

Nathan C. Straight

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Employment

Associate Professor, English Department, Utah State University, Brigham City Regional Campus (Spring 2014-present)

Assistant Professor, English Department, Utah State University, Brigham City Regional Campus (2008-2014)

English Lecturer, English Department, Utah State University, Brigham City Regional Campus (2003-2008)

Education

PhD British and American Literature, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR (Dec. 2005)

MA British and American Literature, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR (June 1999)

BA English Literature, Stanford University, Stanford, CA (June 1996)

Specializations: U.S. Literature, Regionalism, Ecocriticism, Autobiography Studies, Composition, Distance Education

Recognitions

Teacher of the Year, English Department, Utah State University (2012-13)

Researcher of the Year, Regional Campuses and Distance Education, Utah State University (2011-12)

Researcher of the Year, English Department, Utah State University (2011-12)

Researcher of the Year, Brigham City Regional Campus, Utah State University (2011-12)

Undergraduate Research Mentor of the Year, Utah State University (2010-11)

Undergraduate Research Mentor of the Year, Regional Campuses and Distance Education, Utah State University (2010-11)

Teacher of the Year, Regional Campuses and Distance Education, Utah State University (2008-09)

Exemplary Faculty Use of Technology Award, Utah System of Higher Education (2005)

Oregon Humanities Center Research Fellowship, University of Oregon (2002-03)

Formby Library Research Fellowship, Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library, Texas Tech University (2003)

Outstanding Teacher of Composition Award, University of Oregon (1998-99)

Research

Publications:

Interdisciplinary Approaches to Distance Teaching: Connecting Classrooms in Theory and Practice. Alan Blackstock and Nathan Straight, eds. Routledge, December 2015.

“Distance as Substance: Place-Based Studies for Place-Bound Students.” In *Interdisciplinary Approaches to Distance Teaching: Connecting Classrooms in Theory and Practice*. Routledge, December 2015.

“Taking the Long View: The Value of IVC Teaching in Distance Education.” Alan Blackstock and Nathan Straight. In *Interdisciplinary Approaches to Distance Teaching: Connecting Classrooms in Theory and Practice*. Routledge, December 2015.

Autobiography, Ecology, and the Well-Placed Self: The Growth of Natural Biography in Contemporary American Life Writing. Modern American Literature: New Approaches Series #59. New York: Peter Lang International Academic Publishers, July 2011.

Review of *Living on Wilderness Time*, by Melissa Walker. *Western American Literature* 39.1 (Spring 2004): 126-27.

Review of *Of Landscape and Longing: Finding a Home at the Water's Edge*, by Carolyn Servid. *Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment* 9.1 (Winter 2002): 281-82.

“I [want to] Know What You Did Last Summer: Autobiography and Argumentation.” *Componere*. Eugene, OR: University of Oregon Publication, 2002.

Grants:

Excellence in Teaching and Learning Grant, Utah State University: \$10,000 (Spring 2014-Summer 2015)

English 2010 Curriculum. Utah State Higher Education, Technology Intensive Concurrent Enrollment (TICE) Course Development Initiative: \$36,762.00 (Fall 2013-present)

Center for Innovative Design and Instruction (CIDI) Technology Innovation Grant: \$4,500.00 (Summer 2014)

English 1010 Curriculum. Utah State Higher Education, Technology Intensive Concurrent Enrollment (TICE) Course Development Initiative: \$73,680.95 (June 2011-August 2013)

Publication Grant for Scholarly Monograph, Charles Redd Center for Western Studies, Brigham Young University: \$2,000.00 (2011)

Undergraduate Research Assistant in the Humanities Grant, Utah State University: \$800.00 (2009-10)

Refereed and Invited Conference Presentations:**International/National:**

“No Room for Nostalgia: The Vanishing Spaces of Cormac McCarthy’s Border Trilogy.” Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association, Santa Fe, NM (October 9-10, 2015)

“First Biographers: Native Perspectives on Ecological Identity.” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, Moscow, ID (June 23-27, 2015)

Keynote Lecture. “Natural Biographies: An Ecocritical Tale of Self-Location.” Searching for Place: An Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference. University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY (Mar. 28th-30th, 2014)

