Alexander Menrisky

Curriculum Vitae

Department of English | University of Kentucky

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Education

2014-2018 **PhD**, English, University of Kentucky

2012-2014 **MA**, English, University of Kentucky

Graduate Certificate, Social Theory

2008-2012 **BS**, Journalism, Honors Tutorial College, Ohio University, *summa cum laude*

Undergraduate Minors, English & French

Dissertation Project

*Wild Abandon: Postwar Literature and the Identity Politics of Ecology*.

Committee: Michael Trask (director), Virginia Blum, Randall Roorda, Carol Mason

Expected defense: March 2018

Publications

“The Natural Death of Alexander Supertramp: Ecological Selfhood and the Freudian Rhetoric of *Into the Wild*.” Forthcoming in *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*.

“Hallucinogenic Ecology and Psychoanalytic Prehistory in Margaret Atwood.” Forthcoming in *Mosaic, an Interdisciplinary Critical Journal*.

“The Ecological Alternative: Edward Abbey, the New Left, and Environmental Authenticity.” Under review at *Criticism: A Quarterly for Literature and the Arts*, revise and resubmit.

Selected Conferences and Presentations

“‘The Hallucinogenic Oceans of the Mind’: Ecology, Catastrophe, and *The Year of the Flood*’s Psychedelic Language of Decay.” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE) Biennial Conference. Detroit, June 2017.

“Queer Ecology and Psychoanalytic History.” Modern Language Association (MLA) Annual Convention. Philadelphia, January 2017.

“Abbey’s Alternative: Ecology and Civilization after the New Left.” American Literature Association (ALA) Annual Conference, ASLE Panel. San Francisco, May 2016.

“Narcissus in the Wild: *Into the Wild* and Psychoanalytic Ecologies.” Midwest Modern Language Association (MMLA) Convention, ASLE panel. Columbus, November 2015.

“Family Portraiture: Individual and Group Uncanny in *The House of the Seven Gables*.” South Central Modern Language Association (SCMLA) Conference, Literature and Psychology panel. Nashville, October 2015.

“Myth and Masculinity in Literature and Culture.” Louisville Conference on Literature since 1900. University of Louisville, February 2014.

Invited Talks

“State of Nature Skepticism: Toni Morrison and the Identity Politics of Ecology.” Urbana University, January 2018.

“Queer Fiction Abroad: Eastern European Gay Subcultures after the Cold War.” GWS 330 Queer Literature, University of Kentucky, October 2016.

Awards, Honors, and Grants

2017 Ellershaw Award for an Outstanding PhD Candidate, University of Kentucky English Department

2017 Dissertation Writing Fellowship, University of Kentucky College of Arts and Sciences

2017 Nominee, University of Kentucky Presidential Fellowship

2016 Honoree, Alpha Sigma Phi Selfless Professor Reception

2016 Summer Research Fellowship, University of Kentucky English Department

2016 Excellence in Teaching Award, University of Kentucky Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies

2016 Finalist, Jean G. Pival Outstanding Writing Teaching Assistant Award

2012-2014 Daniel R. Reedy Quality Achievement Award, University of Kentucky (3 times)

2012 Dean’s Citation for Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis, Ohio University

2012 Second Place, Ohio University Research and Creative Expo

2009-2011 Dean’s Discretionary Fund Grant, Ohio University (4 times)

2011 *The Athens NEWS* Scholarship

2010 Provost’s Undergraduate Research Fund Grant, Ohio University

2008 Ohio University Gateway Excellence Scholarship

Courses

*University of Kentucky*

ENG 230 *Introduction to Literature* (2 sections, 2017) An introduction to literary analysis through close reading and argumentative writing. The course involves studying selected texts from several genres and investigating a unified theme. My sections have explored representations of wilderness as an ostensibly therapeutic ideal.

ENG 251 *Survey of American Literature to 1865* (2 discussion sections, 2017). Survey of American literature from its colonial origins to the Civil War, with emphasis on different genres, periods, and cultural characteristics of the American Colonies and antebellum United States.

WRD 110 *Composition & Communication I* (3 sections, 2013-2014). First required core composition and speech course for first-year students emphasizing competency in critical inquiry, research, and multi-media communication modes.

*2015-2017 Instructor of Record for FastTrack abbreviated summer course (3 sections).*

WRD 111 *Composition & Communication II* (3 sections, 2014-2017, 1 online). Second required core composition and speech course for first-year students emphasizing competency in integrated oral, written, and visual communication skill development.

WRD 112 *Accelerated Composition & Communication* (2 sections, 2016). Accelerated version of the standard two-semester composition and communication sequence. My sections have focused on service-learning approaches to environmental justice.

*“UK Feminist Alliance” documentary by students Sydney Hendrix, Archana Jeeji, Carson Mullins, and Kristen North showcased in 2017 WRD Spring Writing Gallery.*

WRD 203 *Business Writing* (4 sections, 2015). Instruction and experience in writing for business, industry, and government, with an emphasis on clarity, conciseness, and effectiveness in preparing letters, memos, and reports for specific audiences.

*“Kentucky Farm Chain” web project by students Sara Newman, Megan Semall, and Carmen Siguenza received Honorable Mention for Group Digital Project at the 2016 WRD Excellence in Composition awards.*

WRD 204 *Technical Writing* (2 sections, 2016). Instruction and experience in writing for science and technology, with an emphasis on precision, clarity, and conciseness in preparing rhetorically effective letters, proposals, reports, and presentations.

Tutoring and Consultation

2017 Consultant, University of Kentucky Dissertation Bootcamp

2012-2013 Writing Center Consultant, University of Kentucky Writing Center

2012 Tutor, Ohio University Athletics

2010-2012 Tutor, Academic Advancement Center, Ohio University

Academic and Professional Service

2017 Panel Chair, International Conference on Narrative: “Post Humanist”

2017 Professional Development Session: Effective Panel Proposals

2017 Session Organizer, MLA: “Antisocial Ecologies”

2016-2017 Treasurer, University of Kentucky English Graduate Student Organization

2016 President/Area Chair, Psychology and Literature, South Central MLA

2015-2016 Administrative Assistant, University of Kentucky Department of Writing,

Rhetoric, and Digital Studies

2014 Panel Organizer, Louisville Conference: “Contemporary Perspectives on

Psychoanalytic Theory in Literature and Culture”

2013-2014 Editorial board, *disclosure: A Journal of Social Theory*

Professional Memberships

2017-Present University of Kentucky 20/21 Century Working Group

2016-Present Modern Language Association (MLA)

2015-Present Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE)

2015-Present Lexington Lacan Salon

2015-2017 South Central Modern Language Association (SCMLA)

2015-2016 Midwest Modern Language Association (MMLA)

2015-2016 Lexington Psychoanalytic Study Group

Languages

French (reading knowledge)

References

Michael Trask Guy M. Davenport Professor in English | University of Kentucky

Department of English

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859-257-1313

Virginia Blum Professor | University of Kentucky

Department of English

[vblum1@uky.edu](mailto:vblum1@uky.edu)

859-257-6991

Carol Mason Professor and Chair | University of Kentucky

Department of Gender and Women’s Studies

[carol.mason@uky.edu](mailto:carol.mason@uky.edu)

859-257-1788

Elizabeth Connors-Manke Assistant Professor | University of Kentucky

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859-257-8046

Nicole Seymour Assistant Professor | California State University, Fullerton

Department of English, Comparative Literature, and Linguistics

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Randall Roorda Associate Professor | University of Kentucky

Department of English

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