

COURTNEY SMITH, M.F.A.

PROFILE

Seasoned professional with proven success teaching students of all ages and backgrounds including traditional face-to-face, dual credit, hybrid, and virtual classes at various locations and times. Innovative self-motivator eager to embrace and improve established systems through new theories and technologies to enhance student engagement and success. Experienced educator with extensive background in transitioning secondary students to higher education with a creative and authentic approach. Passionate educator with an established history of contributing to the department, institution, and field of study through leadership, service, and collaboration. Engaging facilitator with comprehensive experience organizing, leading, and participating in workshops, presentations, readings, and panels related to writing, teaching, and literature.

EDUCATION

- **M.F.A., Creative Writing—Poetry**, Texas State University-San Marcos, San Marcos, TX, 2004
CREATIVE THESIS: *Fishing on the Parlor Floor*
- **B.A., English**, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, 1999
- **A.A., Communications-English**, Austin Community College, Austin, TX 1997
- **Core curriculum courses**, Blinn College, Bryan/College Station, TX, 1994-1996

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

English Professor, Houston Community College, Houston, TX, August 2019-Present

- Teach Composition and Rhetoric I and II, Introduction to Creative Writing, Early World Literature.

Adjunct English Professor, San Jacinto College-Central, Pasadena, TX, August-December 2013

- Taught Creative Writing online via Blackboard.

Writing Center Tutor, San Jacinto College-Central, Pasadena, TX, August 2012 to May 2013

- Tutored students individually on various writing assignments at all stages of the writing process.

Adjunct English Professor, San Jacinto College-Central, Pasadena, TX, June to August 2011

- Taught Composition and Introduction to Literature courses online in Blackboard to virtual classes.

English Professor, San Jacinto College-Central, Pasadena, TX, August 2008 to May 2011

- Taught sections of Composition and Rhetoric and Composition and Introduction to Literature as traditional on-campus courses as well as to dual credit and online students. Taught Technical Report Writing, Creative Writing, Survey of Later American Literature, and Survey of Later British Literature face-to-face and online. Also taught Literature as well as Film and Later World Literature with a special focus on Graphic Novels.

English Instructor, Blinn College, Brenham, TX, August 2006-May 2008

- Taught Composition and Rhetoric, Composition and Introduction to Literature, Introduction to Creative Writing—Poetry, Introduction to Creative Writing—Prose, and Preparation for College Composition. Taught writing to rising high school juniors so that they would graduate college-ready in the Summer Bridge Program in conjunction with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Adjunct English Instructor, Blinn College, Bryan, TX, August 2004-May 2006

- Taught Composition and Rhetoric, Composition and Introduction to Literature, and Introduction to Creative Writing—Poetry.

COURSES TAUGHT

- Composition and Rhetoric
- Composition and Introduction to Literature
- Preparation for College Composition
- Technical Writing
- Creative Writing—Poetry and Prose
- Literature and Film
- Survey of Later American Literature: From the Civil War to the Present
- Survey of Later British Literature: The Romantic Age Through the Present Age
- Later World Literature: The Hero's Journey from Classic Literature to Graphic Novels
- Early World Literature: Antiquity to the Renaissance

HIGHLIGHTS OF PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Presentations, Workshops, and Conferences