“Distance as Substance: Place-Based Studies for Place-Bound Students.” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, Lawrence, KS (May 28-June 2, 2013)

“The Spiral Classroom: Earthworks, Great Salt Lake, and Place-Based Undergraduate Research.” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, Bloomington, IN (June 21-26, 2011)

“Enhancing Undergraduate Research in the Humanities.” CUR: Council on Undergraduate Research National Conference, Ogden, UT (June 19-22, 2010)

“Circles and Spirals: Or, ‘You Call this *Great?*’” Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association, Snowbird, UT (Oct. 8-11, 2009)

“Canvas, Medium, Counterpoint: Making Art *on, of, and against* Great Salt Lake.” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, Victoria, British Columbia (June 3-6, 2009)

“Lighting Out for the Same Territory: Indispensable Repetition in William Kittredge’s Oregon Memoirs.” Western Literature Association Conference, Boulder, CO (Oct. 1-4, 2008)

“Rain Shadow: Reckoning and Reconciliation on the High Desert of Southeastern Oregon.” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, Eugene, OR (June 19-22, 2005)

“Surfacing in the Great Basin: Region, Migration, Memoir.” Western Literature Association Conference, Big Sky, MT (Sept. 29-Oct. 2, 2004)

“*Who are we? where are we?*: Autobiographical Conversations with the World.” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, Boston, MA (June 3-7, 2003)

“What is a divide, if not for crossing?’: Mary Clearman Blew’s Transgressive Memoirs.” Western Literature Association Conference, Tucson, AZ, (Oct. 9-12, 2002)

“Creative Ecology: The New Physics and Virginia Woolf’s Inclusive Aesthetic.” North American Interdisciplinary Conference on Environment and Community, Weber State University, Ogden, UT (Feb. 11-13, 1999)

Panel Chair. *Fluid Perspectives on Interspecies Relations in the American (and Canadian) West.* Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, Boston, MA (June 3-7, 2003)

Panel Chair. *The Lives of Ordinary Women: Fiction and Memory.* Western Literature Association Conference, Tucson, AZ, (Oct. 9-12, 2002)

Local:

Autobiography, Ecology, and the Well-Placed Self: The Growth of Natural Biography in Contemporary American Life Writing. Research Week Faculty Book Author Panel. Utah State University, Logan, UT (Apr. 4th, 2012)

“Frontier Revisions in the Memoirs of Mary Clearman Blew.” Romance Languages Graduate Conference, “Cryptic Cartographies.” University of Oregon, Eugene, OR (Oct. 18-20, 2002)

“Arguing by Design: Teaching the Enthymeme and *The Shape of Reason*.” University of Oregon Fall Composition Conference, Eugene, OR (Sept. 24-27, 2002)

“Speaking Space in the Composition Classroom.” University of Oregon Fall Composition Conference, Eugene, OR (Sept. 19-22, 2000)

“Ecological Argumentation: Environmental Issues and Discourse Communities.” University of Oregon Fall Composition Conference, Eugene, OR (Sept. 21-24, 1999)

Teaching

Mentoring and Independent Study:

Master’s Thesis Advisor (Cami Dilg, student) – “Pictographs and Petroglyphs in Cormac McCarthy’s *Blood Meridian or the Evening Redness in the West*.” (Fall 2015-Spring 2016)

New Faculty Teaching Academy Mentor (Fall 2013)

English 5920 (Cami Dilg, student) – Directed Undergraduate Study: “Pictographs and Petroglyphs: Witnesses of the Past, Authors in the Present.” (Fall 2013)

Honors College Contract (Jennifer Torgerson, student) – “Travel Writing: Scholarly, Creative, and Teaching Approaches” (Spring 2012-Summer 2012)

English 5920 (Cami Dilg, student) – Directed Undergraduate Study: “The Earthworks of Great Salt Lake” (Spring 2010)

Literature:

*Indicates course taught via the Interactive Broadcast system

English 5320/4610 – U.S. Literature and Cultural Difference (Spring 2010)

*English 4610 – Western American Literature: Western Historical Fiction (Spring 2015)

*English 4610 – Western American Literature: The New Regionalism (Spring 2011)

*English 4370 – Studies in Nonfiction Prose (Spring 2010, Spring 2012)

