

AMY LETTER M.F.A.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH
DRAKE UNIVERSITY

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UNIVERSITY POSITIONS

- Associate Professor of English, Department of English, Drake University, Fall 2017-present
- Assistant Professor, Fall 2011-Spring 2017
- Instructor of English, Department of English, Florida Atlantic University, 2005-2011
- Graduate Instructor of English, Department of English, University of Arkansas, 2000-2003

DEGREES

M.F.A. (60 hours) - Creative Writing, Fiction
University of Arkansas 2004

B.A. - English, Writing and Rhetoric, *magna cum laude*
Florida Atlantic University 2000

I. TEACHING EXPERIENCE

COURSES TAUGHT AT DRAKE UNIVERSITY

First Year Seminars

FYS 007 Creative Writing: Adaptations
FYS 016 Story: the Art and Science
FYS 016 Disneyfication
FYS 016 Conversation

Lower Division

ENG 030 Genres: Forms- Popular Fiction
ENG 061 Writing Seminar
ENG 080 Reading and Creating Comics
ENG 080 Reading and Writing Flash Fiction
ENG 080 Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Fiction
ENG 092 Reading and Writing the Short Story

Upper Division

ENG 113 Cross-Genre Workshop
ENG 115 Fiction Workshop
ENG 117 Adaptations and Transformations
ENG 120 Writing in a Networked World (Fall 2021)
ENG 127 Creative Writing for New Media
ENG 196 Capstone in Writing: Writing Novel Adaptations

COURSES TAUGHT AT FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

Senior/4000-level

Fiction Workshop I
Fiction Workshop II
Structure of Modern English

Sophomore/2000-level

Interpretation of Fiction
Interpretation of Poetry

Junior/3000-level

Creative Writing
Advanced Exposition
Florida Women Writers

Freshman/1000-level

College Writing I
College Writing II

COURSES TAUGHT AT UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

Composition I
Composition II
Advanced Composition
World Literature II

INDEPENDENT STUDY, HONORS THESES, ADVISING

- Director of Honors Thesis, Sonita Van Der Leeuw, Fall 2020: Successfully completed “Reflections of Black Mirror Episodes: The Year 2020”
- Director of Honors Thesis, Hannah Skold, Fall 2019: Successfully completed “The Effects of Paratext on Fanfiction Social Hierarchies”
- Director of Honors Thesis, Bryan Sloss, Spring 2016: Successfully completed *Cartographi(city)*, an experimental essay in photographs and maps, presented in joint exhibition with Jeff Mooney at the Viaduct Gallery, Des Moines Social Club, May 2, 2015
- Director of Honors Thesis, Jeff Mooney, Spring 2016: Successfully completed *Cartographi(city)*, an experiment in ambient audio files with visual representation, presented in joint exhibition with Bryan Sloss at the Viaduct Gallery, Des Moines Social Club, May 2, 2015
- Director of Honors Thesis, Katie Ericson, Spring 2015: Successfully completed “A Study of Adaptation Concerning Four Versions of *The Handmaid’s Tale*”
- Director of Honors Thesis, Haley Hicks, Spring 2015: Successfully completed “The Long Journey Home: Where Do Video Games Belong?”
- Director of Independent Study, Summer 2012: Shawn June, Successfully completed *Cherish* (2012), short film
- Judge Manager/Organizer of Student Judging, Drake Emerging Writer Contest, 2012 (First Book of Poetry), 2013 (First Graphic Narrative), and 2014 (First Novel)
- Faculty Advisor to *Periphery*, Drake’s student-run art and literary journal, 2012-2013
- Faculty Advisor to Creative Writing Club, 2011-2014
- Advisor to FAU Graphic Design MFA Thesis (Department of Visual Arts and Art History), Nicole Beltran, Spring 2008: Successfully completed “My Greenprint: a journey into eco-fiction.”

