

ALEXANDER MENRISKY

Curriculum Vitae

English Department | University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
amenrisky@gmail.com | 937-694-2523 | amenrisky.wixsite.com/alex

APPOINTMENTS

- 2018–Present **Lecturer**, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
English Department
- 2012–2018 **Graduate Instructor**, University of Kentucky
Departments of English & Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies

EDUCATION

- 2014–2018 **PhD**, English, University of Kentucky
Committee: Michael Trask, Virginia Blum, Randall Roorda, Carol Mason
Dissertation project: *Wild Abandon: Postwar Literature Between Ecology and Authenticity*
- 2012–2014 **MA**, English, University of Kentucky
Graduate Certificate, Social Theory
- 2008–2012 **BS**, Journalism, Honors Tutorial College, Ohio University, *summa cum laude*
Undergraduate Minors, English & French

CURRENT BOOK PROJECT

Wild Abandon: American Literature and the Identity Politics of Ecology. Fully drafted, circulating among university presses as of October 2018.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

- “The Ecological Alternative: Edward Abbey, the New Left, and Environmental Authenticity.” *Criticism: A Quarterly for Literature and the Arts*, vol. 61, no. 1, 2019.
- “The Natural Death of Alexander Supertramp: Ecological Selfhood and the Freudian Rhetoric of *Into the Wild*.” *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*, vol. 26, no. 1, 2019.
- “Hallucinogenic Ecology and Psychoanalytic Prehistory in Margaret Atwood.” Forthcoming in *Mosaic, an Interdisciplinary Critical Journal*, vol. 52, no. 3, 2019.

Commentary

- “Embracing Identity in the Environmental Classroom.” *Edge Effects Magazine*, January 2019, <http://edgeeffects.net/environmental-identity-in-the-classroom/>.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- “Psychedelic Primitives, Prelinguistic Myths, and the Poetry of Simon Ortiz.” MELUS: The Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States Annual Conference. Cincinnati, March 2019.

- “The Identity Politics of Ecology: Postwar Political Culture, Radical Psychoanalysis, and the Authentication of American Environmentalism.” Futures of American Studies Institute. Dartmouth College, June 2018.
- “‘The Hallucinogenic Oceans of the Mind’: Ecology, Catastrophe, and *The Year of the Flood*’s Psychedelic Language of Decay.” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE) Biennial Conference. Detroit, June 2017.
- “Queer Ecology and Psychoanalytic History.” Modern Language Association (MLA) Annual Convention. Philadelphia, January 2017.
- “Abbey’s Alternative: Ecology and Civilization after the New Left.” American Literature Association (ALA) Annual Conference, ASLE Panel. San Francisco, May 2016.
- “Narcissus in the Wild: *Into the Wild* and Psychoanalytic Ecologies.” Midwest Modern Language Association (MMLA) Convention, ASLE panel. Columbus, November 2015.
- “Family Portraiture: Individual and Group Uncanny in *The House of the Seven Gables*.” South Central Modern Language Association (SCMLA) Conference, Literature and Psychology panel. Nashville, October 2015.

Invited Talks

- “The Walking Cure: *Into the Wild* and the Environmentalist Afterlife of Political Psychoanalysis.” Association for Psychoanalytic Thought. Cincinnati, June 2019.
- “University English and the Job Market Today.” University of Kentucky, February 2018.
- “State of Nature Skepticism: Toni Morrison and the Identity Politics of Ecology.” Urbana University, January 2018.
- “Queer Fiction Abroad: Eastern European Gay Subcultures after the Cold War.” GWS 330 Queer Literature, University of Kentucky, October 2016.

AWARDS, HONORS, AND GRANTS

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| 2017 | Ellershaw Award for an Outstanding PhD Candidate, University of Kentucky English Department |
| 2017 | Dissertation Writing Fellowship, University of Kentucky College of Arts and Sciences |
| 2017 | Nominee, University of Kentucky Presidential Fellowship |
| 2016 | Honoree, Alpha Sigma Phi Selfless Professor Reception |
| 2016 | Summer Research Fellowship, University of Kentucky English Department |
| 2016 | Excellence in Teaching Award, University of Kentucky Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies |
| 2016 | Finalist, Jean G. Pival Outstanding Writing Teaching Assistant Award |
| 2012–2014 | Daniel R. Reedy Quality Achievement Award, University of Kentucky (3 times) |
| 2012 | Dean’s Citation for Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis, Ohio University |

