

JOSHUA MATTHEWS

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EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

Education

University of Iowa (2012)
Ph.D., English
Specialty: Early and 19th Century American Literature

Dissertation: “The American Alighieri: Receptions of Dante and the *Divine Comedy* in the United States, 1818-1867” (Director: [Ed Folsom](#))

Kent State University (2005)
M.A., Department of English

Indiana University (2003)
B.A., English

Academic Appointments

Dordt College (2012-present)
Associate Professor of English (2014-present)
Assistant Professor of English (2012-2014)
Christian Scholar's Review – Dordt representative (2016-present)
Book Reviews Editor -- *Pro Rege* (2013-present)

University of Northern Colorado (2009-2011)
Part-Time Lecturer, Department of English

University of Iowa (2008-2009)
Instructor and Teaching Assistant, Department of English

Walt Whitman Quarterly Review (2006-2008)
Managing Editor

Walt Whitman Archive · www.whitmanarchive.org (2005-2008)
Editorial Assistant

Wick Poetry Center (2003-2005)
Graduate Fellow

Kent State University (2004-2005)
Instructor, Department of English

TEACHING

Courses at Dordt College

American Literature I (ENG 201)
Science Fiction (ENG 223)
Dante and the Italian Renaissance (CORE 289, co-taught)
Business and Technical Writing (ENG 305)
Rhetoric and the Christian Scholar (KSP 151 – Honors Program)
Intro to Christian Scholarship (KSP 341, co-taught)
Film—Introduction to the Arts (CORE 160, co-taught)
Responding to Literature (CORE 180)
English Composition (CORE 120)
Kingdom, Identity, and Calling (CORE 100)
Reading for Life sections (ENG 343)

- Sections include: Fantasy Literature · Philip K. Dick · Very Funny Novels · Mark Twain

Independent Studies

Mark Twain (Spring 2013; Spring 2018)
Early American Literature (Summer 2013)
David Fincher (KSP, Fall 2014)
Orson Welles (KSP, Fall 2015)
Octavia Butler (KSP, Spring 2016)
Margaret Fuller (Spring 2019)

Courses at the University of Northern Colorado

Survey of American Literature (ENG 211)
Introduction to Literature (ENG 131)
College Research Paper (ENG 123)
College Composition (ENG 122)

Course at the University of Iowa

Interpretation of Literature (08G:001)

Course at Kent State University

College English (10001)

SCHOLARSHIP

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Essays

“Towards a Robust and Scholarly Christian Engagement with Science Fiction,” *Christian Scholar’s Review* (accepted for publication; forthcoming).

“Walt Whitman’s Vision of the *Inferno*, or Dante in Drum-Taps,” *Walt Whitman Quarterly Review* 32 (Summer/Fall 2014): 36-68.

“The *Divine Comedy* as a Civil War Epic,” *J19: The Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists* 1 (Fall 2013): 315-337.

“Peddlers of the Rod: Melville’s ‘The Lightning-Rod Man’ and the Antebellum Periodical Market,” *Leviathan: A Journal of Melville Studies* 12 (October 2010): 55-70.

Reviews

Dozens of [film reviews and articles](#) on [inallthings.org](#).

"Silence": A Review Essay. *Pro Rege* 45:2 (March 2017): 10-11.

Review of *Four Views on the Historical Adam*, eds. Matthew Barrett and Ardel B. Caneday, *Pro Rege* 43 (June 2015): 37-39.

Review of David Wittenburg's *Time Travel: The Popular Philosophy of Narrative*, *Pro Rege* 42 (September 2013): 38-40.

Peer Reviewer

Religions (2019)

European Journal of American Studies (2015)

Creative Writing

Various poems, stories, and essays in [Pro Rege](#) (December issues, 2012-2018)

Presentations

Conference Papers

"Nathaniel Hawthorne's Hell: Dante in His 1850s Stories and Novels," *International Poe and Hawthorne Conference*, Kyoto, Japan, June 2018.

"David Fincher's Harsh Mercy: Guns in Hollywood Films," *Christianity and Literature West Coast Regional Conference*, Seattle, WA, May 2015.

"The New Leviathan: How I Implemented the AAS's Periodical Database in My Traditional American Literature Survey and Lived to Tell the Tale," *American Literature Association Conference*, Washington DC, May 2014.