III. SCHOLARSHIP/CREATIVE ACTIVITY

PUBLICATIONS

1. New Media / Visual / Experimental / Cross-Genre

Most links lead to the work

“[Punnett](#),” and “[Art](#),” in Yew Journal, January 2013

“[Blue Alyssa and the Sad Gray Crab](#)” in PANK, February 2012

Short story accompanied by audio file and “ask the author” [blog interview](#), May 7, 2012

“[Ladies Represent: Amy Letter](#)” on We Who Are About to Die, April 13, 2012 (links to capture via archive.org)

“Diethel Phthalate” in [Methods of Being](#), Number 8, 2011

“[Universal Translator](#)” in The Rumpus, 2011 National Poetry Month Project, Day 10 (also included as part of the Sound Art show at the 18 Rabbit Gallery, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, January 29-February 26, 2011; see public readings/exhibitions below)

Collaborative Fiction: “[Pushcorpse](#)” in No Colony, #3 (with 64 other authors), 2010 (print; link leads to website of publisher only)

“[Gone in 30 Seconds](#)” script, video / DVD released by MoveOn.org in 2004

2. Short Fiction

Most links lead to websites of publications only

“In Want, No Flesh Be Just” in [Fantastic Floridas](#), May 1, 2018; *Nominated* for a Pushcart Prize by Burrow Press December 2018

“Sound Space” in [Louisiana Literature](#), Volume 33, Number 2, 2016

“The Lighted Globes” in [Gigantic Worlds Science Flash Fiction Anthology](#), Eds. Lincoln Michel and Nadxieli Nieto, Gigantic Books 2015

“The Founders of the Illustrious City” in [Puerto Del Sol](#), Fall 2012

“Madison in Dreams” in [Louisiana Literature](#), Volume 26, Number 1, Spring/Summer 2009

“Gator Girl” in [Fringe Magazine](#), Special Environment Issue, March 2009 (capture via archive.org)

“Tempting Frances” in [Quarterly West](#), Number 67, Fall/Winter 2008/9

“All’s Fair” in [Cutthroat](#), Vol 5, 1, Summer 2008

“Invidia” in [SPECS](#), Vol 1, 1, 2008 (print)

“On Earth” autobiographical story in [Relief](#), Vol 2, 3, July 2008 (print)

“The Last Days of Princess” in [Louisiana Literature](#), Vol 25, 1, Spring/Summer 2008 (print)

“Venus Envy” in [Fringe Magazine](#), Issue 13, December 2007 (capture via archive.org)

“The First Christmas” in *Electric Yeti*, Special Holiday Issue, Winter 2005 (print)

“Clara Belby: Last Tale of the Barefoot Mailman” in [Scrivener’s Pen](#), Vol 5, 3, 2005 (capture via archive.org)

“Ceramic Buck” in [Louisiana Literature](#), Vol 19, 2, Fall/Winter 2002 (print)

3. Nonfiction: Book Chapters

Links here lead to websites of publications only

“Teaching Creative Writing for New Media” chapter in [Creative Writing in the Digital Age](#). Eds. Clark, Hergenrader, & Rein, Bloomsbury Books 2014; US Release: March 24, 2015

“Other Talents: ‘Doing Creative Writing’” a chapter in [Teaching Creative Writing](#) Ed. Elaine Walker, Creative Writing Studies/The Professional and Higher Partnership, 2012

4. Nonfiction: Reviews, interviews, and other essays

Links lead to the work

“[Review: Dear Committee Members by Julie Schumacher](#),” *The Rumpus*, September 25, 2014

“[Review: Gruesome Spectacles by Austin Sarat](#),” *The Rumpus*, May 2, 2014

“[Review: The Isle of Youth by Laura Ven Den Berg](#),” *The Rumpus*, December 17, 2013

“[Escaping Isn’t What it Used to Be: Review of Ana Menendez’s Adios, Happy Homeland!](#),” *Anthurium: A Caribbean Studies Journal*, Fall 2012

[Interview with Ana Menendez](#), in *The Rumpus*, August 2011

- Reprinted as “An Interview with Ana Menendez by Amy Letter” in the [Harper Collins “PS”](#) section of the paperback edition of Menendez’s *The Last War*, June 2010 (print)

- “[The Exile and the Nomad are Cousins](#)” review of *The Last War* and interview with author Ana Menendez (Front Page Feature) *The Rumpus*, May 2009

“[The Scarlet ‘SW’ for Sex Worker](#)” (Front Page Feature) *The Rumpus*, September 2010

“[Oh So Furry: The Rumpus Interview with Kilcodo](#)” (Front Page Feature) *The Rumpus*, July 2010

