

Kathryn J. McClain

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Education

University of Kentucky, Lexington KY Fall 2016-Spring 2022

Doctor of Philosophy in English

Areas: 19th-20th Century American Literature, Adaptation Studies,
Masculinities Studies, Contemporary Popular Culture

Dissertation: *Twenty-First Century Adaptations of Early
Twentieth Century American Protest Literature*

Committee: Dr. Jeff Clymer (chair), Dr. Andy Doolen,
Dr. Michelle Sizemore, and Dr. Carol Mason

Graduate Certificate in College Teaching and Learning Completed Spring 2020

Graduate Certificate in Gender and Women's Studies Completed Spring 2019

Truman State University, Kirksville MO

Master of Arts in English Fall 2012-Spring 2014

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Creative Writing Fall 2009-Spring 2012

Teaching Experience

Assistant Professor of English, American Literature, Colorado Mesa University Fall 2024-present
Department of Languages, Literature, and Mass Communication

- ENGL 111 and ENGL 112: Composition courses
 - Special topics: podcasts and loneliness/social connection as part of the Common Read initiative
- ENGL 261: Survey of American Literature I
- ENGL 262: Survey of American Literature II
- ENGL 401: Studies in American Literature I
 - Special topic: manliness/gender in early American literature
- ENGL 402: Studies in American Literature II
 - Special topic: legal system/politics in late American literature
- ENGL 444: Studies in Identity
 - Special topic: masked identities and superheroes
- ENGL 494: Seminar in Literature: Wickedness
 - Special topic: adaptations of the Wicked Witch of the West

Instructor, Colorado Mesa University Fall 2022-Spring 2024
Department of Languages, Literature, and Mass Communication

- ENGL 111 and ENGL 112: Composition courses
 - Special topics: podcasts, lesser-known Colorado history, and loneliness/social connection as part of the Common Read initiative

- ENGL 150: Introduction to Literature
 - Special topic: plot twists and subverted expectations
- ENGL 261: Survey of American Literature I
- ESSL 290: Maverick Milestone: Violence in American Literature
 - Interdisciplinary course: sociology and American literature
- ESSL 290: Maverick Milestone: Gender and Literature
 - Interdisciplinary course: gender studies and American literature
- ESSL 290: Maverick Milestone: Happiness
 - Interdisciplinary course: sociology and World literature

Instructor of Record, University of Kentucky
English Department

Fall 2019-Spring 2022

- ENG 260/AAAS 264: Introduction to Black Writers
 - Subtitle: The (Re)Writing of African American Literature
 - Cross-listed with AAAS Department (African American & Africana Studies)
- ENG 230: Introduction to Literature
 - Subtitle: Plot Twists and Subverted Expectations
- ENG 290: Introduction to Women's Literature
 - Subtitle: Telling and Retelling American Stories
- ENG 180: Great Movies
 - Subtitle: Heroes and Heroism

Instructor of Record, University of Kentucky
Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies Department

Fall 2016-Fall 2021

- WRD 110, WRD 111 and WRD 112: Composition courses
 - Special topics: University of Kentucky's Nunn Center for Oral Histories, stakeholder representation, and historical spaces on campus

Teaching Assistant, University of Kentucky
English Department for Dr. Janet Eldred

Fall 2021

- ENG 180: Great Movies
 - Subtitle: Adaptations of True Stories

CARES Freshman Summer Program Instructor, University of Kentucky
Center for Academic Resources and Enrichment Services

Summer 2017

- WRD 110 as an accelerated summer course
 - CARES supports students from historically underrepresented groups

English Instructor, John Wood Community College
English Department

Summer 2014-Summer 2016

- ENG 101 and ENG 102: Rhetoric and Composition courses
 - Restructured ENG 101/102 as dual enrollment at Unity High School
- ENG 191: Business Writing

Instructor of Record, Truman State University
English Department

Fall 2012-Spring 2014

- ENG 104: Introduction to Creative Writing
- ENG 190: Writing as Critical Thinking
 - Special topics: personal narrative and online identity/digital natives

Publications

“Not So Elementary After All: The Construction of Audience Expectations, the BBC’s *Sherlock*, and CBS’s *Elementary*”

South Atlantic Review in cluster “Whose Adaptation Is It Anyway?” – September 2025

“Resurrecting Rebels Left ‘Dead on the Page’: (Auto)Biography as Adaptation and the Lingering Legacy of Didactic American Political Fiction in Chris Bachelder’s *U.S.!*”

