

## Matthew A. Shipe

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### Office Address:

English Department  
Washington University  
One Brookings Drive  
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### Employment History

Senior Lecturer/ Director for the Advanced Writing Courses, English Department,  
Washington University, St. Louis, May 2019- Present.

Lecturer/ Director for the Advanced Writing Courses, English Department, Washington  
University, St. Louis, August 2013-May 2019.

Mellon Fellow, Center for the Humanities, Washington University, St. Louis, July 2009-  
July 2010.

Post-doctoral Fellow, Washington University, St. Louis, July 2007-June 2009.

### Education

Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri      2007  
Ph.D. in English and American Literature

Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri      2001  
M.A. in English and American Literature

Rhodes College, Memphis, Tennessee      2000  
B.A. in English and Religious Studies, *cum laude*  
Special honors distinction in English

### Dissertation

*On Being Updike Forever: Narcissism as National Epic in John Updike's Short Fiction*

My dissertation traces the development of Updike's short fiction and considers how his evolving understanding of his own life has shaped his conception of the political and social life of the United States. By focusing on the short fiction, my work both amends the way in which Updike's fictive project has been traditionally viewed and explores the potential of the short story to render history, a task that critics of post-1945 fiction have characteristically associated with the experimental novels of the era.

Committee: Robert Milder (chair), Daniel Grausam, Wolfram Schmidgen

## Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships

Annual Emerging Writers Prize, *The John Updike Review*, 2015  
Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2009-2010  
Postdoctoral Fellowship, Washington University, 2007-2009  
Chair's Award for Teaching Excellence in Writing 1, 2005  
Graduate School of Arts & Sciences Dissertation Fellowship, 2005-2006

## Scholarly Publications

### *Books*

*Updike and Politics: New Considerations*, edited with Scott Dill. Lanham, Maryland: Lexington Books, 2019.

### *Articles & Book Chapters*

"Roth's Life," *Philip Roth in Context*, Ed. Maggie McKinley. Cambridge: Cambridge UP. (Forthcoming 2020).

"Inside Reagan's 'Placid, Uncluttered Head': *Roger's Version* and the Rise of Neoliberalism." *Updike and Politics: New Considerations*. Lanham, Maryland: Lexington Books, 2019.

"Getting People Wrong: Some Preliminary Thoughts on Philip Roth's Passing." *Philip Roth Studies* (Spring 2019).

"After the Fall: The Terror of History in Philip Roth's *Indignation*." *Philip Roth Studies* (Spring 2018): 1-24.

"Roth at Century's End: The Problem of Progress in *The Dying Animal*." *The Political Companion to Philip Roth*, Ed. Lee Trepanier and Claudia Franziska Bruehwiler. Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 2017.

"War as Haiku: The Politics of Don DeLillo's Late Style." *Orbit: Writing Around Pynchon*. (Spring 2016). [www.pynchon.net](http://www.pynchon.net).

"*The Long Goodbye*: Assessing John Updike's Late Short Fiction." *The John Updike Review*. 3.1 (Winter 2015): 59-81. Winner of the Review's Emerging Writer's Prize.

"Middle-Age Crazy: Men Behaving Badly in the Fiction of Raymond Carver and John Updike." *Critical Insights: Raymond Carver*, Ed. Jim Plath. Pasadena: Salem Press, 2013.

"*Twilight of the Superheroes*: Philip Roth, Celebrity, and the End of Print Culture." *Roth and Celebrity*, Ed. Aimee Pozorski. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2013.

“Exit Ghost and the Politics of Late Style.” *Philip Roth Studies*. 5.2 (Fall 2009): 43-58.

“Accountability, Community, and Redemption in *Hey Jack!* and *Boomerang*.”  
*Perspectives on Barry Hannah*, Ed. Martyn Bone. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2007: 102-119.