*English 4310 – American Writers: Cormac McCarthy (Spring 2010)

*English 3620 – Native American Studies: Autobiography

*English 3520 – Multicultural American Literature (multiple sections)

*English 3375 – U.S. Literature after 1900 (Spring 2013, Spring 2015)

*English 3300 – Period Studies in American Literature: Post-Wilderness Nature Writing (Fall 2009)

*English 3030 – Perspectives in Literature: The Frontiers of American Literature (Spring 2005)

*English 3030 – Perspectives in Literature: American Autobiography and Western Women's Life Writing (Spring 2004, Fall 2004)

*English 2600 – Literary Analysis (multiple sections)

*English 2170 – American Literary History II (Fall 2006, Spring 2009, Spring 2011)

English 1030 – Understanding Literature (Fall 2005, Fall 2006)

Composition and General Education:

*English 2010 – Research-Based Argumentative Writing (multiple sections)

*English 1010 – Introduction to College Writing (multiple sections)

*USU 1320 – Humanities: Bioregionalism and Consumption (multiple sections)

Service and Relevant Experience

CHaSS Dean Screening Committee, Utah State University (Fall 2015-present)

Judge, Poetry Out Loud Competition (Regional Finals), Box Elder High School, Brigham City, UT (Spring 2015)

Academic Standards Committee, Utah State University (Fall 2014-present)

Educational Policies Committee, Utah State University (Fall 2014-present)

Curriculum Committee, Utah State University (Fall 2014-present)

Social Work Faculty Hiring Committee, Utah State University (Fall 2014-present)

Undergraduate Research and Creative Opportunities Grant Reviewer, Utah State University (Fall 2012-present)

HPER Faculty Hiring Committee, Utah State University – Brigham City (2012-13)

Undergraduate Research Advisory Board, Utah State University (Spring 2011-present)

RCDE Faculty Recognition Committee, Utah State University (2010-2012)

Chair, Faculty Committee on IDEA Course Evaluations Tool, RCDE, Utah State University (Spring 2011-Fall 2011)

Juror, Brigham City Peach Days Celebration Literary Contest (Aug. 2011)

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Member, Utah State University (Fall 2008-Spring 2011)

Faculty Senate Representative for Regional Campuses and Distance Education, Utah State University (Fall 2008-Spring 2011)

Dean and Executive Director Screening Committee, Utah State University – Brigham City (2009)

Sociology Faculty Hiring Committee, Utah State University – Brigham City (2009)

Creator and Director, Writing Center, Utah State University – Brigham City (Fall 2003-2008)

Spanish Faculty Hiring Committee, Utah State University – Brigham City (2008)

History Faculty Hiring Committee, Utah State University – Brigham City (2008)

Early Childhood Education Faculty Hiring Committee, Utah State University – Brigham City (2007)

Techniques Editor. *The MPAEA Journal of Adult Education*. Mountain Plains Adult Education Association, (Spring 2005-Fall 2007).

Scholarship Awards Committee, Utah State University – Brigham City (2006-2008)

Bookstore Manager Hiring Committee, Utah State University – Brigham City (2006)

Bioneers Conference Committee, Utah State University – Brigham City (2006)

Assistant Director of Composition, University of Oregon (2002-03)

Co-Chair, Composition Textbook Committee, University of Oregon (2002-03)

Composition Committee, University of Oregon (2002-03)

Composition Program Handbook Committee, University of Oregon (Spring 2002)
Editor. *Harvest 2000-01: A Collection of Student Writing*. Eugene, OR: University of Oregon
Publication, 2000.

Editor. *Componere: a manual for composition instructors*, 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 editions.
Eugene, OR: University of Oregon Publication.

Assistant editor. "The ASLE Collection of Syllabi in Literature and Environment." Association
for the Study of Literature and Environment (1999).

Instructor and Assistant Program Administrator, Northwest Middle School, Salt Lake City, UT.
*Employed as part of a pilot literacy program providing one-on-one reading instruction for seventh- and
eighth-grade students (1996-97).*

Professional Affiliations

Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (Spring 2001-present)

Modern Language Association (Spring 2002-present)

Western Literature Association (Summer 2002-present)

Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association (Spring 2009-present)

Council on Undergraduate Research (Spring 2010-present)