Adaptation Special Issue: Bioadaptations, vol. 18, no. 2 – August 2025

“‘We’ve Got to Bring Her Down’: The Wicked Witch, the Wizard of Oz, and the Intensification of Ozian Outcry in *Wicked* (2024)”

Accepted for *The New Polemic* anthology – under contract with Parlor Press, expected Fall 2026

“To Remain Faithful or to Rebel for Change: Expectations in *Wicked* (2024)”

Adaptation Media Review, vol. 18, no. 1 – March 2025

“Engaging with an Imperfect Past: Simultaneity and the Many Stories within Director Rashid Johnson’s *Native Son*”

Adaptation, vol. 16, no. 1 – March 2023

“Review: Cruising the Library: Perversities in the Organization of Knowledge by Melissa Adler”

disClosure: A Journal of Social Theory (Co-Written) – Summer 2018

“Control Panels, Numerous Screens, and Wheeled Chairs: An Examination of the TEAL Classrooms in the University of Kentucky’s Jacobs Science Building”

2016-2017 Computers & Writing Conference Proceedings – Spring 2018

“An Analysis of Job Listings on *rhetmap.org* for Junior Scholars: Academic Years Spanning 2013-2014, 2014-2015, and 2015-2016”

Rhetmap.org (Co-Written) – Spring 2017

“The BBC’s *Sherlock*: A ‘Sociopathic’ Master of the Social Game”

Who Is Sherlock?: Essays on Identity in Modern Holmes Adaptations, McFarland (Co-Written) – Fall 2016

Research in Progress

“‘A Way of Experiencing the World’: Diverse Stakeholder Voices in First-Year Writing Collaborative Podcast Projects”

Co-written with Dr. Rachel M. Hartnett for *College English* – submitted April 2026

“‘Our father said we were both right’: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Gregory Peck, and the Disruptive Narrative of Love in Harper Lee’s *Go Set a Watchman*”

Article research currently in progress

(Re)Making Multiplicities: Twenty-First Century Adaptations of Multiethnic American Literatures
Co-editor for anthology project with Dr. Rachel M. Hartnett on interdisciplinary approaches to twenty-first century multimedia adaptations of American literatures via intersections with adaptation studies and multiethnic studies – under advance contract with SUNY Press for the *SUNY Series in Multiethnic Literatures*

Dissident Adaptations: From the Familiar to the Discordant
Monograph research project currently in progress on adaptations such as *Wicked* musical (2003), *To Kill a Mockingbird* play (2018), *The Testaments* novel (2019), and *Watchmen* limited series (2019) – under advance contract with Palgrave for *Palgrave Studies in Adaptation and Visual Culture* series

Public Humanities

- Adaptation Today* Podcast Spring 2024-present
- Episode #1: “LFA/AAS Roundtable”
 - Episode #5: “Pedagogy and Adaptation”
 - Episode #7: “Holiday Episode”
 - Episode #10: “LFA/AAS 2025 Conference Recap”
 - Production of advertising content for pedagogical submissions
- Center for Teaching and Learning Showcase, Colorado Mesa University Spring 2025
- Presentation: “‘A Way of Experiencing the World’: Diverse Stakeholder Voices in First-Year Collaborative Podcast Projects”
- TRIO/SSS Lunch & Learn Series Presentation, John Wood Community College Fall 2014
- Requested speaker: “Study Skills for Different Learners”

Professional Service

- Founding Editor, *Adaptation Today* Website Spring 2024-present
- Editorial focus: peer-reviewed pedagogical resources
 - Publications include syllabi, assignments, lesson plans, and blog posts on adaptation in the undergraduate classroom
 - Created promotional materials for platform
 - Hiring Committee: Social Media Editor for Fall 2024
- Council Member, Literature/Film Association Fall 2025- present
- Invited Reviewer, *Adaptation Journal* invited Spring 2024
- Invited Reviewer, *English Studies Journal* invited Fall 2024
- Undergraduate Essay Award Committee Member, SAMLA Spring 2024- present
- Panel Chair and Organizer, LFA/AAS Online Conference Spring 2026
- Panel title: *Undergraduate Panel: Ozian Adaptations of Home, Culture, and Identity*
 - Panel presentations curated from senior students in the ENGL 494: Seminar in Literature: Wickedness course during Fall 2025

