

Ian K. Jensen, Ph.D.
Instructor, School of Writing, Literature, and Film
Oregon State University
&
Adjunct Faculty, English Department
University of Portland
(541) 221-5298
iank.jensen@gmail.com

Education

Ph.D. English with Critical Theory Emphasis, University of California, Irvine September 2015
Dissertation — “The Wilderness of Language: Toward a ‘Wild’ Reading of American Nature Writing”
Committee — R. Radhakrishnan (director), Brook Thomas, Andrzej Warminski

“The Wilderness of Language: Toward a ‘Wild’ Reading of American Nature Writing” theorizes and demonstrates what I call “wild” reading—a rhetorical method of close reading—in order to rethink how we read key American nature writers (broadly construed) such as Thoreau, London, and Edward Abbey.

M.A. English, University of California, Irvine, 2009
M.A. English, University of Montana, Missoula, 2006
B.A. English, University of Washington, 1998

Publications

Peer reviewed articles and book chapters:

- “Can a Signifier Float? Or, Implications: Lévi-Strauss and the Aporia of the Symbolic.” *Acta Structuralica* 5 (2020).
- “Eroding the Human: Ecomimesis and the Wild Reading of Trope in Edward Abbey’s *Desert Solitaire*.” *College Literature* 46:4 (Fall 2019) 888-913.
- “Authenticity, Right Relation and the Return of the Repressed Native in James Galvin’s *The Meadow*.” *Journal of Contemporary Thought* 43 (Summer 2016) 83-110.
- “‘I Watched Jane Die.’ Theorizing *Breaking Bad*’s Aesthetic of Brutality.” *Breaking Down Breaking Bad: Critical Perspectives*. Ed. Leonard W. Engel and Matthew Wanat. University of New Mexico Press, 2016, 111-138.

Reviews:

- *Green Modernism: Nature and the English Novel 1900-1930* by Joseph Mathes McCarthy. *MFS Modern Fiction Studies* Winter 2016 63.4 766-768

Blog posts:

- “Large Language Models: A Guide for the Perplexed” Parts 1 & 2. *The CraFT: The Official Blog and Newsletter for the Center for Teaching at the University of the South* (Spring 2024)

Teaching and Research Interests

- Multi-ethnic American literature of the 19th to 20th century, American environmental literature, literature and the environment, literature and philosophy, critical and literary theory,

ecocriticism, English and American romanticism, aesthetics, postmodern fiction, Indigenous literatures, the literature of the American West, contemporary American literature, Transcendentalism

Awards and Fellowships

- School of Criticism and Theory Fellow, Cornell University 2015
- Howard Babb Memorial Fellowship: English Department UC Irvine, 2015
- University of California, Irvine, School of Humanities Travel Grant, 2015
- University of California, Irvine, School of Humanities Travel Grant, 2013
- Charles Redd Center for Western Studies Summer Award for Upper Division and Graduate Students, 2012
- University of California, Irvine, Regents Fellowship, 2008
- University of Montana Graduate Student Association Travel Grant, 2006
- University of Montana English Department Travel Grant, 2004

Invited Talks

- “Authenticity and the Possibility of Critique: The Problem of Mediacy.” Philosophy Forum. University of Montana. September 18, 2017

Selected Teaching Experience

Oregon State University

- Writing 462, Environmental Writing, Fall 2024

University of Portland

- English 112, Thinking Through Literature, Fall 2024

Sewanee: The University of the South

- Environmental Studies 200, Introduction to Environmental Arts & Humanities, Spring 2024
- English 396, Environmental Literature (upper division), Spring 2023 + Spring 2024
- Environmental Studies 250, Environmental and Biological Non-Fiction, Fall 2023
- English 227, Studies in Speculative Fiction, Fall 2023
- English 211, Studies in Fiction, Fall 2023 & Summer 2023
- English 397, Contemporary American Fiction (upper division), Fall 2022
- English 101, Literature and Composition (2 sections each in Fall 2022, Spring 2023, and Spring 2024)

University of California, Irvine

- Writing 39C, primary instructor 2021-2022 (eight sections for AY 2021-2022)
- “Transcendentalism” (English 102C), primary instructor, Spring 2020
- “20th Century American Nature Writing” (English 102D), primary instructor, Winter 2020
- “American Naturalism: Nature and Allegory” (English 102D), primary instructor, Winter 2017
- “The Young Romantics” (English 102C), primary instructor, Summer Session II, 2017