### **Book Reviews**

“Lost Luggage: Updike in the Keystone State.” Review of *John Updike’s Pennsylvania Interviews*, edited by James Plath. *The John Updike Review*. 5.2 (Summer 2017): 113-17.

“Take a Sad Song and Make it Better.” Review of *Paul McCartney: A Life*, by Philip McDonald. *The Common Reader* (November 2016). <https://commonreader.wustl.edu/c/take-sad-song-make-better/>.

Review of *Philip Roth: Fiction and Power*, by Patrick Hayes. *The Review of English Studies* 66.275 (June 2015): 599-600.

“Updike at Bay: Rethinking John Updike’s Late Work.” Rev. of *John Updike: A Critical Biography*, by Bob Batchelor. *The John Updike Review*. 3.1 (Winter 2015): 145-9.

“Rethinking those Deacon Blues, or Why I Love Joe Namath’s Fur Coat.” Rev. of *Rising Tide: Bear Bryant, Joe Namath & Dixie’s Last Quarter*, by Randy Roberts and Ed Krzemienski. *The Modern Spectator*, April 5, 2014.

“For Jerry—with Love and Squalor.” Rev. of *J.D. Salinger: A Life*, by Kenneth Slawenski. *The Belle Lettres: A Literary Review*, Washington University, Fall 2011.

“Thoughts on the Great American Novel: Reading Jonathan Franzen’s *Freedom*.” *The Belle Lettres: A Literary Review*, Washington University, Spring 2011.

“Andre DuBus,” “Barry Hannah,” “Annie Proulx,” “Richard Russo.” *The Encyclopedia of American Literature, Volume IV: 1946-2005*, Ed. Marshall Boswell. Columbia, SC: Brucoli Clark Layman, Inc, 2008.

### **Conference Papers and Presentations**

Roundtable discussion on Philip Roth’s Inheritors. Annual Conference of the American Literature Association (Boston, MA), May 2019.

Roundtable discussion on John Updike’s *The Coup*. Annual Conference of the American Literature Association (Boston, MA), May 2019.

- Roundtable discussion on Philip Roth's *The Professor of Desire*. Annual Conference of the American Literature Association (Boston, MA), May 2017.
- "Inside Reagan's 'Placid, Uncluttered Head': *Roger's Version* and the Rise of Neoliberalism." The Fourth Biennial John Updike Society Conference (Columbia, SC), October 2016.
- "After the Thrill Is Gone: Updike after the Cold War." Annual Conference of the American Literature Association (San Francisco, CA.), May, 2015.
- "Public Space, Private Histories in Teju Cole's *Every Day is for the Thief*." The Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present (Greenville, SC), September, 2015. Couldn't attend due to illness, but paper read in my absence.
- "Solipsism and the American Self: Rethinking David Foster Wallace's Reading of John Updike." Annual Conference of the American Literature Association (Boston, MA), May 2015.
- "Life After Sex?: Memory and the Diminished Present in John Updike's Late Short Fiction." Annual Conference of the American Literature Association (Washington D.C.), May, 2014.
- "Roth and Literary Culture: Revisiting *Letting Go*." Roth@80 Conference (Newark, NJ), March, 2013.
- "Dream a Little Dream: Music as Counternarrative in Philip Roth's Late Fiction." Modern Language Association Conference (Boston, MA), January 2013.
- "The Politics of a Marriage: Revisiting John Updike's Maple Stories." The Second Biennial John Updike Society Conference (Boston, MA), June 2012.
- "*The Long Goodbye*: Memorializing Pennsylvania in John Updike's Late Fiction." The First Biennial John Updike Society Conference (Reading, PA), October 2010.
- "Returning to the Catacombs: Revisiting John Updike's 'Adulterous Society.'" 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the American Literature Association (San Francisco, California), May 2010.
- "Sexual Liberation in Philip Roth's *Indignation*." Twentieth Century Literature Conference (Louisville, Kentucky), February 2010.
- "*Exit Ghost* and the Politics of Late Style." 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the American Literature Association (Boston, Massachusetts), May 2009.
- "John Updike and the Burden of Not Being a Dove." Twentieth Century Literature Conference (Louisville, Kentucky), February 2009.
- "The Politics and Poetics of Divorce in John Updike's 'Gesturing.'" American Literature Association Symposium on American Fiction (Savannah, Georgia), October 2008.