- Guest Cluster Editor, *South Atlantic Review* Spring 2024-Summer 2025
- Cluster title: “Whose Adaptation Is It Anyway?”
 - Introduction (co-written): “Whose Adaptation Is It Anyway?: Fan Expectations, Interpretations, and Receptions via Popular Adaptations” – September 2025
- Roundtable Chair and Organizer, Literature/Film Association Fall 2025
- Roundtable title: *Twenty-First Century Multiethnic Adaptations of American Literatures*
- Panel Chair and Organizer, SAMLA/Association of Adaptation Studies Fall 2023
- Panel title: *Whose Adaptation Is It Anyway?*
- Panel Chair, SAMLA Fall 2022
- Panel title: *Teaching Change/Changes to Teaching: Pedagogies for Social Justice C*
- Panel Chair, International Narrative Conference Spring 2017
- Panel title: *Film Narrative I*
 - Also served as volunteer at welcome table
- Panel Co-Chair, SAMLA/Association of Adaptation Studies Fall 2017
- Panel title: *Violence and Sexuality in Adaptation*

University and Department Service

- Sigma Tau Delta Co-Advisor, Colorado Mesa University Fall 2023-present
- Writers’ Guild Advisor, Colorado Mesa University Fall 2024-present
- T2T (Teacher to Teacher) Committee, Colorado Mesa University Fall 2024-present
- Fall 2024 Event: “The Realities of Difficult Conversations”
 - Fall 2024 Event: “Hard or Soft: A Brainstorming Session”
 - Spring 2025 Event: “Teaching Identity”
 - Spring 2025 Event: “Failure and Resilience”
 - Fall 2025 Event: “Active Learning Activities”
 - Spring 2026 Event: “Age of AI: Metacognition”
 - Spring 2026 Event: “Designing Activities in the Age of AI”
- LLMC English Assessment Committee, Colorado Mesa University Spring 2025-present
- Committee Chair: Fall 2025-present
 - Major contributions include revised SLO application for all ENGL courses, creation of new SLO, and creation of new content for SLO 3 review of major salient features
- LLMC Graduation Celebration Committee, Colorado Mesa University Spring 2025-present
- Committee role: LLMC academic awards for grads

LLMC Conference Planning Committee, Colorado Mesa University	Fall 2024-present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Codirector for LLAMAS Conference • NEH grant submitted: Spring 2025 • MLA grant accepted: Fall 2025 	
LLMC World Book Day Committee, Colorado Mesa University	Spring 2025-present
LLMC Hiring Committee, Colorado Mesa University	Fall 2025-Spring 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee Chair: Fall 2025-Spring 2026 • Posted Position: Developmental Writing 	
LLMC Class Capacity Committee, Colorado Mesa University	Spring 2025-Fall 2025
LLMC Hiring Committee, Colorado Mesa University	Fall 2024-Spring 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posted Positions: Technical Writing and Composition 	
Student Showcase Sponsor and Facilitator, Colorado Mesa University	Spring 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominated students from Sigma Tau Delta to present • Prepared 2 students for presentations and moderated session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Panel Moderator: “LLMC – Analyzing Humanity” 	
LLMC Attendance Committee, Colorado Mesa University	Fall 2024
Center for Teaching and Learning Panel, Colorado Mesa University	Fall 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event: “Using the Dignity Index” 	
Paired Class Project, Colorado Mesa University	Spring 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paired ENGL 112 with Dr. Erika Jackson’s HIST 131 	
Student Showcase Sponsor and Facilitator, Colorado Mesa University	Spring 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominated students from previous courses to present • Prepared 9 students for presentations and moderated session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Panel Moderator: “LLMC – Social Issues and Mass Communication” 	
LLMC Pedagogy Talk, Colorado Mesa University	Spring 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Led discussion on adaptation scholarship and pedagogy 	
Student Showcase Sponsor and Facilitator, Colorado Mesa University	Spring 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominated students from previous courses to present • Prepared 9 students for presentations and moderated session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Panel Moderator: “LLMC – Social Issues and Mass Communication” ▪ Student Support: “LLMC – Literature and Rhetoric Oral Presentations” 	
Common Read Committee, Colorado Mesa University	Fall 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection: <i>Seek You: A Journey Through American Loneliness</i> by Kristen Radtke 	
English Digital Project Awards Coordinator, University of Kentucky	Fall 2019-Spring 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked with DUS to create an award process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organized committees to review submissions/select winners 	

- President, English Graduate Student Organization, University of Kentucky Summer 2018-Spring 2019
- Supported graduate students by revising student handbook with DGS, creating travel funds committee, starting panels on exam process, and hosting mental health town halls
- New Teacher Mentor, University of Kentucky Summer 2017-Spring 2019
Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies Department
- Met with 5-6 mentees biweekly
 - Created and led multiple pedagogy sessions for week-long intensive summer orientation
 - Observed mentees' classes for feedback
 - Adapted WRD 110/111 syllabi for new instructors
- Engaged Citizen* Selection Committee Member, University of Kentucky Spring 2018, Spring 2019

