

Rod K. Taylor, Ph.D.

Curriculum Vitae

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Ball State University

2023-Present Assistant Professor of English
Teaching Affiliate, African American Studies

University of South Carolina

2021-2023 Race, Freedom, and Democratic Citizenship Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of African American Studies.
2022-2023 Affiliate Faculty, Institute for Southern Studies.

Pennsylvania Western University

2020-2021 Assistant Professor of English
2019-2020 Frederick Douglass Institute for Intercultural Research Teaching Scholar

EDUCATION

2020 **Indiana University of Pennsylvania**

Ph.D. in Literature and Criticism

Dissertation: *Writing Back: Anti-Plantation Literature in the Reconstruction South, 1865-1905.*

Director: Todd N. Thompson

Readers: Veronica Watson & Mike Sell

2012 M.A. in Literature

2010 **Pennsylvania Western University**

B.A. English, Language, and Literacy

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

2022 "At the Foot of the Racial Mountain: Pauline Hopkins' Southern Exodus in *Peculiar Sam: or, The Underground Railroad*." *Mississippi Quarterly: The Journal of Southern Cultures*, vol. 74, no. 4, 2022.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Forthcoming "Loving My Soul: African American Foodways and the American Dream." *Food and the American Dream in American Literature*. Ed. Robert Hauhart and Jeff Birkenstein. University of Tennessee Press.

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

2022 "[How a Black writer in 19th-century America used humor to combat white supremacy.](#)" *The Conversation*.

ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLES

Forthcoming “Charlotte Osgood Mason.” *The Harlem Renaissance: An Encyclopedia of Arts, Culture, and History*, Ed. Venetria Patton and Kwakiutl Dreher, ABC-CLIO.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Manuscript *Escaping the Plantation: Black Writers before the Harlem Renaissance*.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

African American Literature and Culture, Food and Literature, Classical and Neo-Slave Narratives, 19th Century American Literature, New Historicism, Archival Research.

PRESENTATIONSAcademic Talks

- 2023 “The 1619 Project and the Past, Present, and Future of Early American Studies.” Society of Early Americanists Biannual Conference, College Park, MD.
- 2022 Panel Chair, “The Function of Race in American Humor.” American Literature Association Conference, Chicago, IL.
- 2022 Panel Chair, “Food in African American Literature.” NeMLA Convention, Baltimore, MD.
- 2022 “Highlighting an Epicurean Tradition: 19th-century African American Writers.” NeMLA Convention, Baltimore, MD.
- 2021 “Juneteenth: Yesterday, Tomorrow, and Today.” Dollar Bank Inclusive Conversations. Pittsburgh, PA.
- 2021 Panel Chair, “Blue Collar Scholars: First-Generation Perspectives in the Classroom.” NeMLA Convention, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2020 “Signifyin’ and Engenderin’: The Old South’s Influence on Post-Bellum African American Literature.” Pennsylvania College English Association Annual Conference, Slippery Rock, PA.
- 2020 “Getting Back in the Game: Professional Reinvention and Adaptation.” NeMLA Convention, Boston, MA.
- 2019 “What We Talk about When We Talk about Research Writing: A Discussion.” EAPSU 2019 Fall Conference, Mansfield University of Pennsylvania, Mansfield, PA.
- 2019 “Situating Anti-Plantation Literature as a Canon of Resistance.” NeMLA Convention, Washington, DC.
- 2019 “Mitigating Job (In)Security from a Liminal Space: A Roundtable.” NeMLA Convention, Washington, DC.
- 2014 “Assimilating Performance: African American Abolitionists.” Pennsylvania State English Association Annual Conference, State College, PA.
- 2013 “Agency Denied and Agency Taken: A Critical Examination of *Blade* and *Blade 2*.” IUP English Graduate Organization Interdisciplinary Conference, Indiana, PA.
- 2012 “Race and Racial Profiling in Post 9-11 Literature.” Pennsylvania College English Association Annual Conference, Scranton, PA.

