techniques. Students will write well-developed, critical, persuasive, documented papers. Required of all students.

Forms of Literature Techniques of critical analysis of major literary types: prose, fiction, poetry, and drama.

Advanced Composition An intensive study of writing techniques useful to the advanced writer. Areas of concentration include grammar, rhetorical strategies, and style.

Teaching Experience *Teacher of Record*

Lecturer University of California at Merced, Karen Merritt Writing Program, Merced, CA 2009-present

The World at Home (Core 1)

The course is an integrated, interdisciplinary one that reconciles the disciplines to one another and satisfies the UC lower division general education requirement. Core 1 is a survey of various academic landscapes, embracing disciplines from math, science, anthropology, literature, and sociology.

College Reading and Writing

Iterative practices of reading and writing, understanding and appreciate aesthetics regarding language and sentence structure.

Academic Writing

Course stresses basic principles of reading various texts from cultural and sociopolitical contexts, and also stresses the importance of revision and peer editing techniques.

Lecturer Merced College, Merced, CA, August 2010-present

Composition and Reading

This is a course that stresses critical readings, scholarly composition, and research applications at the college-level. Expository and argumentative essays—including one annotated research project—based on class reading and discussions are assigned.

Foundations in Academic Literacy

A review of grammar and other conventions of English composition, including reading comprehension and analysis.

Teaching Experience Prior to Earning Ph.D

Teacher of Record

Teaching Assistant Washington State University, Pullman, WA fall 2004-spring 2008

English Composition and Literature Honors spring 2008

This course teaches the interpretive, argumentative, expository, and communicative skills necessary to join effectively in the discussion of contemporary American multicultural literature.

Humanities (Mythology) spring 2008

This course focuses on the importance of myths from around the world in relation to how they have influenced art, music, film, and literature.

Chicana/o Literature fall 2008

Required course for students in Comparative Ethnic Literature and/or American Studies majors. The course focuses on the historical, cultural, and sociopolitical implications of Chicanas/os in the United States.

Composition for ESL Students five semesters

This course is the equivalent of introduction to Writing, except that is reserved for non-native speakers of English.

Introduction to Literature fall 2007

Required course for English majors. Selections from short stories, poetry, drama, and the novel are taught, which showcase diverse voices and the role of history in interpretation of literature

Introduction to Writing four semesters

This course stresses academic writing, critical thinking, peer revision, and rhetorical strategies.

Other Teaching Experience

Teacher of Record

Critical Thinking and Composition Evergreen Valley College, San Jose, CA, fall 2001-spring 2003

This course focused inductive and deductive reasoning skills, formal and informal fallacies of written thought, and the ability to distinguish opinion from issues of judgment.

World Literature Rio Grande College, Eagle Pass, TX, fall 2001
Survey course in Western and non-Western literary traditions

Basic Writing Rio Grande College, Eagle Pass, TX, summer 2000-fall 2001
This course prepares students discover and develop the writing process, strengthen their reading skills, and introduce them to specific kinds of writing situations

Creative Writing Rio Grande College, Eagle Pass, TX, summer 2000-fall 2001
A workshop based course, stressing various creative writing fundamentals, including developing characterization, dialogue, and plot.

Writing Programs

English A Lab Merced College, Merced, CA, fall 2010
(a co-requisite, supplemental course of English A, Foundations in Academic Literacy) This course is designed to improve reading and writing skills through variety of modalities including individualized assistance and instruction.

Tutorial in Introductory Writing Washington State University, fall 2004
(a supplement to Introductory Writing course) I directed peer editing workshops for clusters of students enrolled in Introductory Writing courses

Portfolio Reader Evergreen Valley College, San Jose, CA, fall 2001-fall 2003
I assessed student writing examinations, evaluated students' writing skill levels, and suggested appropriate course placement.

Writing Tutor Sul Ross State University, Alpine, TX, fall 1998-fall 2000

Relevant Experience

Teacher of Record

Upward Bound Washington State University, summer 2007
Employment was competitive and contingent on the acceptance 1) the student learning objectives outlined in a written, formal proposal; 2) how the stipend would be spent during the eight week course.

WAMI-DOC-Summer Doctor Program Washington State University, summer 2006
The program encourages students' interests in the medical profession by helping them explore careers in health care, while giving them a valuable introduction to basic college courses.

Creative Writing Teacher Eagle Pass Junior High School, Eagle Pass, TX, 1997-1998
Taught principle and introductory objectives of creative writing at the 7th and 8th grade levels

Professional Service & Affiliations

Master of Liberal Arts Prospectus Committee Member I am assisting graduate student, Raven Thrasher Harris, in the completion of her master's thesis, spring 2014-present

University Scholarship Committee, Member, Assist university officials in planning and assessing the effectiveness of student recruitment efforts and in maximizing the utilization of scholarships to recruit new students. Review all applications and supporting materials for the President's Endowed University Scholars Program, the Sul Ross Scholars Program, the Flora Daugherty Scholarship, and other scholarships as may be assigned to the committee and present recommendations for scholarship awards. Develop recommendations for guidelines and policy considerations relating to scholarship awards. Sul Ross State University, Alpine, TX, fall 2014-present

Editorial Board Member, Peer-Reviewer, *Books of the Southwest* spring 2014-present

Sigma Tau Delta, Faculty Advisor fall 2013-present

Writing 10 Academic Reading and Writing Course Curriculum Committee, University of California, Merced, Merced, CA, fall 2011-spring 2013

Modern Language Association, Member, 2007-present

MELUS, Member, 2005-present

ESL Program Development Committee, Washington State University, Pullman, WA
Student evaluation, skill assessment, and course improvement, fall 2004-spring 2006

Sigma Tau Delta, Member, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 1998-2000

Beta Alpha Rho, Member, The University of Texas at Austin, 1994-1997

Service to the Community, Non-Teaching Activities

Advocate, Crisis Center of the Big Bend I assist clients with writing and editing job letters, resumes, as well as building job-interviewing skills, fall 2014-present

Languages

Spanish, advanced proficiency in written and speaking.

Latin, intermediate proficiency in reading knowledge.

French, some reading knowledge.

Referees

Victor Villanueva, Ph.D.
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Department of English
Auburn University
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Yu-han Chao, MFA
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