"The Unfolding of *Agnes of Sorrento*: Harriet Beecher Stowe's Real-time Commentary on the American Civil War," *Transatlantic Women Conference*, Florence, Italy, June 2013.

(invited) "'Ever in Darkness Marching': Whitman's Incorporation of Dante's *Inferno* in his Civil War Poetry," *American Literature Association Conference*, San Francisco, CA, May 2012.

(invited) "Longfellow's Contradiction: Patriotism and Pacifism in *Tales of a Wayside Inn*," *Midwest Modern Language Association Conference*, St. Louis, MO, November 2011.

"Dante's *Inferno* in *Dante's Inferno*, or Longfellow Enters the World of Video Games," *American Literature Association Conference*, Boston, MA, May 2011.

"Whitman's History-Making Falmouth Camp Notebook: Constructing the Civil War for the *New York Times* and *Drum-Taps*," *American Literature Association Annual Conference*, San Francisco, CA, May 2008.

"Walt Whitman's Journey through Hell: Dante Alighieri's Influence on Whitman's *Drum-Taps* Sequence," *College English Association Annual Conference*, St. Louis, MO, 2008.

"Grounding God's Providence: Lightning Rods and New England Calvinism in Late Eighteenth-Century America," *The Biennial Conference for the Society for Early Americanists / Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture*, Williamsburg, VA, 2007.

Seminars and Lectures

(co-organized and co-led) Dordt Great Text seminars – summertime faculty seminars that discuss important books over the course of a week

- 2019 – George Orwell (21 faculty)
- 2018 – Plato’s *Republic* (15 faculty)
- 2017 – Herman Melville’s *Moby-Dick* (14 faculty)
- 2016 -- Augustine’s *Confessions* (15 faculty)

(invited) “Teaching the Intellectual Christian Tradition: Virgil and the Modern Imagination,” participant in a week-long intensive seminar hosted by Samford University, July 2017.

(selected/invited) “Teaching Dante’s Divine Comedy,” participant in a week-long seminar hosted by Samford University’s Great Ideas Institute, June 2015.

“Introduction to the American Antiquarian Society’s Periodical Database,” August 2013, Dordt College. Leader.

“‘Huh? They’re All in Purgatory?!?’—A Christian Critique of *LOST* and Its Otherworldly Ending,” August 2013, Dordt College.

Workshop Participation

“It’s Complicated: Movies about Friendship.” July 28-August 3, 2019, at the Glen Workshop in Santa Fe, hosted by *Image* Journal. Led by Jeffrey Overstreet. Participant.

“The Art of Criticism,” July 30-August 6, 2017, at the Glen Workshop in Santa Fe, hosted by *Image* Journal. Led by Alyssa Wilkinson. Participant.

Fellowships and Awards

Dordt Perspective grant (2018) – Plato’s *Republic* faculty reading seminar

Dordt Perspective grant (2017) – *Moby-Dick* faculty reading seminar

Dordt Summer Undergraduate Research Grant (2016) – supervised student research project on “Dante in Science Fiction, Dante as Science Fiction”

Dordt Perspectives Grant (2016) – Augustine’s *Confessions* reading group

Dordt Studies Institute Grant -- \$2000 to travel to Florence and develop a course on Dante and the Italian Renaissance

Dordt Studies Institute Appointment (Spring 2016, half-time leave) – research project on the science-fiction writer Gene Wolfe

Dordt Perspectives Grant (2015) – Dante’s *Comedy* reading group

Dordt College Learning/Teaching Innovations Grant (2013)

Timely Completion of Dissertation Award, University of Iowa (2012)

First Year Scholars Outstanding Faculty Nominee, Univ. of Northern Colorado (2010)

Graduate College Summer Fellowship, University of Iowa (2009)

Society Memberships

Nathaniel Hawthorne Society

Science Fiction Research Association

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Institutional and Local

Curriculum and Academic Policies Committee member (2018-present)

Search Committee Member – English (2018-2019)

Copyright Committee (2017-2019)

Dordt Project Grant peer reviewer (2018)

Co-Leader and Guide on the President's Alumni Trip to Italy (2017)

Dordt Summer Undergraduate Research Projects – peer-reviewer (2017-2018)

Compensation Committee Member (2015-2018)

Search Committee Member – Director of Library Services (2015)

Southern California Christian Schools Fine Arts Festival Judge (2013-2018)

Purple Martin Writing Contest Judge (2013-present)