

Nathan C. Straight, PhD

Curriculum Vitae | he/him/they/them

Employment

- Associate Professor, English Department, Utah State University, Tooele Campus (July 2014-present)
- Assistant Professor, English Department, Utah State University, Brigham City Campus (July 2008-2014)
- English Lecturer, English Department, Utah State University, Brigham City Campus (August 2003-2008)

Education

- PhD British and American Literature, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR (Dec. 2005)
- MA British and American Literature, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR (June 1999)
- BA English Literature, Stanford University, Stanford, CA (June 1996)

Specializations: U.S. Literature, Ecocriticism and Environmental Justice, Critical Race Studies, Autobiography Studies, Distance Education and Educational Access

Program Development and Sponsored Research

- Race, Society, Environment Minor. American Studies, English Department, Utah State University (Summer 2023-present)
- English Major. English Department, Utah State University (Spring 2023-Fall 2024)
- Native American Studies Minor. Anthropology Department, Utah State University (Fall 2016-Spring 2019)
- Intersections Seed Grant, “A Place to Study: Making Location Matter in Distance Education,” Center for Intersectional Gender Studies & Research, Utah State University: \$5,000 (Spring 2023)
- Utah State University Sustainability Council, “Destinations: Planetary Thinking in the Curriculum” Workshop, Utah State University: \$1,000 (Spring 2018-Summer 2018)
- Excellence in Teaching and Learning Grant, Utah State University: \$10,000 (Spring 2014-Summer 2015)
- English 2010 Curriculum. Utah State Higher Education, Technology Intensive Concurrent Enrollment (TICE) Course Development Initiative: \$36,762.00 (Fall 2013-Spring 2014)

Center for Innovative Design and Instruction (CIDI) Technology Innovation Grant:
\$4,500.00 (Summer 2014)
English 1010 Curriculum. Utah State Higher Education, Technology Intensive
Concurrent Enrollment (TICE) Course Development Initiative: \$73,680.95
(June 2011-August 2013)
Publication Grant for Scholarly Monograph, Charles Redd Center for Western
Studies, Brigham Young University: \$2,000.00 (2011)
Undergraduate Research Assistant in the Humanities Grant, Utah State University:
\$800.00 (2009-10)

Teaching

Mentoring and Independent Study:

Master's Thesis Committee Member – Keegan Waller (Creative Writing) “Place
Based Fiction” (Spring 2022-present)
Honors Capstone Mentor – Ericka Stone (English) “Critiquing the Present and
Imagining the Future: The Influence of Contemporary Young Adult Dystopian
Literature in Pop Culture and Education” (Fall 2022-Spring 2023)
USU Statewide Faculty-to-Student Mentoring Program (Fall 2020-present)
Master's Thesis Advisor (Cami Dilg, student) – “Pictographs and Petroglyphs in
Cormac McCarthy's *Blood Meridian or the Evening Redness in the West*” (Fall
2015-Spring 2017)
TICE Concurrent Enrollment Curriculum Teacher Training (Summer 2014, 2015,
2016)
New Faculty Teaching Academy Mentor (Fall 2013)
English 5920 (Cami Dilg, student) – Directed Undergraduate Study: “Pictographs and
Petroglyphs: Witnesses of the Past, Authors in the Present” (Fall 2013)
Honors College Contract (Jennifer Torgerson, student) – “Travel Writing: Scholarly,
Creative, and Teaching Approaches” (Spring 2012-Summer 2012)
English 5920 (Cami Dilg, student) – Directed Undergraduate Study: “The Earthworks
of Great Salt Lake” (Spring 2010)

Literature:

**Indicates distance education course taught via conferencing technology*
English 5320/4610 – U.S. Literature and Cultural Difference (Spring 2010)
*English 4630 – American Nature Writers: Speculative Fiction and Environmental
Justice Literature (multiple sections)
*English 4610 – Western American Literature: Historical Fiction of the U.S. West
(multiple sections)
*English 4610 – Western American Literature: Regionalism Reimagined (multiple
sections)
*English 4360 – Studies in Drama/Film: The American Family Drama (Spring 2017)
*English 4345/4370 – Studies in Nonfiction Prose (multiple sections)