“Reconsidering the National Pastime: Philip Roth, Baseball, and the Problem of the Sixties.” Twentieth Century Literature Conference (Louisville, Kentucky), February 2008.

“A Kiss is Still a Kiss: The Significance of Incest in Philip Roth’s *American Pastoral*.” American Literature Association Symposium on American Fiction (San Diego, California), September 2006.

“Accountability, Community, and Redemption in *Hey Jack!* and *Boomerang*.” Society for the Study of Southern Literature (Birmingham, Alabama), March 30-April 2, 2006.

"Personality Crisis: The Reconstruction of Identity in the 'Philip Roth' Tetralogy." Twentieth Century Literature Conference (Louisville, Kentucky), February 2005.

“Rabbits, Hawks, and Doves: Chaos and Faith in John Updike’s America” Washington University Graduate Student Symposium (Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri), April 2003

### **Academic Service**

President, Philip Roth Society, 2015-Present.

Board of Directors, John Updike Society, 2015-Present.

*John Updike Review*, Editorial Board, 2019-Present.

*Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction*, Consulting Editor, 2018-present.

*Philip Roth Studies*, Editorial Board, 2015-present.

University Assessment Committee (2013-present)

Committee is responsible for designing and implementing the assessment mechanisms through which the University measures student learning. In particular, I have been responsible for running the assessment exercise that all seniors enrolled in Advanced Writing courses must complete. As part of this committee, I also helped in the planning for the University’s accreditation process.

Non-Tenure Track Representative, English Department (2013-18)

Elected to represent non-tenure track faculty at department meetings.

Writing Assessment Committee (2002-04, 2006-09)

Committee evaluates the writing that was produced in the first-year writing courses and in the senior-level writing intensive courses and makes recommendations for the improvement of the University’s writing curriculum.

Research Assessment Committee (2007)

Committee evaluates how first-year writing students approach research projects and makes recommendations to improve the curriculum of the University's first-year writing course, Writing 1.

Facilitator/instructor: OASIS community education project, short-stories seminar. St. Louis. (Summer 2006-Spring 2019)  
Facilitated weekly discussion for retired adults. Themes have included "The Contemporary Short Story" and "A Century of American Short Stories."

### **Honors Project/Senior Project Directed**

#### **Director**

Ben Krause, "The Portrayal of Television in Contemporary American Literature," English Honors Thesis. AY 2014-15  
Ryan Foreman, "My History Has Left Me:" Male Domestic Discontent in the Short Fiction Of Raymond Carver, John Updike, Richard Ford and Denis Johnson," English Honors Thesis. AY 2013-14  
Avital Mintz-Morgenthau, "Philip Roth and the Feast of Assimilation," , AMCS Capstone Project, AY 2013-14

#### **Co-Director**

Madeleine Alder, "The Twilight Sleep Movement and the Medical Management of Pregnancy," AMCS Capstone Project, AY 2013-14  
Even Linden, "The Hypothetical Presidency: The Social and Political Reflections of *The West Wing* on the Presidencies of Clinton and Bush," AMCS Capstone Project, AY 2013-14

### **Professional Affiliations**

Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present  
Modern Language Association  
Philip Roth Society  
John Updike Society  
Society for the Study of Southern Literature

### **Languages**

Reading competency in French and Latin.

### **Research/Teaching Interests**

Modern and contemporary American fiction; American culture studies;  
Children's literature; 19<sup>th</sup> century American literature; Southern literature;  
religious history & thought; film and media studies; critical theory.