Conference Presentations

- “‘The Uniform a Man Wears Changes Him’: How the Complex Hidden Identities of Hooded Justice and Doctor Manhattan Mask (Dis)Comfort in *Watchmen* Narratives”
Association of Adaptation Studies Conference, Alberta, Canada (online) – accepted for Summer 2026
- “‘It’s the Truth, It’s Actual, Everything Is Satisfactual’: Splash Mountain, Tiana’s Bayou Adventure, and the Complicated Process of Multiethnic Adaptation”
MELUS Conference, Austin TX (co-presenter) – accepted for Spring 2026
- “Multiethnic Intentions: A Discussion on *House of the Dragon*, *Hamilton*, and *James*”
Literature/Film Association & Association of Adaptation Studies Conference, online (co-presenter) – Spring 2026
- “‘We’ve Got to Bring Her Down’: The Wicked Witch, the Wizard of Oz, and the Intensification of Ozian Outcry in *Wicked* (2024)”
SAMLA Conference/Association of Adaptation Studies, Atlanta GA – Fall 2025
- “Roundtable Presentation: ‘Morning’s Takin’ Its Sweet Time Gettin’ Here’: Tom Robinson, Calpurnia, and the (Still Suppressed) Outspoken Voices of Black Americans in Aaron Sorkin’s *To Kill a Mockingbird*”
Literature/Film Association Conference, Savannah GA – Fall 2025
- “Roundtable Presentation: ‘I Don’t Know These People Anymore’: Aaron Sorkin’s Atticus Finch and Post-2016 America”
To Be Continued, online – Fall 2025
- “‘The Road is Wild and Wicked’: Long-Form Television and Streaming Series Adaptations of the Wicked Witch of the West”
Association of Adaptation Studies Conference, Istanbul, Turkey (online) – Summer 2025

- “‘You Should Have Faith in That Institution’: Aaron Sorkin’s *To Kill a Mockingbird* and the American Myth of the Political Insider”
MELUS Conference, Los Angeles CA – Spring 2025
- “‘Our father said we were both right’: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Gregory Peck, and the Disruptive Narrative of Love in Harper Lee’s *Go Set a Watchman*”
Literature/Film Association & Association of Adaptation Studies Conference, online – Spring 2025
- “Roundtable Presentation: *Adaptation Today*, Slightly Aged”
Literature/Film Association & Association of Adaptation Studies Conference, online – Spring 2025
- “*Wicked* Expectations: Character Representation and Cultural Change in Adaptations of the Wicked Witch of the West”
SAMLA Conference/Association of Adaptation Studies, Jacksonville FL – Fall 2024
- “Roundtable Presentation: Seeking Diversity and Critical Thought: Student Production and AI Generation with Kristen Radtke’s *Seek You*”
SAMLA Conference/Association of Adaptation Studies, Jacksonville FL – Fall 2024
- “Seeking Equitable Stakes: Podcasts and Stakeholders in the First-Year College Classroom”
MELUS Conference, Dallas TX – Spring 2024
- “Let’s Do Adaptations – and then Adaptation!: Teaching Adaptations and Teaching Adaptation in the Introductory Literature Classroom”
Literature/Film Association & Association of Adaptation Studies Conference, online – Spring 2024
- “Not So Elementary After All: Audience Responses to BBC’s *Sherlock* and CBS’s *Elementary*”
SAMLA Conference/Association of Adaptation Studies, Atlanta GA – Fall 2023
- “Vonnegut’s Perspectives within Contemporary Literature and Rhetoric Classrooms”
MELUS Conference, Indianapolis IN – Spring 2023
- “Expectations of Creation and Re-Creation: Inquisitive Discussions on Labor and Adaptation”
SAMLA Conference, online – Fall 2022
- “Multi-Ethnic Pedagogies: Reflections on Navigating Race as First-Time Lit Instructors”
MELUS Conference, New Orleans LA – Spring 2022
- “Unseized Past, Inspirational Future: The Political Possibilities of Adapting Jack London’s *The Iron Heel*”
SAMLA Conference/Association of Adaptation Studies, online – Fall 2021
- “Adapting Outdated Literary Rebels: Upton Sinclair, E. L. Doctorow and Chris Bacheler’s *U.S.!*”
SAMLA Conference/Association of Adaptation Studies, online – Fall 2020
- “‘Awakened by Silence’: Narrative Sound and Silence in John Rechy’s *City of Night* and Samuel Steward’s *Parisian Lives*”
SAMLA Conference/Association of Adaptation Studies, Atlanta GA – Fall 2019
- “‘A Necessary Evil’: Rupert Murdoch, the BBC, and *Sherlock* Series Three”
PCA/ACA National Conference, Washington, D.C. – Spring 2019

