

Brian Becker, PhD

Writing Program
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
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Education

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ
Ph.D. in English Literatures, received May 2015

Dissertation

“Folk Moderns and Modern Folks: Media, Modernity, and the Migration of Real Americans”
Committee: Brad Evans (chair), Myra Jehlen, and Cheryl Wall

University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

M.A. in Humanities, June 2006

Concentration in 19th-20th Century American Literature and contemporary critical theory

Master's Thesis: "Folk-Modernism: Intersection and Overlap in Sherwood Anderson and Jean Toomer," Advisor: Bill Brown

George Washington University, Washington, DC

B.A. in English Literature with honors, May 2005

Honors Program, 2001-2005

Enosinian Scholar, 2004-2005

Semester abroad in Paris, France, 2003

Relevant Work Experience

Director and Associate Teaching Instructor, Rutgers, The State University of NJ, New Brunswick, NJ
May 2016 – Present

-Since January 2023: Director of the Writing Program Institute

- Oversee and administrate dual-enrollment programs
- Identify and administer Professional Development seminars at area high schools
- Plan and administer the Summer College for Teachers

-Since January 2017: Assistant Director

- Conduct performance reviews with instructors, interview and hire new instructors, and manage orientation sessions
- Participate in professional-development sessions with area high-school teachers

-Since May 2016: Placement Coordinator

- Oversee and streamline the placement-test process, including statistical analysis
- Write new test questions and formulate new methods of online testing

- Teach sections of all classes (101 and before) into which incoming students could be placed
- Consult on other departments' placement and testing needs

-March 2018 - 2023: Basic Composition Coordinator

- Design curriculum for Basic Composition sections (appx. 2000 students per year)
- Oversee course quality and field teacher and student issues
- Redesign textbook to be open source and online (currently available for free to Rutgers students). With a grant received in Fall 2020, moving this textbook to be available on a publicly available platform.

-Service at various times throughout: Personnel Committee, Hiring Committee, Curriculum Committee, Writing Program Institute, Summer College for Teachers, New Instructor Orientation, 101 Almanac, EAD Advisory Board, PD workshops, Summer Bridge, EOF, Saturday Scholars, Program Assessment

Author/Trainer, SAT/ACT/GRE Preparation, The Princeton Review, New York, NY
September 2005 – January 2017

- Author of “Writing and Language” section for the new *Course Workbook for the SAT* (used company-wide in classes and tutorials).
- Author of two entire ACT exams, with all questions and passages in English, Math, Reading, and Science.
- Contributor of various documents to department of Research and Development (pedagogical materials, web and print), including editor- and authorship for the following publications (abbreviated list): *1,296 Questions for the ACT* (2008, 2015), *ACT 8.0* and *8.1* course manual (2008, 2015), *Cracking the SAT* (2009-2016), *Cracking the GRE in Literature Subject Test* (2009), *Critical Reading Skills Builder* (2013), and *SAT Honors* (2014).
- Author of approximately 50 lessons on Articulate, an online learning program, in SAT, ACT, and GRE.
- Taught all sections of the New SAT (Reading, Math, Writing), ACT (English, Reading, Math, Science), and GRE.
- Trained incoming ACT and SAT instructors (throughout the US and Canada) in content and pedagogy.

Developer, Bloomberg Assessment Test, Bloomberg, New York, NY
2011 – 2015

- Author for all four sections of the Bloomberg Assessment Test: News Analysis, Situational and Ethical Judgment, Math, and Analytical Reasoning.
- Editor and test designer for News Analysis items and passages.

University Teaching Experience

Stand-alone courses (composition)

“College Writing Extended,” Instructor asynchronous remote, Rutgers, Fall 2023

“Writing Program Teaching Seminar,” Co-Instructor, Rutgers, Fall 2019, F2020, F2021, F2022

“College Writing” (pilot), Instructor asynchronous-remote, Rutgers, Fall 2022
“Expository Writing,” Instructor, Rutgers, Fall 2009, Summer 2010, Fall 2016, Fall 2020
“Graduate Writing,” Instructor, Rutgers, Spring 2019
“Composition Skills” (4.5-credit class), Instructor, Rutgers, Fall 2018
“English as Academic Discourse, Level I,” Instructor, Rutgers, Fall 2018
“Research in the Disciplines,” Instructor, Rutgers, Spring 2018
“Basic Composition with Reading,” Instructor, Rutgers, Spring 2017
“English as Academic Discourse, Level II,” Instructor, Rutgers, Fall 2017

Stand-alone courses (literature)

“Principles of Literary Study: Prose,” Instructor, Rutgers, Spring 2013
“Twentieth-Century American Literature” Instructor, Rutgers, Summer 2011

Course assistant

“Black Narrative,” Teaching Assistant, Spring 2014
“Harlem Renaissance,” Teaching Assistant, Fall 2013
“Principles of Literary Study: Prose,” Teaching Assistant, Rutgers, Fall 2012
“Introduction to American Literature 1” Teaching Assistant, Rutgers, Fall 2010 (MTA) and
Spring 2011
“Introduction to American Literature 2” Teaching Assistant, Rutgers, Spring 2010

Publications

“Radio’s Disappearing Act: The Creation of the Modern Folk,” *Raritan Quarterly*, Fall 2018.

