Nicholas Hengen Fox

Portland Community College
Department of Composition / Literature
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EDUCATION

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn.
Ph.D. in English Language and Literature **2006-2011**
Major fields: 20th and 21st c. global literatures, focus on the Americas; literary theory
Dissertation: "Texts as Tactics: How People Practice Politics With Books"
Committee: Timothy Brennan (Advisor), Maria Damon, Paula Rabinowitz, Omise'eke Natasha Tinsley

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.
M.A. in English **2002-2004**
Thesis: "Life and Death: Subways and the Defense of Poetry"
Committee: Jerome McGann (Advisor)

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn.
B.A. in English Language and Literature, *summa cum laude* **1998-2001**
Honors Thesis: "Seamus Heaney and the Word-Hoard"

PUBLICATIONS

SCHOLARLY ARTICLES

"A Habermasian Literary Criticism," *New Literary History*. 43.2 (2012): 235-254.

"Teaching (is not) Activism," *Radical Teacher*. 94 (2012): 14-23.

"Poetry, Recognition, and Redistribution: The September 11 Chronocanon," *American Literature* (forthcoming, 2014)

REVIEWS

Existentialism is a Humanism, Jean-Paul Sartre, *Rain Taxi Review*, Winter 2007/2008

Lyric Poetry: The Pleasure and Pain of Words, Multu Konuk Blasing, *The Wilson Quarterly*, Spring 2007

Dante in Love, Harriet Rubin, *The Wilson Quarterly*, Summer 2004

Lucia Joyce: To Dance in the Wake, Carol Loeb Shloss, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, Summer 2004

Love, Toni Morrison, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, Spring 2004

Long for this World, Michael Byers, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, Winter 2004

Breaking News, Ciarran Carson, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, Summer 2003

How to be Alone, Jonathan Franzen, *Meridian*, Spring/Summer 2003

Lords of Misrule: Poems 1992-2002, X.J. Kennedy, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, Winter 2003

In Cold Fear: The Catcher in the Rye *Censorship Controversies and Postwar American Character*, Pamela Hunt Steinle, *Boston Review*, December/January 2002/03

JOURNALISM & OPINION

"Silver Linings," *Insidehighered.com*, November 2011

"Why A Straight Minnesota Couple Will Wed in Canada," *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*, 23 May 2008

"U-Hell," *Legal Affairs*, September/October 2005

"M.A. Students as Pledges," *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 11 April 2005

"Self-Adhesive Salvation," *Legal Affairs*, January/February 2005

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"How We Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Assessment"
Co-facilitator, Panel Discussion, Anderson Conference, PCC, Portland, Ore. **January 31, 2014**

"Not Literature: Sneaking History into the Literature Classroom"
Panel Discussion, CCHA, Portland, Ore. **October 27, 2012**

"Habermas and Young: Literature and Human Rights"
Panel Discussion, MLA Convention, Seattle, Wash. **January 6, 2012**

"Reports from the Field: Protesting Higher Education Cutbacks"
Panel Discussion, MLA Convention, Los Angeles, Cal. **January 6, 2011**

"Catch and Release"
Panel Chair, English Undergraduate Conference, UMN **April 28, 2010**

"The University We Want: Undergraduate Voices"
Roundtable Chair, Beneath the University, the Commons, Minneapolis, Minn. **April 8–11, 2010**

"Tactical Teaching"
Presenter, Reworking the University, Minneapolis, Minn. **April 23–25, 2009**

"Leading Life Long Learning Courses"
Panelist, Osher Life Long Learning Institute Instructor Workshop, UMN **March 13, 2008**

"Valuing the Liberal Arts"
Panel Chair, Rethinking the University: Labor, Knowledge, Value, Minneapolis, Minn. **April 11–13, 2008**

"What is Protest Poetry? Is it any Good? And how do we Teach it?"
Presenter, Modern Language Association, Chicago, Ill. **December 27–30, 2007**

"Politics and Power: Robert Frost and the Failure of Political Poetry"
Presenter, American Culture Association, Boston, Mass. **April 4–7, 2007**

"Making Poetry Political: Poetic Form and the Public"
Presenter, American Literature Association, San Diego, Calif. **Sept. 30–Oct. 1, 2005**

"Translations of Form"
Panel Chair, American Literature Association, San Diego, Calif. **Sept. 30–Oct. 1, 2005**

"The Narrative Structure of Loss: Bifurcation in *Cold Mountain*"
Presenter, College English Association, Mayagüez, P.R. **October 17–18, 2003**