[“The Story Behind the Furry”](#) essay in *The Rumpus*, July 2010

5. Professional Writing

[Paid blog-writing](#); these short essays were created in negotiation with a professional editor and in consultation with the PR department at Stanford University’s Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital for their website:

Finding Out You’re Having Multiples – published 3.10.15
The Whys of Multiples – published 3.24.15
Overwhelmed as a Mom of Multiples – published 4.13.15

6. Poetry

Most links lead to the work

“[*comes](#),” in *Yew Journal*, January 2013

“The Floralia” (a five poem series) in [Center](#), Vol 8, 2009 (link recently 404’d; please see *Amy Letter > 3 Scholarship > 1 Examples*)

“The Biggest Jazz Funeral in History” in [Story South](#) (also included in 8 year anniversary “Best Of”)

NOVELLA

Humans Aren’t the Only Ape that Sings, currently being reviewed by potential publishers

RESIDENCIES

[Artist-in-Residence](#), Media Archaeology Lab at the University of Colorado, Boulder, November 19 to December 3, 2014

In(ter)ventions at Banff Centre. Residency in digital, interactive, and visual literature; competitive application process with limited spaces for non-Canadians; studying with Joe Amato, J.R. Carpenter, and Fred Wah; additional lectures by Johanna Drucker and Lori Emerson. Banff, Canada, February 10 to 24, 2013

PUBLIC READINGS/EXHIBITIONS/PANELS

- “Comics 101,” Taught Pre-Conference Workshop at the CD Wright Women’s Writers Conference, University of Central Arkansas, Conway, Arkansas, November 9, 2018
- “Losing the Literature of the Now,” Humanities Center Colloquium Series, February 13, 2015
- “RTFM,” presentation of work-in-progress created while Artist-in-Residence at the Media Archaeology Lab, Counterpath, Denver, Colorado, [November 30, 2014](#)
- “Brave New Media: The Promises and Pitfalls of Teaching Creative Writing for Digital Environments,” Conference of the Associated Writing Programs (AWP) panel, [March 1, 2014](#)
- “This is not my project, or, How I learned to stop worrying and looove my plans getting shot to hell,” half-hour talk and demonstration of project-in-progress, Banff Centre, Banff, Canada, February 21, 2013
- “The Singing Ape (Life in Pink),” performance of excerpt and interactive digital visual art program, Conference of the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts, juried exhibition sponsored by the Electronic Literature Organization; September 29, 2012. [Video here \(“The Singing Ape” starts at about 40 minutes\)](#)
- Reading with Jennifer Perrine, Celebration of the Literary Arts, Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC), Newton, Iowa, April 2, 2012
- Symposium on Science, Technology, and the Humanities, with Mark Vitha and Martin Roth, Sponsored by the Center for the Humanities, Drake University, March 30, 2012
- “Blue Alyssa and the Sad Gray Crab,” Writers and Critics Series, Cowles Library Reading Room, Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa, October 26, 2011
- “[Universal Translator](#)” (video installation), *Sound Art* at the 18 Rabbit Gallery, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, January 29 to February 26, 2011
- EGSS Conference, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida: spoke on a three-person panel (with William Bradley and Papatya Bucak), “Life After the MFA”: career choices and artistic struggles that follow the completion of an MFA in creative writing. 2008
- “Hope (forgive me),” “The Ones I Love, and Texas,” “Florida 2050,” “The Biggest Jazz Funeral in History”; *Focus the Nation: The Environment*, poetry reading (part of a larger activism event), Broward College Library, Davie, Florida, January 2008
- “The Last Days of Princess,” *Below Sea Level Conference*, Saint Augustine, Florida, June 2008
- “Anchor and Hope,” Public Reading for New Faculty, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida, January 2006
- “All’s Fair,” University of the Ozarks, Clarksville, Arkansas, April 2001