## Teaching Positions and Courses Taught (Washington University)

### Instructor

#### English 256

Art of the Novel (Fall 2013; Spring 2014; Fall 2014; Spring, 2015;)  
Introductory literature class designed for students considering the major.  
Readings include Jane Austen, *Persuasion*; Teju Cole, *Open City*; Joan Didion, *Play It As It Lays*; Jennifer Egan, *A Visit from the Goon Squad*; William Faulkner, *Absalom, Absalom!*; Milan Kundera, *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*; James Wood, *How Fiction Works*; Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*.

#### Humanities 336/American Culture Studies 236

The Cultural History of the American Teenager (Spring 2012; Spring 2013; Fall 2014; Fall 2015; Spring 2017)  
Topics course designed for undergraduate students.  
Readings include Judy Blume, *Forever*; Jennifer Egan, *The Invisible Circus*; Leerom Medovoi, *Rebels: Youth and the Cold War Origins of Culture*; Grace Palladino, *Teenagers: An American History*; J.D. Salinger, *The Catcher in the Rye*, John Updike, *The Centaur*; Colson Whitehead, *Sag Harbor*.

#### American Culture Studies 3015

End of the Century: American Culture during the 1990s (Spring 2014; Fall 2016)  
Topics course designed for undergraduate students.  
Readings include Allan Bloom, *The Closing of the American Mind*; Jeff Chang, *Can't Stop, Won't Stop: A History of the Hip-Hop Generation*; Joan Didion, *Political Fictions*; Jonathan Franzen, *The Corrections*; Philip Roth, *The Human Stain*; John Updike, *Rabbit at Rest*; David Foster Wallace, *A Supposedly Fun Thing That I Will Never Do Again*; Philip Wegner, *Life Between Two Deaths, 1989-2001: U.S. Culture in the Long Nineties*; Elizabeth Wurtzel, *Prozac Nation*.

#### American Culture Studies 375

From Hiroshima to Disney: Containment and American Culture during the Cold War (Fall 2013)  
Junior Seminar designed for American Culture Studies majors who are preparing for their capstone projects.  
Readings include Steve Belletto and Daniel Grausam, *American Literature and Culture in an Age of Cold War*; Joan Didion, *Democracy*; Joseph Heller, *Catch-22*; John Hersey, *Hiroshima*; Alan Nadel, *Containment Culture: American Narratives, Postmodernism, and the Atomic Age*; J.D. Salinger, *Catcher in the Rye*; John Updike, *The Coup*; Alice Walker, *Meridian*.

#### Humanities 102

The Clash of Cultures: The Humanities in an Age of Science (Fall 2011; Fall 2012)

Seminar course designed for first year students.

Readings include Rachel Carsons, *Silent Spring*, Angela Davis, *An Autobiography*, Norman Juster, *The Phantom Tollbooth*, Richard Powers, *Generosity*, Richard Rodriguez, *The Hunger of Memory*, Oliver Sacks, *The Man who Mistook his Wife for a Hat*, and CP Snow, *The Two Cultures*.

### **English 351**

The American Novel in the Age of Terrorism (Spring 2011)

Topics course designed for undergraduate students.

Readings include Don DeLillo, *Mao II*, Jonathan Safran Foer, *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close*, Toni Morrison, *A Mercy*, Jonathan Franzen, *Freedom*, Lorrie Moore *A Gate at the Stairs*.

### **English 314**

Children's Literature since WWII, from E. B. White to J. K. Rowling (Spring 2012)

Topics course designed for undergraduates.

Readings include E. B. White, *Stuart Little*; Lorenz Graham, *South Town*; Madeline L'Engle, *A Wrinkle in Time*; E. L. Konigsburg, *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*; Virginia Hamilton, *The Planet of Junior Brown*; S. E. Hinton, *That was Then, This is Now*; O. T. Nelson, *The Girl Who Owned a City*; Philip Pullman, *The Ruby in the Smoke*; Roald Dahl, *Matilda*; J. K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*; Jacqueline Woodson, *Locomotion*

### **English Writing 311**

Exposition (Fall 2012; Fall 2013; Spring 2014)

Advanced writing course designed to fulfill students' writing intensive credit.