"Digging in Ireland: Seamus Heaney's Archaeology"
Presenter, New England Modern Language Association, Boston, Mass. **March 9–11, 2003**

INVITED TALKS

"Reading and Weeping: Reading in the Trenches During World War II"
Keynote, Undergraduate Literature Conference - Linfield College, McMinnville, OR **November 1, 2013**

"Modernism and After"
Guest Lecture, English 3006, UMN **July 22, 2010**

"Emily Dickinson as Object"
Guest Lecture, English 3005, UMN **July 16, 2009**

"Organizing (at) the University"
English 3090: An Introduction to Marxism (Dr. April Knutson), UMN **April 23, 2009**

"Langston Hughes: Writing Collectivities"
Guest Lecture, English 384 (Professor David Chioni Moore), Macalester College **February 24, 2009**

"One Nation Under Poetry: Elizabeth Alexander's Inaugural Poem"
ENow Lecture Series, Department of English, UMN **February 2, 2009**

"Teaching Argument in First Year Writing"
Panelist, Department of Writing Studies, UMN **March 6, 2008**

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Portland Community College, Portland, Ore. ***2011-present***

Selected Courses as Instructor of Literature and Composition

American Working Class Literature
Course guided students through questions of class formation and cultural history in the United States from the Great Depression to the Great Recession. Texts ranged from novels (*Grapes of Wrath, Yonnondio*) and music (Woody Guthrie to Brother Ali) to film and poetry.

American Literature (to 1865)
While reading canonical figures like Hawthorne and Dickinson, students explored diverse modes of cultural production, ranging from folk tales to humor and personal narrative. Work included group presentations, examinations, and weekly writing.

Introduction to Literature (Fiction)
A ten-week introductory course focused on the fictional forms of the last 150 years. Students read and discussed authors ranging from Melville and Tolstoy to Zadie Smith and Colson Whitehead, gave individual presentations, and created final projects ranging from scholarly essays to film adaptations.

Introduction to Literature (Drama)
An eleven-week course surveying drama from *Antigone* to *Topdog/Underdog*. Students learned basic terminology of drama, wrote critical reviews, engaged with questions of dramaturgy, and participated in the local theater community.

English Composition I
In this introductory composition course, students wrote essays in a variety of genres and engaged with audiences both academic and popular. They also studied media centering on the contemporary crisis in higher education.

English Composition II
A ten-week advanced composition course focused on research and scholarly writing. While developing term-long research projects students also wrote manifestoes and explored novel ways of presenting data to diverse audiences.

Introduction to Expository Writing
In this pre-First Year Writing course, students strengthened grammar foundations, learned revision strategies, and developed facility with the expectations of college-level writing.

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn. ***2006-2011***

Selected Courses as Graduate Instructor

Who Are We? Multicultures of the Midwest
Designed and taught three week course that explored representations of the Midwest from Garrison Keillor to Kao Kalia Yang; from Louise Erdrich to Mark Nowak to The Hold Steady. Students explored fiction and poetry, film and visual arts, as well as Minneapolis neighborhoods, complicating ideas about "the midwest."

The Great African American Novel?
Co-led eight-week course of retired learners through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (in the College of Continuing Education). Focus on Richard Wright's *Native Son*, its antecedents (Washington and Du Bois, Harlem Renaissance), and writers it influenced.

Survey of American Literatures and Cultures (1865-1940)
Designed and taught advanced English-major requirement. Content included canonical texts (Dickinson, James, Fitzgerald) and less canonical readings by Tillie Olsen, dime novelists, and others.

Contemporary American Literature
Designed and taught this course investigating post-1950 poetry, fiction, and film. Students produced both traditional academic writing and collective public documents situating the literary texts historically—*Howl*, for instance, as a response to McCarthyism.

Multicultural Literatures of the United States
This course focused on the intersection of multiple cultures in the United States in the twentieth century drawing on novels, short stories, poems, and film. Significant focus on writing about literature as related to public life.

Poetry and Protest in American Culture
Led a course of retired learners through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (in the College of Continuing Education). In six meetings examined the relationship between poetry and protest movements in the United States in the twentieth century.

Making Monsters
In a three-week condensed class, we examined cultural depictions of monsters from *Beowulf* to *Henry: Portrait of a Serial Killer*. Designed syllabus, led all sessions and evaluated student work.

The Essay
This upper-level composition elective focused on creative approaches to non-fiction writing. Students produced writing in genres from video and sound essays to manifestoes. Many students published their work in local newspapers or online venues.