GRANTS/AWARDS/HONORS

- Sabbatical Research Fellowship, through the office of the Provost, Drake University, Fall 2014
- Green Course Development Grant for Reading and Creating Comics, through the Drake University Center for the Humanities, Summer 2014
- Faculty Development Grant from the Drake University College of Arts and Sciences to support residency at the Media Archaeology Lab, Fall 2014
- Grant from the Banff Centre to attend In(ter)ventions, Spring 2013
- Faculty Development Grant, from the Drake University College of Arts and Sciences, to attend In(ter)ventions at the Banff Centre, Spring 2013
- Grant from the Drake University Center for the Humanities to attend In(ter)ventions at the Banff Centre, Spring 2013
- Milton J. and Joanne Brown Endowed English Faculty Fund, used to attend the conference of the New Media Consortium and the In(ter)ventions residency at Banff, 2012-2013
- Faculty Development Grant, from the Drake University College of Arts and Sciences, to attend the conference of the New Media Consortium, Summer 2012
- Florida Division of Cultural Affairs Grant (funded by NEA) to attend Creative Capital Weekend Professional Development Workshop, Summer 2010
- Story South “Best Of” for poem, “The Biggest Jazz Funeral in History” 2008
- Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Award for poem, “Hope (forgive me)” 2005
- Nominee, AWP Intro Journals Project for poem, “Sunday Afternoon at the Coin Laundry” 2004
- Finalist, MoveOn.Org Bush in 30 Seconds Contest, for “Gone in 30 Seconds” 2004
- Lily Peter Fellowship in Fiction for the short story, “Venus Envy” 2002
- Honorable mentions, Lily Peter Fellowship in Poetry 2001, 2002
- Doctoral Academy Fellowship, University of Arkansas 2000-2004
- Graduation magna cum laude, Florida Atlantic University, 2000

III. SERVICE EXPERIENCE

DRAKE COMMITTEE, PROJECT, AND OTHER SERVICE

- Member, Department Curriculum Committee, 2019-2020
- Member, College Academic Integrity Committee, 2019-2020
- Member, University Committee to Design a New AI Major 2018-2019
- Chair, English Department Outreach and Recruitment Committee, Fall 2016-Spring 2017
- Member, A&S Technology Committee, 2013-2016
- Organizer, Payton James Freeman Essay Prize, 2013-2017
- Member, Center for the Humanities Board of Directors, 2014-17 (3 year term)
- Member, Center for the Humanities Board of Directors, 2013-14 (1 year replacement)
- Drake English Facebook Administrator, 2012-ongoing
- Member, FYS Critical Thinking Project, Fall 2015
- Chair, Writers & Critics Committee, 2013-2015
- Co-Chair, Writers & Critics Committee, 2012-2013
- Member, Writers & Critics Committee, 2011-2012
- Member, Strategic Planning TIG 1-5 (the "Teaching TIG"), Summer & Fall 2013
- Member, Changing Pedagogies Working Group, Summer-Fall 2012

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY, NON-INSTRUCTIONAL WORK

- Advising: Advisor to Graduate Students in the Department of English, 2006-2008
- Administration: Participated in Composition of English Department Course Schedule, 2006-2008
- Editing: Managing Editor, *Elements*, FAU instructional texts, 2006-2008
Elements of ENC 1101: College Writing 1, 1st and 2nd Editions
Elements of ENC 1102: College Writing 2, 1st and 2nd Editions
Elements of ENC 3213: Writing for Management, 1st Edition
Elements of LIT 20x0: Interpretation of Literature, 1st Edition

SERVICE TO PROFESSION, WRITING & THE ARTS

- Section co-editor for [Journal of Creative Writing Studies](#) (the journal of the Creative Writing Studies Organization); Theory, Culture, and Craft section (2017-present); Professionalization and Labor section (2015-2017)
- Digital / Electronic / New Media Literature Editor, [The Rumpus](#) (2013-present)
- Program Committee Member, Conference of the Electronic Literature Organization, 2014
- eBook Designer, *The Rumpus Original Poetry Anthology* Ed. Brian Spears, Rumpus Books 2012
- Judge, Baucum-Fulkerson student award, MFA program University of Arkansas, Spring 2012
- Cover Designer, *A Witness in Exile* by Brian Spears, Louisiana Literature Press 2011
- Judge, Short Fiction Contest, Regional Competition: National Society of Arts and Letters, 2010
- Judge, Flash Fiction Contest, in honor of the National Day on Writing, Sponsored by the University Center for Excellence in Writing, Florida Atlantic University, 2010