

David Morris

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Interim Co-Director of the Program in Professional Writing

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	2012
M.A., English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	2005
B.A., English, University of Rochester	2003

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Speculative Fiction	Film
Religion and Secularism	Technical and Professional Writing
Utopian Studies	Rhetoric and Composition

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Public Religions in the Future World: Post-Secularism and Utopia.
University of Georgia Press, 2021.

Books in Progress

Return of the Transcendent/Real: Religion in 21st-Century Speculative Fiction

Drawing on postsecular theory and ecocriticism, I argue that contemporary speculative fiction uses religious forms to identify and remedy “immovable” realities of the present: environmental collapse, economic exploitation, and social injustice. To make this argument, the book examines novels and multimedia texts by Becky Chambers, N. K. Jemisin, and Rebecca Roanhorse among others. I plan to have two sample chapters and a proposal drafted by May 2023.

Acing the Research Paper

An inexpensive, short guide to using research in writing for advanced high school and early college students. Helps students understand assignments, select and focus research questions, develop research methods, write drafts, revise in light of feedback, and

radically revise for non-academic modes, audiences, and goals. I have 80% of the book drafted and plan to complete drafting summer 2022.

Journal Articles

“Octavia Butler’s (R)evolutionary Movement for the Twenty-First Century.” *Utopian Studies* 26.2 (fall 2015): 270-88.

“Intellect and Activism: The Secular Authority of *Left Behind*.” *Cultural Critique* 90.1 (Spring 2015): 64-87.

Journal Articles in Progress

“Adjunct Course Design: Revising and Revisioning Business Writing at an R1 University.” With Kay Emmert, Andrew Moss, and Andrew J. Bowman.

Through a description of the process admin and instructors in the PPW undertook to redesign BTW 250, this article argues for an ongoing, participatory backward-design process that harnesses student interest and ability, field knowledge, instructor experience, interdepartmental input, and institutional resources.

In-House Publications

Co-Editor. *Instructor Guide for I-Write: Teaching First-Year Composition at Illinois*. University of Illinois Rhetoric Program, 2019. With Dana Kinzy.

Assistant Editor. *I-Write: A Writing Guide for the Undergraduate Rhetoric Program at the University of Illinois*. 1st Edition. Ed. Kristi McDuffie. University of Illinois Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning, 2018.

“Citing and Documenting Like a Researcher.” In *I-Write: A Writing Guide for the Undergraduate Rhetoric Program at the University of Illinois*. Ed. Kristi McDuffie. 1st-5th Eds. University of Illinois Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning, 2018-2022. 114-29.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

“Amoral Gods: Religious Pessimism in Contemporary Speculative Fiction.” American Literature Association conference, Chicago, IL, May 2022.

“Islamic Secularism in G. Willow Wilson’s *Alif the Unseen*.” American Literature Association Conference, Boston, MA, July 2021.

“Scrambled Theology: Junk Religions and Precarious Hope in Margaret Atwood’s *MaddAddam* series.” Society for Utopian Studies Conference, East Lansing, MI, October 2019.

“Poetics of the Hijab: Muslim Women’s Bodies in Secular America.” ASA, Chicago, IL, November 2017

“Competing Raptures: *Left Behind*, *The Leftovers*, and the Narratives of Secularization.” Midwest MLA, St. Louis, MO, November 2016

“Octavia Butler’s *Earthseed*: A Utopian Organization for the 1990s.” The Midwest Conference on Utopian Studies, Valparaiso, IN, March 2014.

“‘Not Dwelling on Ultimate Purposes:’ Utopian Humility in Margaret Atwood’s *MaddAddam* novels.” The Midwest Conference on Utopian Studies, Valparaiso, IN, March 2012.

“‘The Home of all Muslims’: Pilgrimage and the American Muslim in Mohja Kahf’s *Girl in the Tangerine Scarf*.” The Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900, Louisville, KY, 2012.

AWARDS AND HONORS

University of Illinois College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Impact Award, 2021

University of Illinois College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, 2016

University of Illinois English Department Undergraduate Teaching Award, 2015

University of Illinois Undergraduate Rhetoric Program Award for Excellence in Writing Instruction, 2011

TEACHING

Literature and Film courses for English Majors:

Speculative Futures (2022)

Literature and Science (2022)

Novels on Film (Advanced Composition) (2015)

Introduction to Literary and Cultural Study (2005, 2009, 2020)

Literature and Film courses, General Education:

Introduction to Film (2013-2017, 2019-2021)

Introduction to Fiction (2015)

Introduction to Poetry (2012)

American Literature (2008-2011)

The Short Story (2006)

Composition:

Rhet 105: Writing and Research (2014-2020)

Rhet 101: Principles of Writing (2017-2018)

Rhet 102: Principles of Research (2018-2019)

Rhet 105: Writing @ The University of Illinois (2011-2014)

Rhet 105: Principles of Composition (2003-2011)

Rhet 233: Advanced Composition (2005-2011)

ADMINISTRATION

Co-Director, Program in Professional Writing, 2022-2024

Interim Co-Director, Program in Professional Writing, 2019-2022

Assistant Director, Undergraduate Rhetoric Program, 2017-19

Professional Development Coordinator, Undergraduate Rhetoric Program, 2014-15

SERVICE

Course Development

“Principles of Technical Writing (BTW 261).” Revised BTW Tech Writing course. 2022.
With Kay Emmert, Erin Hoffman, and Kate Newton.

“Writing to Get That Job (English 199).” Moodle-hosted Online, 8-week course, 2022. With
Andrew J. Bowman.

“Rhetoric 105 Online:” Moodle-hosted Online First-Year Composition pilot course, 2017-18.
With Kristi McDuffie.

Lecture Series

Co-Creator and Organizer (with Mary Lucille Hays), “The New Academy.” Lecture and Podcast Series, 2017-present.

Co-Creator and Organizer (with Gail Hapke), “Research Off the Tenure Track.” Lecture Series, 2014-15.

Selected Committee Service

As Chair

Program in Professional Writing Advisory Committee, 2022
Lecturer Search Committee, 2021

As Member

Lecturer Search Committee, 2022
Rhetoric Advisory Committee, 2021-2022
Faculty-Student Senate (English dept. Senator), 2019-2021
Committee on Specialized Faculty, 2018-2019
Advisory Committee to the Department Head, 2016-2018; 2019-2020
Film Studies Committee, 2015-2016
Curriculum Committee, 2014-2015

ASSESSMENT AND CONSULTING

Member, AP English Standard Setting Panel (2022)

Sample Selection and Table Leader, AP English Literature Exam (2020-2021)

Table Leader, AP English Literature Exam (2014-2017)

University of Illinois Rhetoric Program First-Year Composition Assessment (2014)

Reader, AP English Literature Exam (2009-2013)

Consultant, Bellevue, WA Central School District #405 (2006-2009)

Rater, GRE Exam: Analytical Writing Section (2008-2012)