University Writing
A first-year writing course focused on academic writing. Course themed around issues in higher education. Designed course, led section, and evaluated all work. Received *Outstanding Teacher Award* from Department of Writing Studies multiple semesters.

Intro to Methods in Literary Study
Designed and co-taught preliminary "research boot-camp" seminar for incoming graduate students. Led sessions dedicated to library research methods, including online and print, database use, and special collections. Designed research problems, led all discussions, and evaluated student responses.

Quinnipiac University – Hamden, Conn. ***2004-2006***

Selected Courses as Adjunct Assistant Professor

Making Monsters
First-year seminar in English for introductory writing requirement. Led 18 students in a course examining the cultural creation of monsters from *Frankenstein* to *Fight Club*. Designed syllabus, led discussions, evaluated all student work.

Ideas in Education
First-year seminar in English for introductory writing requirement. Led two seminars of 18 students in examination of education theory and fundamentals of college writing. Designed syllabus, led discussions, evaluated all student work.

Introduction to Literature
First-year seminar in English for advanced writing requirement. Led seminars of 18 students in critical analysis of 19th and 20th century poetry, short fiction, and the novel. Designed syllabus, led discussions, evaluated all student work.

ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Portland Community College, Portland, Or.
Teaching Mentor **2012-**
As a member in the Teaching Improvement Program, watched colleagues in a range of disciplines teach and engaged in attempts to improve all aspects of instruction.

Minneapolis Public Library, Minneapolis, Minn.
Tutor **2007-2008**
Worked with a diverse range of students, predominately non-native English speakers, including community college students to complete homework assignments from composition to art history.

University of Virginia Writing Center, Charlottesville, Va.
Writing Center Tutor **2002-2004**
Helped a diverse student population conceive, develop, and edit writing assignments; trained future graduate tutors.

TEACHING INTERESTS

Literatures of the Americas of the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries
Composition
Popular Culture
Critical Theory

LANGUAGES

English – native language
Spanish – read, write, and speak with high proficiency
French – read and write with basic competence

SERVICE

Member, SAC Committee on Assessment **2012-present**
Chair 2013-present
Member, Temporary Hiring Committee **2012**
Member, SAC committee on Student Evaluation Questions **2012**
Member, "Rock Creek Public Art Committee" **2011-present**
Worked with diverse campus community on placement of art around campus
Panelist, "How to Apply to Grad School (Or Not)," Department of English, UMN **2010**
Graduate Representative, Department of English, Undergraduate Curriculum Comm. **2010-2011**
Working with faculty and undergraduate students, reformed curriculum requirements
English Department Representative, Congress of Graduate Students (COGS) **2010-2011**
Advocated for graduate students in University government

Organizing Committee, Department of English, "Undergraduate Research Conference" **2010**
With faculty, staff, and students designed program, juried panels, advised participants

Organizing Committee Member, "Beneath the University, The Commons" (conference) **2010**
With six graduate students wrote grants, designed program, juried panels, organized logistics

Graduate Representative, Department of English, External Chair Search Committee **2009-2010**
Voting member of committee of six; read and evaluated CVs, participated in all interviews

Graduate Representative, Department of English, Undergraduate Curriculum Comm. **2009-2010**
Working with faculty and undergraduate students, reformed curriculum requirements

Graduate Representative, Department of English, Graduate Curriculum Comm. **2008- 2009**

Graduate Representative, Department of English, Undergraduate Curriculum Comm. **2007-2008**
Working with faculty and undergraduates, helped move undergraduate research methods course through departmental and university approval process

Graduate Representative, Department of English, Graduate Curriculum Comm. **2006-2007**

Undergraduate Representative, Department of English Undergraduate Curriculum Comm. **2000-2001**

AWARDS

MLA Travel Grant **2010**
Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, UMN (Competitive) **2010-11**
Graduate Research Partnership Program, Summer Grant, UMN (Competitive) **2010**
Graduate School Dissertation Research Grant, UMN (Competitive) **2009**
Conference Travel Grant (ACLA), Department of English, UMN **2009**
Audrey Christensen Book Prize, Department of English, UMN (Competitive) **2008**
Osher Scholar, Osher Life Long Learning Institute, UMN (Competitive) **2008**
Summer Research Grant, College of Liberal Arts UMN (Competitive) **2007**
Conference Travel Grant (MLA), Department of English, UMN **2007**
Conference Travel Grant (ACA), Department of English, UMN **2006**