- *English 4310 – American Writers: Cormac McCarthy (Spring 2010)
- *English 3620 – Native American Studies: Native Life Writing (Spring 2016)
- *English 3520/3610 – Multicultural American Literature (multiple sections)
- *English 3375 – U.S. Literature after 1900 (multiple sections)
- *English 3300 – Period Studies in American Literature: Post-Wilderness Nature Writing (Fall 2009)
- *English 3030 – Perspectives in Literature: The Frontiers of American Literature (Spring 2005)
- *English 3030 – Perspectives in Literature: American Autobiography and Western Women’s Life Writing (Spring 2004, Fall 2004)
- *English 2640 – Race and Ethnicity in the United States (Fall 2022)
- *English 2600 – Literary Analysis (multiple sections)
- *English 2170 – American Literary History II (multiple sections)
- English 1030 – Understanding Literature (Fall 2005, Fall 2006)
- *NAS 1010 – Introduction to Native American Studies (Spring 2019)

Composition and University Studies:

- *English 2010 – Research-Based Argumentative Writing (multiple sections)
- *English 1010 – Introduction to College Writing (multiple sections)
- *USU 1320 – Humanities: Bioregionalism and Consumption (multiple sections)

Recognitions

- Teacher of the Year, English Department, Utah State University (2012-13)
- Researcher of the Year, Regional Campuses and Distance Education, Utah State University (2011-12)
- Researcher of the Year, English Department, Utah State University (2011-12)
- Researcher of the Year, Brigham City Regional Campus, Utah State University (2011-12)
- Undergraduate Research Mentor of the Year, Utah State University (2010-11)
- Undergraduate Research Mentor of the Year, Regional Campuses and Distance Education, Utah State University (2010-11)
- Teacher of the Year, Regional Campuses and Distance Education, Utah State University (2008-09)
- Exemplary Faculty Use of Technology Award, Utah System of Higher Education (2005)
- Oregon Humanities Center Research Fellowship, University of Oregon (2002-03)
- Formby Library Research Fellowship, Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library, Texas Tech University (2003)
- Outstanding Teacher of Composition Award, University of Oregon (1998-99)

Research

Publications:

Current book project: *The Grounds for Higher Education: Land-Grant Institutions and Legacies of Indigenous Dispossession*

Interdisciplinary Approaches to Distance Teaching: Connecting Classrooms in Theory and Practice. Alan Blackstock and Nathan Straight, eds. Routledge, January 2016.

“Distance as Substance: Place-Based Studies for Place-Bound Students.” In *Interdisciplinary Approaches to Distance Teaching: Connecting Classrooms in Theory and Practice*. Routledge, January 2016.

“Taking the Long View: The Value of IVC Teaching in Distance Education.” Alan Blackstock and Nathan Straight. In *Interdisciplinary Approaches to Distance Teaching: Connecting Classrooms in Theory and Practice*. Routledge, January 2016.

Autobiography, Ecology, and the Well-Placed Self: The Growth of Natural Biography in Contemporary American Life Writing. Modern American Literature: New Approaches Series #59. New York: Peter Lang International Academic Publishers, July 2011.

Review of *Living on Wilderness Time*, by Melissa Walker. *Western American Literature* 39.1 (Spring 2004): 126-27.

Review of *Of Landscape and Longing: Finding a Home at the Water's Edge*, by Carolyn Servid. *Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment* 9.1 (Winter 2002): 281-82.

“I [want to] Know What You Did Last Summer: Autobiography and Argumentation.” *Componere*. Eugene, OR: University of Oregon, 2002.

Refereed and Invited Conference Presentations:

International/National:

“Land-Grant Speculations: Re-Visioning the Colonialist Fantasy of the 1862 Morrill Act.” *Speculative Territorializations of New Western Literatures*, Western Literature Association Conference, Tucson, AZ (Oct. 2-5, 2024)

“The (Im)Morrill Act of 1862: Legacies of Dispossession in Higher Education” (panel title: “Decolonizing Our Teaching”). *Reclaiming the Commons: Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Biennial Conference*, Portland, OR (July 8-13, 2023)

“What Ever Happened to Little Sylvy? Finding a ‘Lonely Country Child’ in Fingerbone.” *Not Cloudy All Day: Climates of Change in the American West*, Western Literature Association Conference, Estes Park, CO (Sept. 18-21, 2019)