“Adapting ‘Productive Details’ from the Narrative of First-Wave Feminism: Contemporary Representations of Susan B. Anthony and Ida B. Wells-Barnett”
MELUS Conference, Cincinnati OH – Spring 2019

“A Demand for Closure: Thomas Gray’s *Confessions of Nat Turner* and Kyle Baker’s *Nat Turner*”
SAMLA Conference/Association of Adaptation Studies, Birmingham AL – Fall 2018

“‘Night Vale Is a Place that Is Difficult to Leave and Difficult to Enter’: Monstrous Space in *Welcome to Night Vale*”
PCA/ACA National Conference, Indianapolis IN – Spring 2018

“‘If It’s a Story I’m Telling, Then I Have Control Over the Ending’: The Shifting Feminist Influences on *The Handmaid’s Tale*”
SAMLA Conference/Association of Adaptation Studies, Atlanta GA – Fall 2017

Awards and Recognition

- “Pitch a Colleague” Recipient, LFA/AAS Conference Spring 2026
- Selected by Dr. Thomas Leitch to “pitch” as an academic colleague to the larger adaptation studies community at the Literature/Film Association & Association of Adaptation Studies 2026 online conference – “Pitch Your Colleague: An *Adaptation Today* Experiment in Academic Matchmaking”
- Peer Coaching Certificate, Colorado Mesa University Fall 2025
- Awarded for participation in peer coaching at the CTL
- Course Design Certificate, Colorado Mesa University Fall 2025
- Awarded for participation in the course design series at the CTL
- Faculty Professional Development Fund, Colorado Mesa University Fall 2025
- Awarded for anthology introduction in *(Re)Making Multiplicities*
- More CMU MORE: More Colorado Mesa University Maverick Open Resource Educators Grant Spring 2025
- Awarded for OER institutional grant level 1
 - Created OER materials for ENGL 261 and ENGL 262 courses
- Faculty Professional Development Fund, Colorado Mesa University Fall 2024
- Awarded for monograph chapter research on *To Kill a Mockingbird*
- Faculty Professional Development Fund, Colorado Mesa University Fall 2023
- Awarded for pedagogical research on podcasts in the composition classroom
- 2020-2021 Provost’s Outstanding Teaching Award, University of Kentucky Spring 2021
- Recognized by the Office of the Provost and the Educational Policy Committee
 - Awarded to three graduate students across the University of Kentucky

- 2020-2021 Arts & Sciences' Outstanding Teaching Award, University of Kentucky Spring 2021
- Recognized by the Office of the Dean and the Educational Policy Committee
 - Selected from pool of graduate instructors in the College of Arts and Sciences
- Dissertation Fellowship, University of Kentucky Spring 2020
- Summer Research Funding, University of Kentucky Summer 2019
- WRD's Excellence in Teaching Award, University of Kentucky Spring 2019
- Awarded for work as a teacher mentor to new primary instructors

Professional Experience

- Research Assistant, University of Kentucky Summer 2020
Film Project for Dr. Pearl James
- Writing Tutor, John Wood Community College Fall 2014-Summer 2016
- English Tutor for TRIO/SSS, John Wood Community College Fall 2015-Spring 2016
Federal TRIO Program for Student Support Services
- TRIO/SSS supports low-income students, first-generation students, and students with documented disabilities
- CETL Faculty Academy, John Wood Community College Summer 2016
Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning - Bronze Level Project
- CETL project on how to integrate student consultants into writing center
- Copywriting Intern, Kansas City MO Summer 2013
Grey Healthcare Group
- Certified Master Tutor, Cambridge Stratford Study Skills Institute Spring 2013-Summer 2013
- Assistant Editor, Kirksville MO Fall 2013-Spring 2014
The Chariton Review Literary Journal
- Literary Magazine Intern, Kirksville MO Fall 2011
The Chariton Review Literary Journal

Professional Affiliations

Adaptation Today

Association of Adaptation Studies

Literature/Film Association

The Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States

South Atlantic Modern Language Association