Honors and Awards

Visiting Fellow, AP Language Exam reader, Summer 2024
Merit raise in salary, Spring 2024
Open and Affordable Textbooks Award, Rutgers, Fall 2020 – Spring 2021
Merit raise in salary, Spring 2020
Graduate School Fellowship, 2014 – 2015
Dissertation Teaching Award, Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences, Honorable Mention, 2013 –
2014
Summer Departmental Funding, Summer 2013, Summer 2014
Graduate School Fellowship, 2011 – 2012
Mellon Summer Departmental Funding, Summer 2011, Summer 2012
Presidential Fellowship, Rutgers, 2008 – 2009
Teaching or Research Assistant Funding, 2009 – 2010, 2010 – 2011, 2012 – 2013, 2013 – 2014
Enosinian Scholar, Outstanding Undergraduate Research, George Washington University, 2005
University Honors Program Student, George Washington, 2001-2005

Instructional Development

Asynchronous Teaching Kickstart Course, Strategic Curriculum Development Program, Rutgers,
Summer 2023

“College Writing” Pilot, Summer orientation and weekly discussion groups, Writing Program, Rutgers, Fall 2022
Curriculum Committee and Reading Group, Writing Program, Rutgers, 2021-2022
Anti-racist Pedagogy Workshop, Writing Program, Rutgers, Summer 2020
“Graduate Writing” Orientation and Faculty Meetings, Writing Program, Rutgers, Spring 2019
“English for Academic Discourse I,” Orientation and Folder Reviews, Writing Program, Rutgers, Fall 2018
“English for Academic Discourse II,” Orientation and Folder Reviews, Writing Program, Rutgers, Fall 2017

Presentations

“Basic Composition Quizzes,” invited presentation to tutors, Rutgers, January 2019
“Writing Effective Prompts,” invited workshop, Rutgers, September 2018
“Radio’s Folk-Modernity: From Regions to Regionlessness,” Article workshop with Edward Miller (CUNY), Americanist Seminar, October 30, 2013
“‘No use’n you rakin’ up de ole times’: *The Emperor Jones*, Minstrelsy, and the Birth of the American theater,” Modernism and the Folk Conference (co-organized), Rutgers, March 23, 2012
“The World Republic of Noir: *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, Adaptation, and International Circulation,” ACLA conference, Vancouver, BC, April 1, 2011
“‘It’s all in de tale’: Dialect and Experimentation in *The Conjure Woman*,” Graduate Symposium, April 22, 2010

Other Organizations

Candidate, National Psychological Association for Psychoanalysis, New York, NY
September 2022 – Present

-Courses, analysis, and supervision in psychoanalytical training

Participant, *Americanist Seminar*, Rutgers, New Brunswick, NJ
August 2008 – May 2015

-Periodical meetings organized to discuss scholarly work in Americanist criticism.

-Hosts seminars with area scholars to discuss works in progress.

Participant, *Poetry and Poetics Workshop*, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL
September 2005-December 2006

-Bi-weekly meetings organized to discuss scholarly work in progress by upper level Ph.D. candidates and area faculty (University of Chicago, University of Illinois – Chicago, DePaul University) and to “workshop” this work via questions and suggestions.

Co-Founder, Editor, *Le Culte du Moi*, George Washington University, Washington, DC

May 2002-May 2005

-Founded and launched magazine in May 2002.

-Semi-annual literary journal publishes fiction, poetry, and literary critical non-fiction by University students and professors.

Editor, *Phoenix: Undergraduate Honors Journal*, George Washington University

Fall 2002-Spring 2003

-Selected and edited scholarly work by Honors Program Undergraduates in all disciplines.

Archival Affiliations

Firestone Library, Princeton University

Houghton Library, Harvard University

Museum of Broadcast Communications, Chicago

Paley Center for Media, New York City

Willa Cather Archives, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Languages

English

French (advanced)

Spanish (advanced)

German (reading)

Danish (intermediate)

Esperanto (intermediate)

Korean (beginner)