

# WREN HENDERSON

Washington University in St. Louis  
Department of English

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## Academic Positions

Lecturer, Department of English, Washington University in St. Louis: 2017-present  
Adjunct Instructor, College Writing Program, Washington University in St. Louis: 2014-2017, 2021-present  
Adjunct Instructor, Department of English, Washington University in St. Louis: 2015-2017  
Lecturer, Humanities Department, Fontbonne University: 2015-2017  
Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of English, Washington University in St. Louis: 2014-2015

## Education

Ph.D. Washington University in St. Louis, English and American Literature, 2014  
B.A. *cum laude*, Rhodes College, English Literature with Writing Concentration, 2007

## Courses Taught

*At Washington University in St. Louis*

English Writing 312: "Argumentation" (2017-present)  
English Writing 311: "Exposition" (2017-present)  
English Writing 307: "Writing and Medicine" (2019)  
English Writing 306W: "The Long Essay: Researched Writing" (2019, 2018)  
English Literature 440: "Joyce's *Ulysses*" (teaching assistant) (2011)  
English Literature 3552: "Introduction to Literary Theory" (2023, 2020, 2017, 2015)  
English Literature 3523: "Lifestyles of the Rich and English" (2015)  
English Literature 3161: "Writing Home: City, Country, Suburbia" (2015)  
English Literature 314: "British Fiction Since 1945" (co-instructor) (2013)  
English Literature 312: "The Mothership: Reproduction and Parenting in Utopian and Science Fiction" (2016)  
English Literature 311: "Aliens Ourselves: Science Fiction's Otherworldly Bodies" (2017)  
English Literature 311: "From Northanger to Downton Abbey: The Country House and Heritage Fictions" (2017)  
English Literature 245: "Banned Books: From *Huckleberry Finn* to *Harry Potter*" (2015)  
English Literature 156: "First-Year Seminar: Literature of Addiction: From Opium to Adderall" (2022, 2020)  
College Writing Program 118: "College Writing I: Technology and Selfhood" (2021-present)

English Composition 324: "Writing for Public Speaking" (2019)

English Composition 100: "Writing Culture" (2010-2017)

*At Fontbonne University*

English 201: "Business Writing" (2017)

English 120: "Introduction to Literature" (2017)

English 102: "Composition II: Writing the Monstrous" (2015-2017)

English 101: "Composition I: Writing Ecology" (2015-2017)

**Selected Additional Experience**

- Summer 2019- Present Assessor, Washington University in St. Louis General Literacy Assessment Committee  
Quantitatively evaluate anonymized first-year and graduating student essays written in response to a common prompt in order to assess general literacy and writing skills for the purposes of university accreditation and writing-intensive course curriculum development. Establish assessment criteria, rubrics, and prompt language. Calibrate assessment with other committee members. Offer qualitative feedback to committee coordinator. Devise and communicate curricular recommendations based upon assessment.
- Spring 2019- Present Founder/Facilitator, To Be Continued: Transgender Experiences in Books and Media Club  
Organize and lead monthly meetings of 3-25 St. Louis transgender community members with funding and support through the Metro Trans Umbrella Group, a local nonprofit organization. Conduct polling for media selections, coordinate with local bookstores for book distribution, schedule meetings/film screenings, distribute event information, facilitate discussions.
- Fall 2018- Present Support Group Facilitator, Expression Spectrum, Metro Trans Umbrella Group  
Lead monthly support group meetings of 5-40 gender expansive individuals as part of local grassroots nonprofit organization for transgender communities in the St. Louis area. Facilitate discussions, connect individuals with resources, mediate conflicts, schedule meetings, distribute event information, attend facilitation trainings, volunteer at fundraising events, perform regular maintenance of meeting space.
- Fall 2020 Member, Reevaluating Approaches to Introduction to Literature Theory Committee  
As part of efforts to center anti-racism in English Department course offerings, meet with other faculty members to compare syllabi; discuss curriculum, readings, assignments, and methodologies; revise course listing; write recommendations for current and future instructors.
- Summers 2015-2018 Cover Letter Writer, Washington University PreHealth Institutional Review  
Review medical school application portfolios (student transcripts, personal statements, recommendations, and curriculum vitae). Read, synthesize, and write introduction letters highlighting applicant strengths.
- Fall 2012- Spring 2013 Convener, English Department Graduate Advisory Panel  
Elected student/faculty liaison for English Department Graduate Student body of 70+.  
Organized and mediated monthly meetings, set meeting agendas, and secured guest speakers.
- Fall 2005- Spring 2007 Writing Tutor, Rhodes College Writing Center (Memphis, TN)  
Assisted undergraduates and faculty in one-on-one meetings with writing projects, from brainstorming to final proofreading. Designed instructional exercises and wrote handouts to troubleshoot common writing issues.

## Teaching and Research Interests

20th- and 21st-century British and Anglophone literature, modernism, postmodernism, history of the British Empire, postwar literature and culture, globalization, Black British literature, postcolonial literature and theory, queer theory, gender studies, trans \* literature, beginner and advanced composition and rhetoric, information literacy, rhetorical theory, medical humanities, substance use disorder in literature, research methodologies, technology and subjectivity

## Publications

“New Britain, Old England: Heritage Renewed in *Atonement*.” *Modern Fiction Studies* 63.4 (Winter 2017): 714-736.

“Claims of Heritage: Restoring the English Country House in *Wide Sargasso Sea*.” *Journal of Modern Literature* 38. 4 (Summer 2015): 93-109.

“On Living in a Better World: Diversity and *Downton Abbey*.” *Human Ties: Stories in the Humanities*. 29 January 2015. Center for the Humanities, Washington University in St. Louis.

## Papers Presented

“Urban Fantasies of Pastoral Sprawl in China Miéville’s *Perdido Street Station*” Society for Novel Studies, April 2014 (Salt Lake City, UT).

“The Country in the City: Crisis Energy of the Non-Urban in China Miéville’s *Perdido Street Station*,” ASAP/5: The Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present, October 2013 (Detroit, MI).

“Inheriting the Heritage Industry: The Country House in *Atonement*,” Graduate Student Colloquium, April 2011 (Washington University in St. Louis).

“The Spectacle is Political: Shock-Tactics and Sexual Performances in *The Buddha of Suburbia*,” Associated Colleges of the South Women’s/Gender Studies Conference, March 2009 (Memphis, TN).

## Honors, Fellowships, & Awards

Finalist, Wash U Arts and Sciences Council Outstanding Faculty and Staff Award 2019 (top 10 nominees in Humanities out of 500 student nominations)

Postdoctoral Fellowship, Washington University in St. Louis (2014-2015)

Mr. and Mrs. Spencer T. Olin Fellowship for Women of Exceptional Academic Promise (2008-2014)

Mellon Dissertation Seminar, Washington University in St. Louis (2013 and 2010)

Cornelison Prize for Excellence Demonstrated by a Graduate Student Essay (2011)

*Phi Beta Kappa* Member: Honor Society for Liberal Arts and Sciences

*Sigma Tau Delta* Member: International English Honor Society

*Iota Iota Iota* Member: Women’s Studies Honor Society

## Professional Affiliations

The Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present

Modern Language Association

Modernist Studies Association