- “Someone Else’s I’s: Using Masks to Reveal in Persona Poems.” Workshop, Poets Northwest, Houston, TX. 17 Aug. 2019.
A workshop for poets. Topics included the history of the persona poem with analysis of both classic and contemporary examples and discussion of assumed identity, empathy, characterization, and voice.
- “Mindfulness and the Poet: Drawing on the Personal Experience in Poetry.” WriteFest, Houston, TX. 1 June 2019. Panel Moderator.
- “Created Creative.” Cypress Bible Church, Houston, TX. 19 Oct. 2018. Presentation.
A presentation for mothers of preschoolers regarding how to nurture themselves through their inherent creativity in order to preserve the women they were before motherhood and embrace the women they are becoming.
- “College Prep Workshop: Top 5 Habits of Successful College Students.” Cypress Bible Church, Houston, TX. April/May 2014-2017.
A workshop for graduating high school seniors. Topics included the major differences between high school and college and some of the best habits of successful college freshmen.
- “College Ahead: Getting You and Your Child Ready to Exit.” Merge Parent Conference, Cypress Bible Church, Houston, TX. 11 April 2015.
A breakout session for parents of junior and senior high school students. Topics include what college is like today, how parents should and shouldn’t help their college freshmen, and some helpful resources.
- “Introduction to Dual Credit.” Workshop for new dual credit students. San Jacinto College-Central, Pasadena, TX. 2009-10. Presentation.
- “From Graphic Novels to Graph Jam: Making Lit Ours Instead of Just Ours.” Southwest Popular Culture American Culture Association. Hyatt Regency, Albuquerque, NM. 10 Feb. 2010. Presentation.
A presentation showing educators ways to incorporate multi-modal, collaborative approaches for students to reinterpret assigned works to debunk the myth of the sacredness of literature and the perceived inherent complexity of the language arts.
- “Make the Students Do the Work: How to Engage, Assess, and Report with the ‘Click’ of a Button.” 8th Annual Texas A&M Assessment Conference. Hyatt Place, College Station, TX. 16 Feb. 2008. Presentation.
A presentation for instructors and assessment professionals regarding how to utilize technology; e.g., online tutorials, streaming video, and “clickers,” to engage students while simultaneously assessing and reporting their performance.
- “Selling Our Souls? Racial Perceptions and Visual Literacy in the Composition Classroom.” 58th Annual Conference on College Composition and Communication. Hilton New York, New York. 23 Mar. 2007. Presentation.
A presentation regarding teaching visual literacy in the English composition classroom with a focus on racial stereotypes.
- “Selections from *Fishing on the Parlor Floor*.” Conference of College Teachers of English. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi, TX. 4 Mar. 2006. Reading.
- “College Prep Workshop.” Clear Lake United Methodist Church, Houston, TX. 23 Mar. 2013.
A presentation for graduating high school seniors highlighting the major differences between high school and college and habits to adopt before classes begin to set a foundation for student success.
- “Canons and Fusion: Curricular Alternatives for Learning Change.” 54th Annual Conference on College Composition and Communication, Hilton New York, New York. Presentation. 6 Mar. 2003.
A presentation about creating “contact zones” in the classroom, or places for safe and genuine idea exchange for students of various cultural backgrounds and writing abilities.

Books

Abundance. Houston, Domino Dog Press, 2018.

The College User’s Manual: What Professors Wish Students Knew Before the First Class. Houston: Domino Dog Press, 2015.

Publications

“mono no aware” and “Up Early.” *Vamp Cat Magazine*. Dream a Little Dream of Me, Feb./Mar. 2020, www.vampcatmag.com/post/up-early-courtney-obanion-smith.

“Time Enough at Last.” *Houston Poetry Fest 2019 Anthology*, edited by Daniel R. Carrington. 38-39.

“Plunder.” *Texas Poetry Calendar 2020*, edited by Zoë Fay-Stindt and Allyson Whipple. Kallisto Gaia Press, 2019.

- “The Deputy and His Partner.” *Barren Magazine*, No. 8, Rust in Bloom, May 2019, barrenmagazine.com/the-deputy-and-his-partner.
- “Documentarian.” *The Ocotillo Review*, Vol. 3.1, Kallisto Gaia Press, Mar. 2019, p. 78.
- “Around the Fire.” *Syntax & Salt Magazine*, Iss. 4, 1 Dec 2018, syntaxandsalt.com/2018/12/21/around-the-fire.
- “The Viewing.” *Relief: A Journal of Art and Faith*, Spring 2018, p. 138-139.
- “Chatter of the boys at the.” *Week 23: The Breakfast Special. Poetry Pea Podcast*, 24 April 2018, poetrypea.com/week-23-the-haiku-chronicle-podcast-the-breakfast-special.
- “A Street.” *The Ekphrastic Review*, 3 April 2018, www.ekphrastic.net/ekphrastic-journal/a-street-by-courtney-obanion-smith.
- “Planes gas Dibrom clouds.” (Haiku). *Haiku Hotline*, Vol. 11: *Bees. Interesting People Reading Poetry Podcast*. 23 Oct. 2017. Broadcast.
- “Why I Write Poetry.” *Poetic Asides* by Robert Lee Brewer, *Writer’s Digest*, 15 Aug. 2017, www.writersdigest.com/write-better-poetry/write-poetry-courtney-obanion-smith.
- Contributor to “Code Switch’s crowdsourced poem.” Edited by Kima Jones (@kima_jones). Code Switch. NPR.org. Twitter.com. #CSPoetry. 9 Apr. 2014, www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2014/04/08/300505007/for-poetry-month-were-taking-to-twitter-and-we-want-your-help.
- “Ode to My Gallbladder.” DiverseWorks on Wednesdays, Slingsing Ink: Lost and Found. DiverseWorks, Houston. 13 Mar. 2013. Juried selection. Reading.
- “Poetry and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance.” Rev. of *The Fraternity of Oblivion* by Larry D. Thomas. *Texas Books in Review*, Vol. 28, Iss. 1-2, 2008, pp. 22+.
- “I Want Someone to Say.” *Alba: A Journal of Short Poetry*, Vol. 16, 2008, www.ravennapress.com/alba/issue_16/obanion.html
- “Mama Lydie’s Pervey.” *The Poetry Society of Texas, Student Awards Winners 2003*. Poetry Society of Texas, 2003. p. 15.
- Rev. of *Song of the World Becoming: New and Collected Poems, 1981-2001*, by Patiann Rogers. *Southwestern American Literature*, Vol. 28, Iss. 1, 2002, pp. 117-18.

REPRESENTATIVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Certifications

- Eagle Online for Canvas Certification. Training and certification for online instruction using Canvas at HCC, Fall 2019.
- ACAdemic Learning Certification. Training emphasizing design principles and teaching methods, including effective content design and delivery, learning environment design, alternative methods of assessments, and effective integration of technology resources. Fall 2010.
- Quality Matters Certified Peer Reviewer. Training in 8 general criteria and 40 specific review standards used to evaluate the design of online and hybrid courses through a faculty peer-review process. Fall 2010-2012.

Committees and Development

- Faculty Innovation Fellow, 2020-2021 cohort. A program designed to facilitate personal creativity to transform educational and operational practices to generate innovation across the Houston Community College system. Fall 2020-present.
- Eagle Eyes Reflection Group Committee member. A reading and discussion group focused on issues regarding social justice and equity. Planned events, selected texts, developed reading and event calendars, created promotional materials, and hosted discussions. June 2020-present.
- Reading Culture Committee member. A college-wide reading program featuring texts from a different country each semester to celebrate different cultures and encourage empathy across borders. Planned, promoted, and hosted various events across the college. Taught the featured literature as the primary texts for Composition II. Houston Community College, Fall 2019-present.
- QEP Reading Circle participant, *Becoming a Student-Ready College: A New Culture of Leadership for Student Success*. Houston Community College, Spring 2020.
- Planning and Promotion Committee member and participant of *Get Lit*, an annual event at San Jacinto College to encourage the student body and the local community to write and support literature. 2008-2011.
- 2010 Entering Student Success Institute (ESSI), faculty representative for San Jacinto College-Central, Austin, TX. April 11-13, 2010.
- Distinguished Faculty Committee member. Assisted in the selection of candidates for Distinguished Faculty at San Jacinto College-Central, Fall 2010.

- Curriculum Proposal Committee for ENGL 2389, Academic Cooperative in Composition. An instructional course intended to combine lecture with hands-on experience to prepare exceptional writing students to tutor peers in a lab environment.
- Pearson Course Redesign Southwest Regional Workshop, English department representative for Developmental English Course Redesign Committee, Blinn College. Tucson, AZ. March 2008.
- Plagiarism Committee, San Jacinto College-Central and Blinn College-Bryan. Co-wrote plagiarism policies to be included in all master syllabi for the Humanities/Language Arts Department at both colleges.

Sponsorship, Mentorship, and Volunteerism

- Faculty editor, *HTX LIT Magazine*, featuring writing from and created by Intro to Creative Writing students, Houston Community College, 2020-Present.
- Advisor, HCC Katy Creative Writing Club, 2019-Present.
- Online Instruction Mentor, Houston Community College, Spring 2020.
- Co-sponsor and co-editor, *Chrysalis, a Magazine of Student Literature and Art*. San Jacinto College, 2009-2011.
- Co-sponsor, Creative Writing Club, San Jacinto College, 2010-2011.
- Judge, Friends of the Pasadena Library Poetry Contest, Pasadena, TX, 2009-2011.
- Judge, Pasadena Writers Club, Pasadena, TX, 2009-2010.
- Poetry Contest Director, district and regional meets, University Interscholastic League (UIL) academic competition hosted by Blinn College, 2005-2008.
- Poetry editor, *Blinn Literary Journal*, Blinn College, 2005-2008.
- Co-advisor, Beta Alpha Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, International Honor Society of the Two-Year College. Blinn College, 2007-2008.