

Peter Brock Olson, Ph.D.

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Mississippi State University
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Curriculum Vitae

Education

Ph.D. University of Memphis, Department of English, Literary and Cultural Studies, 2013;
specialization, 19th-century American literature, literary theory, composition

Graduate Certificate in African-American Literature, University of Memphis, 2007

M.A. University of Memphis, English Literature, 2006; concentration in American literature

ABD University of Memphis, Musicology/Southern Regional Music, 2003

M.A. University of Minnesota, Music Theory, 1992

B.M. University of Minnesota, Performance, 1987

Dissertation

"American Romanticism and the Politics of Negative Originality: The Dark Passages of Emerson, Poe, Hawthorne, and Melville" (2013).

Theron Britt, director; Joshua Phillips, John David Miles, Jeffrey Scraba, and Reginald Martin, committee members.

Publications

"The Metaphysics of Indian-Hating: Melville, Parkman, Emerson and the American West as Singular Form." Under consideration by the *Journal of American Culture*. 2014.

"Web Writing in the University Community: Problem Solving through Collaboration and Convergence." *Web Writing: Why & How for Liberal Arts Teaching & Learning*, "Open-Review Edition, Fall 2013."

"Edgar Allan Poe's *Eureka*: Romantic Science, Lucretius, and the Swerve of Intuitive Reason as Negative Originality." In preparation.

"John Bealle's *Public Worship, Private Faith*: A Review." *Journal of the Society for American Music*. 2.1 (2008): 113-116.

"An Appalachian Ballad." *Writing About Identity in the South*. Ed. Keller, et al. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1994. 102-3:10-14.

“Three Appalachian Ballads.” *Crossroads: A Journal of Southern Culture* (Oxford: University of Mississippi Press), Vol.1, No.1 (Fall 1992): 3-13.

Academic Positions

Lecturer, Department of English, Mississippi State University, 2008-2013

Adjunct Faculty, Department of English, University of North Alabama, 2004-2008

Teaching Assistant, Department of English, University of Memphis, 2003-2007

Teaching Assistant, Department of Music, University of Memphis, 2001-2002

Research Assistant, Department of English, Middle Tennessee State University, 2001

Program Coordinator, MacPhail Center for the Arts, Minneapolis, 1989-1994

Faculty, MacPhail Center for the Arts, Minneapolis, 1988-2000

Adjunct Faculty, Carleton College, 1992-1999

Awards & Fellowships

Subvention awarded by Trinity College Center for Teaching & Learning in support of an essay reviewed for an ebook titled *WebWriting: Why & How for Liberal Arts Teaching & Learning*, “Open-Review Edition,” Trinity College Center for Teaching & Learning, 2013.

Attended a post-graduate Scholarly Writing Retreat, Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Oregon (July 2013). Funding assistance provided by the Department of English, Mississippi State University.

Scharff Award, University of Memphis, Department of English, Graduate Program, 2009.

Doctoral Teaching Assistantships, University of Memphis, 2001-2007.

Research Assistantship, Middle Tennessee State University, 2001.

Outstanding Teaching Award, MacPhail Center for the Arts, University of Minnesota, 1991.

Conferences & Presentations

“The Creative Class: The Arts, Communities, Collaborations, Convergences.” Given to students and faculty of the Department of Art, Professional Practices in Art (AR 493; Professor Chiong-Yiao Chen), University of North Alabama, March 14, 2014.

“The Metaphysics of Indian-Hating: Melville, Parkman, Emerson and the American West as Singular Form.” Given at the 35th annual Southwest Popular Culture and American Culture Association conference, February 19 - 22, 2014 in Albuquerque, NM.

Chair, American Literature 1 Panel, the 35th annual Southwest Popular Culture and American Culture Association conference, February 19 - 22, 2014 in Albuquerque, NM.

“Edward Albee's Great Society: The Post-War Program to Demystify the American Dream,” presented at the University of North Alabama English Department 3rd Annual Regional Graduate Student Conference, *The American Dream*. (2011).

Guest lecturer, *American Transcendentalism*, Mississippi State University, 2010.

“Black-face minstrelsy, its musical style and structure, publishing and transmission, and ideology.” University of Memphis, English 7481, *Characterizing the Self in Antebellum America*, Dr. John Ronan, moderator, 2006.

“Prairie Home Companion in Nashville: Valentine’s Day, 2004.” National Communication Association Conference, November 2005.

Courses Taught

Mississippi State University

- EN 2223-501 – British Literature II online
- EN 1103-501 – English Composition I online
- EN 1113-501 – English Composition II online
- EN3313-501 – Writing for the Workplace online
- EN 3313 – Writing for the Workplace
- EN 2243 – American Literature I
- EN 2253 – American Literature II
- EN 4990/6990 – Writing on the Web
- EN 2203 – Introduction to Literature
- EN 1113 – English Composition II
- EN 1103 – English Composition I

University of Memphis

- ENGL 3604 – Persuasive Writing
- ENGL 3327 – American Literature to 1865
- ENGL 2201 – Literary Heritage
- ENGL 1020 – English Composition and Analysis
- MUHL 4801/6801 – American Folk & Popular Music

University of North Alabama

EN111/112 – First-Year Composition

EN231 – Literature of the Western World

ESL Grammar, Reading, and Listening, levels 1 & 2

Tutor, the Writing Center, 2004-06

Related Professional Experience

Design for an online course: American Literature I.

