

Robin Gray Nicks

234 E Anderson Ave.
Knoxville, TN 37917

Cell: (865) 323-1854
rnicks@utk.edu

EDUCATION:

Ph.D. in English, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Florida, May 2006

Dissertation: "Fairy Tales and Necrophilia: A New Cultural Context for Antebellum American Sensationalism."

M.A. in English, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Kentucky, August 2002.

Thesis: "Glen Ridge, NJ, and the Autobiographies of Professional Male Athletes: a Dangerous Formula."

Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Kentucky, May 2001.

B.A. in English with honors, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Kentucky, May 1999.

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT:

Distinguished Lecturer, 2016-present, Department of English, University of Tennessee

GRE Verbal & Analytical Writing Review Instructor, Fall semesters 2012-2023 and Spring 2014 and 2019, Tennessee Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (TSLAMP) Program, University of Tennessee.

Associate Director of Composition, Fall 2016-Spring 2017, Department of English, University of Tennessee.

Interim Director of Composition, Fall 2015-Spring 2016, Department of English University of Tennessee.

Associate Director of Composition, Fall 2013-Summer 2015, Department of English, University of Tennessee.

Senior Lecturer, 2012-2016 (promoted), English Department, University of Tennessee.

Faculty Partner, 2015-2016, Cengage Learning.

First-Year Studies 101 Instructor, Fall 2012-present, First-Year Studies Program, University of Tennessee.

Technology Power User for Enhanced InSite, 2013-2014, Cengage Learning.

On-Screen Talent, 2012, Questia Research Tutorials, Cengage Learning/Questia.com.

Lecturer, 2006-2012, English Department, University of Tennessee.

Adjunct, 2011-2012, English Department, Pellissippi State Technical and Community College.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, 2002-2006, English Department, University of Florida.

GMAT Verbal Review Instructor, 2000-2002, Central Advising Office, University of Kentucky.

Teaching Assistant, 1999-2002, Writing Program, University of Kentucky.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION:

Editorial Advisory Board, *Journal of Popular Culture*, 2011-2022.

Fairy Tales Area Co-Chair, Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association, 2010-2019.

Complete College America Meeting Attendee, Nashville, TN, 22 November 2013.

Core-to-College P-16 Curriculum Council Attendee, Southeast Region, 7 October 2013.

SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY:

- Member, Department of English, Lecturer Promotion Committee, University of Tennessee, Spring 2024.
- Faculty Mentor, Sarah K. Sexton, Article “Expendable to Essential: Conceptualizing the Rhetorical Othering of Frontline Workers,” Submitted to *Pursuit: an Undergraduate Research Journal*, under Review.
- Faculty Mentor, Sydney Selman, “*Not That Bad: Lessons Women Learn in a Rape Culture.*” *Pursuit: an Undergraduate Research Journal*, 11(1), 2022.
- Faculty Mentor, Megan Engle, “Pandemics: Social Processes and Problems,” *Pursuit: an Undergraduate Research Journal*, 11(1), 2022.
- Advisor, Chancellor’s Honors Capstone/Thesis, Sarah K. Sexton, English Major, University of Tennessee, Fall 2022- Spring 2023.
- English 355: Honors by Contract for Sarah K. Sexton, Chancellor’s Honors Program, University of Tennessee, Spring 2022.
- Instructor for College of Business Administration’s Venture Living Learning Community Section of English 255, University of Tennessee, Spring semesters 2011-Present.
- Faculty Lead for the S-Designation for the Experience Learning Track, UT’s 2021 Course Redesign Institute, Summer Mini-Term 2021.
- Advisor, Chancellor’s Honors Capstone/Thesis, Allison Clark, English Major, University of Tennessee, Fall 2020 - Spring 2021.
- Faculty Mentor, Sydney Selman, “*Not That Bad: Lessons Women Learn in a Rape Culture.*” EURECA, Arts and Sciences: Humanities Division, Award for Research Excellence, University of Tennessee, Spring 2021.
- Faculty Mentor, Megan Engle, “Pandemics: Social Processes and Problems,” EURECA, Arts and Sciences: Humanities Division, University of Tennessee, Spring 2021.
- Faculty Mentor, Iris Brashear, Capstone Project, “Reflecting on UNHO 101: Aiding the Urban Wilderness,” 1794 Scholars Showcase, 22 April 2021.
- English 493: Independent Study with Megan Engle, Department of English, University of Tennessee, Summer 2020.
- Faculty Advisor, Thriving after Trauma, University of Tennessee, 2018-2022.
- Faculty Senate Alternate, University of Tennessee, Fall 2019-2022.
- Member, Department of English, Lecturer Promotion Committee, University of Tennessee, Spring 2020-2021.
- Faculty Advisor for Megan Engle’s publication “The Native American Occupation of Alcatraz: Radio and Rhetoric,” *Pursuit: The Journal of Undergraduate Research at the University of Tennessee*, University of Tennessee, Vol. 9, 2019.
- English 493: Independent Study with Lauren Whiteman, Department of English, University of Tennessee, Summer 2019.
- Co-Chair, of Arts and Sciences Lecturer Promotion Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Tennessee, Spring 2019.