- Humanities Core Course, primary instructor, 2017
- Composition (Writing 39B), primary instructor, 2016
- “The Young Romantics” (English 102C), primary instructor, Fall 2015
- Humanities Core Course – primary instructor, 2015-2016
- Introduction to Ethics (Philosophy 4) teaching assistant to Professor Margaret Gilbert.
- “Journalism on the Edge” (Literary Journalism 103) teaching assistant to Professor Miles Corwin, Fall 2014
- “Nature and Its Discontents: The Problem of ‘Nature’ in Environmental Discourse” (Writing 139, Advanced expository writing), primary instructor, Spring 2014 and Winter 2015
- “Comic and Tragic Vision.” (English 28B Introduction to drama), Winter 2014
- “Literature of True Crime,” (Literary Journalism 103), teaching assistant to Professor Miles Corwin, Fall 2013
- “Introduction to Literary Theory and Criticism” (English 100), teaching assistant to Andrzej Warminski. Winter 2011, Summer Session II 2011, and Spring 2013.
- Humanities Core Course 1C — “Nature.” Spring 2012
- Humanities Core Course 1B — “Society Understood through Literature and Rhetoric, History and Law.” Winter 2012 and Winter 2013.
- Humanities Core Course 1A — “Divinity: Anthropomorphic vs. Non-Anthropomorphic Conceptions.” Fall 2011 and Fall 2012.
- “Comic and Tragic Vision” (English 28B, Introduction to drama), primary instructor Spring 2011.
- “Perspectives on the American West” (Writing 39B), primary instructor, Fall 2010, and Fall, Winter, Spring 2009-2010.

California State University, Long Beach

- Criminal Justice 110 – Introduction to Research and Writing, three sections per semester 2016-2022

Professional Activities and Service

- Invited reader for *ISLE*
- Mentor for Undergraduate Conference in Critical Theory, University of California, Irvine Spring 2013 and Spring 2014
- Graduate Colloquium Committee, University of California, Irvine 2010-2011.
- Assistant Conference Organizer, “The Promise of Reason, The New Rhetoric After 50 Years,” University of Oregon 2008

Conference Activity

- “Can a Signifier Float? Or, Lévi-Strauss and the Symbolic.” Southwestern Seminar in Continental Philosophy, California State University, Northridge. June 9, 2017.
- “Ecocriticism and the Wilderness of Reading: Trope, Text, and the ‘Wilding’ of *Poeisis*.” American Comparative Literature Conference. Seattle. March 26-29, 2015.
- “Sublime Disfigurement: The Anxiety of Cliché in Thoreau’s ‘Ktaadn.’” UC Irvine English and Comparative Literature Dissertation Colloquium, May 29th 2014.

- Participant in Settler Colonialism Graduate Workshop, UC Irvine 2013.
- “‘But if it appears innocent and pure, beware!’: Towards a Wild Reading of Edward Abbey’s *Desert Solitaire*.” English Graduate Symposium, UC Irvine 2013.
- “Ecomimesis, Epistemology, and Alterity in Edward Abbey’s *Desert Solitaire*.” Modern Language Association Convention, 2013.
- “Deferment and the Stakes of Subjectivity in Judy Blunt’s *Breaking Clean*.” Western Literature Association Conference, 2010.
- Panel chair “Perelman and Protest,” *The Promise of Reason, The New Rhetoric After 50 Years*, University of Oregon 2008
- “Authenticity and the ‘Right Relation’: An Inquiry in James Galvin’s *The Meadow*, the Thought of Martin Heidegger, and the Meaning of the West.” Pacific Northwest American Studies Association Conference, 2006.
- “Ethics and Epistemology: Essentialism and Constructivism in Feminist, Gender, Sexuality, and Queer Literary Theory.” University of Montana College of Arts and Sciences Graduate Student and Faculty Research Conference, 2005.
- “Lying Books and False Coins: The Enterprise of Ordering in *Blood Meridian*.” Southwest Texas Popular Culture and American Culture Association Conference, 2005.

Professional Associations and Honors Societies

- Modern Language Association
- American Comparative Literature Association
- Golden Key Honors Society

Languages

- English
- Spanish, reading competence