

THERON FRANCIS

Sul Ross State University
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EDUCATION

Purdue University, Ph.D. American Literature, 2007
Northern Arizona University, M.A. English, 1994
Northern Michigan University, B.A. English, 1987

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Sul Ross State University, Associate Professor, 2013-present
The University of Texas – Pan American, Lecturer, 2006-13
Purdue University, Teaching Assistant, 1999-2006
Yamagata University, Kyoshi, 1994-98
Northern Arizona University, Teaching Assistant, 1992-94
Peace Corps-Yemen, EFL instructor at YALI, 1988-90

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education
Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment
The Thoreau Society
National Peace Corps Association
Sierra Club
101 Lakes Trust
Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute
Audubon Society

HONORS, AWARDS, AND LISTINGS

Outstanding Teach Award, Sul Ross State University, 2017-18
University of Texas Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award, University of Texas,
2011
Leonard Neufeldt Award for Nature Writing, Purdue University, 2004
Leonard Neufeldt Award for Nature Writing, Honorable Mention, Purdue
University, 2002
Andrews Fellowship, Purdue University, 1999-2001
Honors Graduate, Northern Arizona University, 1994
Chaillie Fellowship, Arizona Poetry Society, 1994

PUBLICATIONS

Books and Book Chapters

Refereed Journal Articles

“W.S. Merwin and the Poetry of the Marfa Lights.” *Eco-Rio*.
September, 2018.

"Gershom Scholem's Kabbalah: A Tradition Transformed from 'Scattered Shabby Pages'." *Yamagata Research Journal*. 33-47, 1996.

"Exercises in Continuity and Discontinuity for Students of Writing." *Arizona TESOL Newsletter*, Spring, 1994.

Book Reviews

Research Reports and other Professional Publications

"A Metate in the Desert." *Big Bend Sierran*, Spring, 2016.

"Major Emory's Exploration of the Boundary in the Big Bend." *Nature Notes*. Marfa Public Radio. 2014.

"What is Curriculum in Composition?" with Colin Charlton. *INquiry*. December, 2008.

"Marshways." *Reflections*. 6. Summer, 2008.

RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

"Dream Birds, the Notes of an Unknown Dream Ornithologist." The Sowell Conference. October 11, 2019

"Sul Ross' Paradigm Shift to Sustainability." with Dr. Bibiana Gutierrez and Liam Dugan. Christmas Mountains Symposium. May 22, 2019

"Constructive Peer Response Groups." QEP: Navigating Excellence through Effective Communication. Rio Grande College. October 27, 2017.

"Composition: Twists in the History of an Idea." Summer Writing Institute. August 3, 2017.

"The Poetry of the Marfa Lights." Sowell Conference, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, April 20, 2017.

"Community-Based Writing Projects." Camino El Exito, Title V, forum on teaching, SRSU, April 17, 2017.

"What does 'Contact' Mean for Thoreau and His Heirs?" Sowell Conference, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, April 22, 2016.

"Developing Resiliency through Experiential Learning: El Camino Al Exito" with Jennifer Penland. Lilly Conference, Evidence-Based Teaching and Learning. Newport Beach, California, February 21, 2016.

"*Grammática Parda*: Thoreau's Natural Negative Language of Brownness." Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment, conference presentation. Moscow, Idaho. June 23, 2015

"Big Cats in Literature." A presentation to the Conservation and Biology Club. April 13, 2015.

- "Drawing on the Hispanic Cultural Consciousness along the Rio Grande: Two Approaches to Service Learning in First-Year Writing" with Mary Ann Escamilla. National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies (NACCS), Tejas Foco, February 21, 2014
- "The Three Amigos Write." With Claude Haraway and Marianita Escamilla, reading of poems and fiction at Festiba, UTPA, March 20, 2013.
- "Peace Corps' Approach to Training and EFL Methodology." International Days, UTPA, November, 2012.
- "Literacy, Landscape, and Class Exploitation in Rosario Castellanos' *The Book of Lamentations*." with students at Festiba, UTPA, March 2012.
- "Sophocles and *Oldboy*" in "Vengeance and the Family: Flagellation and Self-Mourning in Three Korean Movies: Korean Film Festival." Festiba. UTPA. March 30, 2011.
- "A Survey of Literature in Peace Education." International Days Linguistics Panel on Peaceful Language: Politeness, Pedagogy, Play, imperialism, and Planning, UTPA, November, 2010.
- "The Korean the Yin-Yang Tae-Guk Flag and the Movie *Shiri*";
 "The Genre of Reconciliation and Resistance in Anti-War Literature from Faulkner's *A Fable* to the Movie *JSA*";
 "Conformity in the War Drama *Tae-Guk-Gi*." Korea Movie Series: The Confrontation of North and South. International Days Korean Movie Series, UTPA, November, 2010.
- "Linguistic Transfer, What is it and What does it have to do with Writing Instruction?" With Bryan Meadows. UTPA, ELL Workshop. June, 2010.
- "Debating Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, Resolved: Debate May be Used in Literature Classes." Symposium on Teaching Literature, UTPA, February, 2010.
- "Conflict in Discourse and Conflict Resolution: Four Acts." with sociolinguistics students Roberto Cortez, et al. International Week Linguistics Panel on Language and Health, UTPA, November, 2009.
- "*Gramática parda*, Thoreau's Rhetoric of Wild Activism," Martí, Juarez, Lincoln Conference, Monterrey, Mexico, October, 2009.
- "Ways to Manage High Course Loads." *INquiry*. December, 2008.
- "Resisting Non-Resistance, Thoreau's Stand on Non-Violence." International Week Panel on Human Rights and Literature. University of Texas Pan-American, November, 2008.
- "The Kickapoo Struggle for Language Revitalization." International Week on Human Rights and Language. University of Texas Pan-American, 2008.
- "Little People, Little Monsters: Japanese Words for Cicadas." With Yasumasu Saisho of Hiroshima University. International Week Linguistics Panel on Language and the Environment. University of Texas Pan-American,

November, 2007.

"Understanding the Arabic Word Salaam." International Week. University of Texas pan-American, November, 2006.

"Peace Education in the Rhetoric of Kenneth Burke." Global Awareness Lecture Series, Yamagata Japan, 1997.

"Kantian Aesthetics in Emerson's Essays." Northern Arizona University's Graduate Literature Conference, 1994.

"Alexander Pope's Imitation of John Donne's "Wild Heap of Wit," the *Satyre II*." Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association, 1993.

"Invention Techniques in EFL Composition Pedagogy." Yemen Ministry of Education's Annual English Teaching Conference, 1989

"Blackboard Strategies in EFL Teaching." YALI Yemeni Teacher Education Series, 1989.

CONSULTING AND OTHER INVITED PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

"Embedded Assessment." Faculty Forum on Core Curriculum Assessments. Sul Ross State University, January 31. 2017.

"Community-Based Writing." Summer Writing Institute. Workshop presentation, Sul Ross State University, August 4, 2016.

"RE--Process Writing, How it works." Summer Writing Institute, Sul Ross State University, August, 2014

GRANTS RECEIVED

ELL Workshop, UTPA, Texas Humanities Grant, \$5,000, 2010.

OTHER AFFILIATIONS AND INVOLVEMENT