- “Teaching Beyond the Pale (Walls of the Distance Education Classroom).” *Paradise on Fire: Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Biennial Conference*, Davis, CA (June 26-30, 2019)
- “No Room for Nostalgia: The Vanishing Spaces of Cormac McCarthy’s Border Trilogy.” Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association, Santa Fe, NM (October 8-10, 2015)
- “First Biographers: Native Perspectives on Ecological Identity.” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Biennial Conference, Moscow, ID (June 23-27, 2015)
- Keynote Lecture. “Natural Biographies: An Ecocritical Tale of Self-Location.” *Searching for Place: An Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference*. University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY (Mar. 28th-30th, 2014)
- “Distance as Substance: Place-Based Studies for Place-Bound Students.” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, Lawrence, KS (May 28-June 2, 2013)
- “The Spiral Classroom: Earthworks, Great Salt Lake, and Place-Based Undergraduate Research.” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, Bloomington, IN (June 21-26, 2011)
- “Enhancing Undergraduate Research in the Humanities.” CUR: Council on Undergraduate Research National Conference, Ogden, UT (June 19-22, 2010)
- “Circles and Spirals: Or, ‘You Call this *Great*?’” Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association, Snowbird, UT (Oct. 8-11, 2009)
- “Canvas, Medium, Counterpoint: Making Art *on*, *of*, and *against* Great Salt Lake.” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, Victoria, British Columbia (June 3-6, 2009)
- “Lighting Out for the Same Territory: Indispensable Repetition in William Kittredge’s Oregon Memoirs.” Western Literature Association Conference, Boulder, CO (Oct. 1-4, 2008)
- “Rain Shadow: Reckoning and Reconciliation on the High Desert of Southeastern Oregon.” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, Eugene, OR (June 19-22, 2005)
- “Surfacing in the Great Basin: Region, Migration, Memoir.” Western Literature Association Conference, Big Sky, MT (Sept. 29-Oct. 2, 2004)
- “‘Who are we? where are we?’: Autobiographical Conversations with the World.” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, Boston, MA (June 3-7, 2003)
- “What is a divide, if not for crossing?’: Mary Clearman Blew’s Transgressive Memoirs.” Western Literature Association Conference, Tucson, AZ, (Oct. 9-12, 2002)
- “Creative Ecology: The New Physics and Virginia Woolf’s Inclusive Aesthetic.” North American Interdisciplinary Conference on Environment and Community, Weber State University, Ogden, UT (Feb. 11-13, 1999)

Panel Chair. *Fluid Perspectives on Interspecies Relations in the American (and Canadian) West*. Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, Boston, MA (June 3-7, 2003)

Panel Chair. *The Lives of Ordinary Women: Fiction and Memory*. Western Literature Association Conference, Tucson, AZ, (Oct. 9-12, 2002)

Local:

Invited Panelist, *Empowering Teaching Excellence* Forum: “Classroom Management and Student Engagement.” Utah State University, Logan, UT (Feb. 4, 2016)

Autobiography, Ecology, and the Well-Placed Self: The Growth of Natural Biography in Contemporary American Life Writing. Research Week Faculty Book Author Panel. Utah State University, Logan, UT (Apr. 4, 2012)

“Frontier Revisions in the Memoirs of Mary Clearman Blew.” Romance Languages Graduate Conference, “Cryptic Cartographies.” University of Oregon, Eugene, OR (Oct. 18-20, 2002)

“Arguing by Design: Teaching the Enthymeme and *The Shape of Reason*.” University of Oregon Fall Composition Conference, Eugene, OR (Sept. 24-27, 2002)

“Speaking Space in the Composition Classroom.” University of Oregon Fall Composition Conference, Eugene, OR (Sept. 19-22, 2000)

“Ecological Argumentation: Environmental Issues and Discourse Communities.” University of Oregon Fall Composition Conference, Eugene, OR (Sept. 21-24, 1999)

Administration, Service, and Relevant Experience

Ombudsperson, Utah State University (Spring 2023-present)

DEI Council, Utah State University (Fall 2022-Spring 2024)

DEI Council, Undergraduate Education Subcommittee, Utah State University (Fall 2022-Spring 2024)

Statewide Scheduling Coordinator and Campus Liaison, Utah State University (Fall 2015-present)

Undergraduate Advisory Committee, English Department, Utah State University (Fall 2022-present)

Promotion Advisory Committee Member for Sophia Martinez-Abbud, English, Utah State University (Fall 2024-present)

Promotion Advisory Committee Member for Charles McMartin, English, Utah State University (Fall 2024-present)

Promotion Advisory Committee Member for Dr. Travis Franks, English, Utah State University (Fall 2022-present)

Promotion Advisory Committee Member for Zackary Gregory, English, Utah State University (Fall 2023-present)

Promotion Advisory Committee Chair for Nikole Eyre, English, Utah State University (Fall 2021-Spring 2024)

Promotion Advisory Committee Chair for Mary Ellen Greenwood, English, Utah State University (Fall 2020-Spring 2023)

Assistant Professor of Native American/Indigenous Literatures hiring committee, Utah State University (Fall 2021-Spring 2022)

“Humanities Extended Initiative,” Lead Representative for Utah State University (Summer 2020-Spring 2022)

English Department General Education Committee, Utah State University (Fall 2020-Summer 2021)

