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

*Between Ecology and Authenticity: Postwar Identity and Narratives of Wilderness Retreat*.

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

Expected defense: April 2017

Publications

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

“The Essential Ecosystem: *Surfacing*’s Identity Crises.” Under consideration at *differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies.*

“Abbey’s Alternative: Civilization, Selfhood, and Ecology after the New Left.” Under consideration at the *Journal of Ecocriticism*.

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.

“Repetition and the Hero in Zadie Smith’s *White Teeth*.” Louisville Conference on Literature since 1900. University of Louisville, February 2013.

Awards, Honors, and Grants

2017 Ellershaw Award for an Outstanding PhD Candidate

2017 Dissertation Writing Fellowship

2017 Nominee, University of Kentucky Presidential Fellowship

2016 Honoree, Alpha Sigma Phi Selfless Professor Reception

2016 English Department Summer Research Fellowship

2016 Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies Excellence in Teaching Award

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

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 Gateway Excellence Scholarship, Ohio University

Courses

**University of Kentucky**

ENG 230 *Introduction to Literary Analysis* (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.

ENG 251 *Survey of American Literature to 1865* (2 discussion sections, 2017). A 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). Required core composition and speech course for first-year students emphasizing competency in multi-media communication modes; first course in a two-course sequence.

*2015-2016 TA and Instructor of Record for “FastTrack” WRD 110 abbreviated summer course.*

WRD 111 *Composition & Communication II* (3 sections, 2014-2017, 1 online). Second required core composition and speech course in two-course sequence for first-year students emphasizing competency in multi-media communication modes.

WRD 112 *Accelerated Composition & Communication* (2 sections, 2016). Accelerated version of the standard two-semester composition and communication sequence. Focuses on integrated oral, written, and visual communication skill development and emphasizes critical inquiry and research.

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

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 for specific audiences.

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 for International

Conferences

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 Margaret Atwood Society

2016-Present Modern Language Association (MLA)

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

2015-2017 South Central Modern Language Association (SCMLA)

2015-2016 Lexington Psychoanalytic Study Group

2015-2016 Midwest Modern Language Association (MMLA)

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

Randall Roorda Associate Professor | University of Kentucky

Department of English

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

859-257-1033

Elizabeth Connors-Manke Assistant Professor | University of Kentucky

Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies

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