- 2012 Second Place, Ohio University Research and Creative Expo
- 2009–2011 Dean’s Discretionary Fund Grant, Ohio University (4 times)
- 2010 Provost’s Undergraduate Research Fund Grant, Ohio University

COURSES

University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

- ENL 101 *Critical Reading & Writing I* (2 sections, 2018). Introduces students to scholarly reading and writing strategies through college-level reading, argument analysis, perspective synthesis, and composition that contributes to ongoing conversations.
- ENL 102 *Critical Reading & Writing II* (4 sections, 2019, 1 online). Advances rhetorical understanding and writing skills through critical reading of various literary genres and analytic and argumentative writing assignments.
- ENL 200 *Studies in Literature* (3 sections, 2018–2019). An introduction to literary study through close reading and contextual analysis organized around a unified theme. My sections have explored the textual interplay among racial, gendered, and ethnic identities in the constitution of “hip” American cultures.

University of Kentucky

- ENG 230 *Introduction to Literature* (2 sections, 2017). An introduction to literary analysis through close reading and argumentative writing. The course involves studying selected texts from several genres and investigating a unified theme. My sections have explored representations of wilderness as an ostensibly therapeutic ideal.
- ENG 251 *Survey of American Literature to 1865* (2 discussion sections, 2017). Survey of American literature from its colonial origins to the Civil War, with emphasis on different genres, periods, and cultural characteristics of the American Colonies and antebellum United States.
- WRD 110 *Composition & Communication I* (3 sections, 2013–2014). First required core composition and speech course for first-year students emphasizing competency in critical inquiry, research, and multi-media communication modes.
2015-2017 Instructor of Record for FastTrack abbreviated summer course (3 sections).
- WRD 111 *Composition & Communication II* (3 sections, 2014–2017, 1 online). Second required core composition and speech course for first-year students emphasizing competency in integrated oral, written, and visual communication skill development.
- WRD 112 *Accelerated Composition & Communication* (2 sections, 2016). Accelerated version of the standard two-semester composition and communication sequence. My sections have focused on service-learning approaches to environmental justice.
“UK Feminist Alliance” documentary by students Sydney Hendrix, Archana Jeeji, Carson Mullins, and Kristen North showcased in 2017 WRD Spring Writing Gallery.
- WRD 203 *Business Writing* (4 sections, 2015). Instruction and experience in writing for business, industry, and government, with an emphasis on clarity, conciseness, and effectiveness in preparing letters, memos, and reports for specific audiences.

“Kentucky Farm Chain” web project by students Sara Newman, Megan Semall, and Carmen Siguenza received Honorable Mention for Group Digital Project at the 2016 WRD Excellence in Composition awards.

WRD 204 *Technical Writing* (3 sections, 2016–2018, 1 online). Instruction and experience in writing for science and technology, with emphasis on precision and clarity in preparing rhetorically effective letters, proposals, reports, and presentations.

TUTORING AND CONSULTATION

2017 Consultant, University of Kentucky Dissertation Bootcamp
2012–2013 Writing Center Consultant, University of Kentucky Writing Center
2012 Tutor, Ohio University Athletics
2010–2012 Tutor, Academic Advancement Center, Ohio University

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2018–Present Creator/Moderator, Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE) Teaching Resource Bank (under construction)
2018–Present University Studies Writing Courses Committee, English Department, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
2017 Panel Chair, Kentucky Gender and Women’s Studies Conference
2017 Panel Chair, International Conference on Narrative: “Post Humanist”
2017 Professional Development Session: Effective Panel Proposals
2017 Session Organizer, MLA: “Antisocial Ecologies”
2016–2017 Treasurer, University of Kentucky English Graduate Student Organization
2016 President/Area Chair, Psychology and Literature, South Central MLA
2015–2016 Administrative Assistant, University of Kentucky Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies
2014 Panel Organizer, Louisville Conference: “Contemporary Perspectives on Psychoanalytic Theory in Literature and Culture”
2013–2014 Editorial board, *disclosure: A Journal of Social Theory*

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Modern Language Association (MLA)
American Studies Association (ASA)
Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE)
Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States (MELUS)

LANGUAGES

French