Readings include Thomas Kane, *The New Oxford Guide to Writing*; David Foster Wallace, *Consider the Lobster*; Joan Didion, *Slouching Towards Bethlehem*; Colson Whitehead, *The Colossus of New York*.

### **English Writing 312**

Argumentation (Twelve sections taught—starting in Fall 2008)

Advanced writing course designed to fulfill students' writing intensive credit.

### **American Culture Studies 150**

Rattle and Hum: Reading Music in Literature (Spring 2010)

Topics course designed for undergraduate students.

Readings include Leo Tolstoy, *The Kreutzer Sonata*, Anita O'Day, *High Time Hard Times*, John A. Williams, *Clifford's Blues*, Don DeLillo, *Great Jones Street*.

### **English 334**

The Golden Age of Children's Literature, 1865-1915 (Fall 2009; Spring 2013)

Topics course designed for upper-level undergraduate students.

Readings include Lewis Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland*, Louisa May Alcott, *Little Women*, Robert Louis Stevenson, *Treasure Island*, Kenneth Graham, *The Wind in the Willows*, Frances Hodgson Burnett, *The Secret Garden*.

### **English 316**

A History of the Boy's Book (Fall 2008)

Topics course designed for upper-level undergraduate students.

Readings include R.M Ballantyne, *The Coral Island*, Horatio Alger, Jr., *Ragged Dick*, Mark Twain, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, Esther Forbes, *Johnny Tremain*, J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*.

### **American Culture Studies 316**

Memories of the Ford Administration: The 1970s Reconsidered (Spring 2008)

Topics course designed for upper-level undergraduate students.

Readings to include Toni Morrison, *Paradise*; Joan Didion, *Democracy*; Jonathan Lethem, *Fortress of Solitude*; Stephen Paul Miller, *The Seventies Now*; Andreas Killen, *1973 Nervous Breakdown*

### **Writing 1**

Law and Society (Fall 2008; Fall 2007; Fall 2006)

First-year writing course; students are concurrently enrolled in the Law and Society seminar designed for first year students interested in pursuing a career in law. Responsible for course planning, teaching, and grading

### **Writing 1**

Writing Culture (Fall 2001-Spring 2013)

First-year writing course required for all first-year students. Responsible for course planning, teaching, and grading.

### **English 318**

The 1960s and the Problem of Reality in American Fiction (Summer 2006)

Literature topics class designed for upper-level undergraduate, non-traditional, and continuing-education students. Readings included Saul Bellow, *Mr. Sammler's Planet*; Joan Didion, *The White Album*; Philip Roth, *American Pastoral*; Norman Mailer, *The Armies of the Night*; John Barth, *Lost in the Funhouse*; Thomas Pynchon, *The Crying of Lot 49*

### **English 360**

The Suburbs in the American Literary Imagination (Summer 2004)

Literature topics class designed for upper-level undergraduates, non-traditional, and continuing-education students. Readings included Jonathan Franzen, *The Corrections*; Don DeLillo, *White Noise*; John Updike, *Rabbit, Run*; Rick Moody, *The Ice Storm*.

## **Teaching Assistant**

### **Film Studies 360**

History of the Film Score (Spring 2004)  
Upper-level film course designed for juniors and seniors;  
responsibilities included grading student work and lecturing for a  
portion of the semester.

### **Film Studies 220**

Introduction to Film Studies (Fall 2003)  
Introductory film class; responsibilities included leading  
discussion section and grading student work.

## **References**

Gerald Early  
Merle King Professor of Modern Letters  
Washington University in St. Louis  
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William Maxwell  
Professor of English  
Washington University in St. Louis  
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