Designed and taught online pilot course: EN 4990/6990 (Spring 2012), *Writing on the Web*, Mississippi State University.

Graduate Coursework

American Literature

ENGL 7034 Erotic African/American Texts

ENGL 8323 American Literature to 1865

ENGL 8468 Literature of the Harlem Renaissance

ENGL 8479 Cultural Figures (Emerson)

ENGL 8481 Early Popular Literary Tradition (Characterizing the Self in Antebellum America)

ENGL 8005 Reading for Comps (concentration in American literature)

Cultural Theory

MTSU (transfer) Folk Narratives

MUHL 6801 American Folk and Popular Music

ENGL 8479 Cultural Figures (Susan Sontag)

ENGL 8480 Cultural Theories

PHIL 8030 Seminar Continental Philosophy (Heidegger)

PHIL 8030 Seminar Continental Philosophy (Derrida)

ENGL 8100 Independent Study (Nietzsche)

ENGL 8701 History of Critical Theory

Rhetoric and Composition

ENGL 7003 Theory/Practice Teaching Composition

ENGL 8817 Seminar Composition Theorists

ENGL 8802 Theory Composition Early Perspectives
ENGL 8818 Collaborative Writing
COMM 8350 Rhetorical Theory
ENGL 8862 Writing Technical Manuals
ENGL 6602 Advanced Composition
ENGL 8803 Theory Composition Modern Perspectives
ENGL 8815 Seminar History of Rhetoric

Linguistics

ENGL 7513 Dialectology
ENGL 8538 Cultural Issues ESL
ENGL 8517 Studies in Discourse Analysis
ENGL 8537 Second Language Reading

English Literature

ENGL 8276 English Literature of the Romantic Era
ENGL 8411 European Literature through the Renaissance
ENGL 8242 English Renaissance Literature
ENGL Elizabethan/Jacobean Drama

Other

ENGL 8000 Literary Research
MUHL 8400 Bibliography/Research Methods
MUHL 8800 Field Methods in Ethnomusicology
MUHL 8801 Ethnomusicology
MUHL 8806 Seminar in Southern Regional Music
MUHL 6800 World Musical Styles
MUHL 6801 American Folk and Popular Music
ANTH 7250 Community, Culture, Evaluation
ANTH 7255 Applied Anthropology
JOUR 7350 Advanced News Practices
PHIL 8020 Seminar Major Figures (Leibniz)

Seminar Papers

- "A Delicate Unity: Reason and Idealism in Spenser's *The Faerie Queene*" (2006).
- "An Anatomy of Evil in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*" (2006).
- "An Exegetical Exploration of Book One of Derek Walcott's *Omeros*" (2005).
- "Bartok's *Concerto For Orchestra*: A Caricature of German Hegemony" (1992).
- "Blackface Minstrelsy, and American Song Publishing" (2002)
- "Charles Seeger, Ruth Crawford Seeger and American Folksong" (2002)
- "Cleanth Brooks & Robert Penn Warren's *Modern Rhetoric*: Poetics, Discourse, and Tradition in Compositional Rhetoric" (2005).
- "*The Collected Writings of Wallace Thurmon: A Harlem Renaissance Reader* (edited by Amritjit Singh and Daniel M. Scott III): A Review." (2006).
- "Duke Ellington's Jungle Hokum and Musical Development within the Harlem Renaissance" (2006).
- "Emerson's Paradox of Originality" (2006).
- "Extra-Territorial Negotiations: Jonson's *Bartholomew Fair* as a Subversive Aesthetic" (2007).
- "Formalist Compatibilities: Shelley, Coleridge, and 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner'" (2005).
- "François-Joseph Fétis and the Theory of *Tonalité Moderne*" (MA Thesis, 1992).
- "From Textual to Contextual Considerations of Form in Romantic Poetry" (2005).
- "The Ideological Matrix of Garrison Keillor's *Silent Democracy*" (2005).
- "Jonathan Edwards as Preparationist." (2005). "Leibniz on Compatibilty and Free Will" (2005).
- "Olio and Dialectics: Melville's *The Confidence-Man* as a Comedy of Conscience" (2006).
- "Online Applications of Hypertext in Museum Databases" (2002).
- "Prairie Home Companion at the Ryman: Valentine's Day 2003" (2004).
- "Shape Note Hymnals, Notation, and Music Theory" (2001).

Departmental Activities/Academic Service

Developed and taught a dissertation writing seminar for the department of Management Information Systems.

Collaborate with the Instructional Media Center, Mississippi State University, creating a seminar on Web-based composition software and applications for collaboration.

Completed month-long training course CTL 101, *Online Teaching and Distance Learning Best Practices* (Center for Teaching and Learning, Mississippi State University; certificate of completion).

Attended Center for Teaching and Learning, Mississippi State University, Brown-Bag series on teaching excellence.

Assessment Committee, EN 2203 Introduction to Literature.

University of North Alabama, Tutor for the University Writing Center.

MacPhail Center for the Arts, Chair of the Faculty-Staff Committee.

Languages

Reading knowledge in French and German.

Professional Organizations

Association of Teachers of Technical Writing, C-19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, College English Association, The Melville Society, MLA, M/MLA, Nathaniel Hawthorne Society, The Poe Studies Association, SAMLA, Western Literature Association.

Academic References

Upon Request