University and Departmental Talks

- 2022 “Amplifying Africana Studies in College Curriculum Requirements.” South Carolina Africana Studies Symposium. University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC.
- 2021 “American Myth, Local Reality: Narratives of the Underground Railroad in Western Pennsylvania.” Student Affairs Diversity Committee “What’s the T?” Series, Penn West University, California, PA.
- 2020 “Post-Bellum, Pre-Harlem: African American Authors & the Remembered Plantation.” Penn West University Black History Month’s “Thoughtful Discussions About National Narratives” Series, Penn West, California, PA.
- 2019 “Making the Argument: Video Games as Literature.” Penn West University Liberal Arts Festival, Penn West University, California, PA.
- 2019 “The Academic Job Market and Public Engaging Scholarship.” IUP Doctoral Program in Literature and Criticism Summer Spotlight Mini-Conference Pre-Session, IUP, Indiana, PA.
- 2018 “Sharpen Your Lips: Conference Paper Writing, Speaking, Seeking.” IUP Doctoral Program in Literature and Criticism Summer Spotlight Mini-Conference Pre-Session, IUP, Indiana, PA.
- 2018 “Henry Bibb: The Professional Fugitive and Famed Colonizer.” Frederick Douglass Institute for Intercultural Research Working Paper Series, IUP, Indiana, PA.

AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS, & FELLOWSHIPS

University Awards

- 2023 Department of African American Studies Research Grant. To support academic research on African American Writer Jas. H.W. Howard and travel to The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. USC, Columbia, SC.
- 2022 McCausland Foundation Innovation Fund. To support development of AFAM 200 to online modality. College of Arts and Sciences. USC, Columbia, SC.
- 2021 Outstanding Dissertation Award. IUP Doctoral Program in Literature and Criticism. IUP, Indiana, PA.
- 2021 Outstanding Research Award for Doctoral Dissertation. IUP School of Graduate Studies and Research. IUP, Indiana, PA.
- 2019 Teaching Excellence Award. Center for Teaching Excellence. IUP, Indiana, PA.
- 2018 IUP School of Graduate Studies and Research Graduate Research Grant. To support academic research on African American poet Daniel Webster Davis and travel to The Virginia Historical Society in Richmond, VA. IUP, Indiana, PA.
- 2018 IUP School of Graduate Studies and Research Graduate Research Grant. To support academic research on African American poet Charles Douglas Clem and travel to The Moorland-Spingarn Research Center for African American Culture at Howard University, Washington, DC. IUP, Indiana, PA.
- 2015 Outstanding Service and Citizenship Award. IUP Doctoral Program in Literature and Criticism. IUP, Indiana, PA.
- 2013-2015 IUP School of Graduate Studies and Research Graduate Research Assistantship. IUP, Indiana, PA.
- 2019, 2014, 2012 IUP School of Graduate Studies and Research Travel Grant, IUP, Indiana, PA.
- 2010 Literary Criticism Award. Department of English. Penn West University, California, PA.

National and International Awards

- 2021-2023 M. Thomas Inge First Book Workshop Fellow. American Humor Studies Association
- 2019 NeMLA Graduate Caucus Travel Grant to attend NeMLA Convention “Transnational Spaces: Intersections of Cultures, Languages, and Peoples,” Washington, DC.

ACADEMIC SERVICE**Service to the Profession**

2022-Present Secretary-Treasurer, American Humor Studies Association.

University Service**University of South Carolina**

- 2023 Reviewer, Ellison Fellowship in Southern Studies, Institute for Southern Studies, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC.
- 2023 Search Committee, Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of African American Studies, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC.

Pennsylvania Western University

- 2021 Respondent, Douglass Day of Debate. Frederick Douglass Institute Collaborative. Zoom.
- 2021 Co-Moderator, “What’s Next for Hip-hop-- Artistically and Academically?” Penn West University Hip-Hop Conference. Penn West University, California, PA.
- 2020-2021 Co-Advisor, Sigma Tau Delta, Department of Culture, Media, and Performance (English Program, Penn West University., California, PA.
- 2020-2021 Assessment Committee Member, Department of Culture, Media, and Performance (English Program), Penn West University, California, PA.
- 2020 Chair, Eleanore C. Hibbs Composition Award Subcommittee, Department of English, Penn West University, California, PA.
- 2020 Facilitator, Interdisciplinary Writing Retreat, The Frederick Douglass Institute for Intercultural Research, Penn West University, California, PA.
- 2019 Capstone Project Second Reader, Department of English, Penn West University, California, PA.
- 2019-2020 Outreach Committee Member, Department of English, Penn West University, California, PA.
- 2019-2020 Literary and Cultural Criticism Award Committee, Department of English, Penn West University, California, PA.
- 2019 Workshop Instructor, Scholastic Board *Art and Writing Encounter*, Penn West University, California, PA.
- 2019, 2016 Reader, IUP Undergraduate Writing Contest (Short Fiction), Department of English, IUP, Indiana, PA.