“Reading and Writing the Environment” Depth Humanities Course Development Committee, Utah State University (Fall 2021)

CHaSS Anti-Oppression Committee, Utah State University (Summer 2020-Spring 2021)

Assistant Professor of African-American and/or African Diasporic Literatures hiring committee, Utah State University (Fall 2020-Spring 2021)

Promotion and Tenure Committee Chair for Dr. Michaelann Nelson, Utah State University (Fall 2016-Spring 2022)

Judge, Poetry Out Loud Competition (Regional Finals), Northern Utah (Spring 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021)

Evans Biography Awards, Regional Juror (Spring 2020, Spring 2022)

Statewide Honors Program Expansion Taskforce, Utah State University (Fall 2019-Spring 2021)

Promotion and Tenure Committee Member for Dr. Avery Edenfield, Utah State University (Fall 2016-Summer 2020)

Promotion and Tenure Committee Chair for Dr. John Gamber, Utah State University (Spring 2017-2018)

Brigham City Regional Campus Executive Director Search Committee, Utah State University (Fall 2018-Spring 2019)

Promotion and Tenure Committee Member for Brian Champagne, (June 2016-Fall 2017)

Promotion and Tenure Committee Member for Dr. Angela Diaz, Utah State University (Fall 2018)

NAS 1010: Introduction to Native American Studies Course Designer, Utah State University (2018)

Associate Professor of Ethnic U.S. Literature Hiring Committee, Utah State University (Fall 2016-Spring 2017)

CHaSS Dean Screening Committee, Utah State University (Fall 2015-Spring 2016)

English Lecturer Hiring Committee, Utah State University Uintah Basin (Fall 2015)

Academic Standards Committee, Utah State University (Fall 2014-Spring 2017)

Curriculum Committee, Utah State University (Fall 2014-Spring 2017)

Educational Policies Committee, Utah State University (Fall 2014-Spring 2017)

Assistant Professor of Social Work Hiring Committee, Utah State University (Fall 2014-Spring 2016)

Undergraduate Research and Creative Opportunities Grant Reviewer, Utah State University (Fall 2012-Spring 2014)

Assistant Professor of HPER Hiring Committee, Utah State University – Brigham City (2012-13)

Undergraduate Research Advisory Board, Utah State University (Spring 2011-Spring 2014)

RCDE Faculty Recognition Committee, Utah State University (2010-2012)

Chair, Faculty Committee on IDEA Course Evaluations Tool, RCDE, Utah State University (Spring 2011-Fall 2011)

Juror, Brigham City Peach Days Celebration Literary Contest (Aug. 2011)

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Member, Utah State University (Fall 2008-Spring 2011)

Faculty Senate Representative for Regional Campuses and Distance Education, Utah State University (Fall 2008-Spring 2011)

Dean and Executive Director Screening Committee, Utah State University – Brigham City (2009)

Assistant Professor of Sociology Hiring Committee, Utah State University – Brigham City (2009)

Creator and Director, Writing Center, Utah State University – Brigham City (Fall 2003-2008)

Assistant Professor of Spanish Hiring Committee, Utah State University – Brigham City (2008)

Assistant Professor of History Hiring Committee, Utah State University – Brigham City (2008)

Early Childhood Education Faculty Hiring Committee, Utah State University – Brigham City (2007)

Techniques Editor. *The MPAEA Journal of Adult Education*. Mountain Plains Adult Education Association, (Spring 2005-Fall 2007).

Scholarship Awards Committee, Utah State University – Brigham City (2006-2008)

Bookstore Manager Hiring Committee, Utah State University – Brigham City (2006)

Bioneers Conference Committee, Utah State University – Brigham City (2006)

Assistant Director of Composition, University of Oregon (2002-03)

Co-Chair, Composition Textbook Committee, University of Oregon (2002-03)

Composition Committee, University of Oregon (2002-03)

Composition Program Handbook Committee, University of Oregon (Spring 2002)

Editor. *Harvest 2000-01: A Collection of Student Writing*. Eugene, OR: University of Oregon Publication, 2000.

Editor. *Componere: a manual for composition instructors*, 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 editions. Eugene, OR: University of Oregon Publication.

Assistant Editor. “The ASLE Collection of Syllabi in Literature and Environment.” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (1999).

Instructor and Assistant Program Administrator, Northwest Middle School, Salt Lake City, UT. *Employed as part of a pilot literacy program providing one-on-one reading instruction for seventh- and eighth-grade students (1996-97).*

Professional Affiliations

Association for the Study of Literature and Environment
Western Literature Association
Council on Undergraduate Research