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

- 2016 Facilitator, *Reading Unplugged*, English Graduate Organization, IUP, Indiana, PA.
- 2015-2016 Workshop Coordinator, English Graduate Organization, IUP, Indiana, PA.
- 2015 Reader, English Graduate Organization Essay Contest, IUP, Indiana, PA.
- 2014-2015 President, English Graduate Organization, IUP, Indiana, PA.
- 2014-2015 Co-Organizer and Session Moderator, *Issues of Diversity: A Working Paper Series*, The Frederick Douglass Institute for Intercultural Research, IUP, Indiana, PA.
- 2014 Co-Organizer, English Graduate Organization Conference, IUP, Indiana, PA.

Community Service

- 2023 Our Community Reads, Forest Lake Elementary School, Columbia, SC.
 2020-2021 Southwestern PA Writing Region Writing Portfolio Judge, Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, California, PA.
 2015-2019 Storyteller and Liars Contest Coordinator, Northern Appalachian Folk Festival, Indiana, PA.

TEACHING EXPERIENCEAfrican American Studies Courses Developed and Taught as Sole Instructor**University of South Carolina**

- F22, F21, SP22, SU22 AFAM 200: Freedom Papers: *Narratives of Race and Nation*
 SP2021 AFAM 202: Introduction to African American Studies: *Arts and Cultural Foundations*

Southern Studies Courses Developed and Taught as Sole Instructor**University of South Carolina**

- F2022 SOST 302: Introduction to Southern Studies: *The 20th Century*
 SP2023 SOST 101: The Literary South

Literature Courses Developed and Taught as Sole Instructor**Pennsylvania Western University:**

- SP2021 ENG 302: Survey of British Literature II (Online)
 F2020 ENG 487: American Literary Genres: *Literary and Cultural Representations of the Plantation*
 F2020 ENG 127: Woman as Hero: *Bad Feminism?*
 F2019 ENG 178: Film and Literature: *Adaptation and Appropriation*

Indiana University of Pennsylvania:

- F2018 ENGL 121: Humanities Literature: *Close-Reading in Context*
 SU2018 HNRC: Honors Core Literature: *Interpreting Humanity*

Creative Writing, Professional Writing, and Public Speaking Courses Developed and Taught as Sole Instructor**Pennsylvania Western University:**

- SP2021 CDC 101: Public Speaking (Online)
 SP2020 ENG 308: Research for Writers: *Academic Writing and the Archive*
 SP2021, F2019 ENG 352: Studies in Writing: *Genre Conventions of the Memoir*

First-Year Writing and Composition Courses Developed and Taught as Sole Instructor**Pennsylvania Western University:**

- F2020 ENG 102: Composition II: *Conspiracy Theories and Information Literacy*
 F2020 ENG 101: Composition I: *Genre Writing*
 SP2020 ENG 100: English Language Skills: *Expository Writing*

Indiana University of Pennsylvania:

- SU2019 HNRC: Honors Core English: *Conspiracy Theories and Conventional Wisdom*
 SP2019 ENGL 202: Composition II: *Research in the Discipline: Political Science Methodologies*
 F2015, SP2016, ENGL 101: Composition I: Freshman Composition: *Expository Writing*
 F2018
 F2016 ENGL 202: Composition II: *Research Writing*

Internships and Individualized Instruction**Pennsylvania Western University:**

- SP2021 CDC 497: Communication, Design, and Culture Internship (Five Interns)
 SP2021 ENG 499: English Studies Capstone Class (Individualized Instruction)

CERTIFICATIONS & TRAINING

- 2020 Quality Matters' Designing Your Online Course (DYOC), Teaching and Learning Center, Penn West, California, PA.
 2020 Independent Applying of the Quality Matters Rubric, Teaching and Learning Center, Penn West, California, PA.
 2020 Microsoft OneDrive and OneNote D2L/Brightspace Integration Certification, Teaching and Learning Center, Penn West, California, PA.
 2019 PASSHE Teaching Online Certification Course, Teaching and Learning Center, Penn West, California, PA.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Humor Studies Association
 Northeastern Modern Language Association
 Modern Language Association
 Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins Society