Panel Moderator, “Working Together and Messing About at the Heart of Teaching,” Innovative Teaching and Learning Conference, Hosted by University of Tennessee Teaching and Learning Innovation, 8 April 2019.

Moderator, “Difficult Conversations on Gender and the Workplace,” Lunch and Learn, Hosted by Women’s Coordinating Council of UTK and UT Libraries, 7 March 2018.

Member of Arts and Sciences Lecturer Promotion Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Tennessee, Spring 2017-Spring 2018.

Moderator, “Having Difficult Conversation on Gender and Politics,” Lunch and Learn, Hosted by Women’s Coordinating Council of UTK and UT Libraries, 8 March 2018.

Faculty Advisor, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, University of Tennessee, 2015-2018.

Member of Department of Classics Lecturer Promotion Committee, Department of Classics, University of Tennessee, Fall 2016.

Member of Composition Committee (As Associate Director of Composition), Department of English, University of Tennessee, Fall 2013-Spring 2015; Fall 2016-Spring 2017.

Mentor for Chinese Faculty from SEU, University of Tennessee, Fall 2016.

Discussion Leader (*Leaving Orbit*), First-Year Studies Program, University of Tennessee, Fall 2016.

Member of Departmental Ad Hoc Online Class Committee, Department of English, University of Tennessee, Fall 2015-Spring 2016

Lecturer Teaching Award Committee Chair, Department of English, University of Tennessee, Spring 2016.

English 498: Honors Thesis Second Reader for Shelby Garland, Department of English, University of Tennessee, Fall 2016.

Chair of Composition Committee (As Interim Director of Composition), Department of English, University of Tennessee, Fall 2015-Spring 2016.

Member of Administrative Committee, Department of English, University of Tennessee, Fall 2015-Spring 2016.

Member of Lecturer Hiring Committee, Department of English, University of Tennessee, Fall 2015-Spring 2016.

Member of Departmental Lecturers’ Committee, Department of English, University of Tennessee, Fall 2015-Spring 2016.

Discussion Leader (*The Book of Unknown Americans*), First-Year Studies Program, University of Tennessee, Fall 2015.

English 493: Independent Study with Zackary McCarter, Department of English, University of Tennessee, Summer 2015.

Participant in UTK Smart Communities Initiative with English 255 course, Office of Service Learning, University of Tennessee, Spring 2015.

Member of Composition Committee (As Associate Director of Composition), Department of English, University of Tennessee, Fall 2013-Spring 2015.

Experienced GTA Teaching Award Committee Chair, Department of English, University of Tennessee, Spring 2014, Spring 2015.

Lecturer Teaching Award Committee Member, Department of English, University of Tennessee, Spring 2015.

English 102 Curriculum Design Award Committee Member, Department of English, University of Tennessee, Spring 2015.

Discussion Leader (*Eaarth*), First-Year Studies Program, University of Tennessee, Fall 2013.

Experienced GTA Teaching Award Committee Member, Department of English, University of Tennessee, Spring 2013.

Rhetoric, Writing, & Linguistics Search Committee Member, Department of English, University of Tennessee, Fall 2012-Spring 2013.

Elected Representative on Planning Committee, Department of English, University of Tennessee, Spring 2011-Spring 2013.

Elected Representative on Departmental Lecturers' Committee, Department of English, University of Tennessee, Spring 2011-Spring 2013.

English 351: Honors by Contract for Joseph Amagliani, Chancellor's Honors Program, University of Tennessee, Spring 2013.

Discussion Leader (*The Accidental Asian*), First-Year Studies Program, University of Tennessee, Fall 2012.

English 332: Honors by Contract for Katherine Frazier, Chancellor's Honors Program, University of Tennessee, Spring 2012.

Discussion Leader (*The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*), First-Year Studies Program, University of Tennessee, Fall 2011.

Elected Lecturer Voting Representative for Department Meetings, Department of English, University of Tennessee, 2011-2012, 2009-2010.

Experienced GTA Teaching Award Committee Member, Department of English, University of Tennessee, Spring 2009.

Elected Member of Composition Committee, Department of English, University of Tennessee, AY 2008- 2009.

PEDAGOGY PRESENTATIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE

"Online Teaching Panel, 200-level courses," Fall Teaching Workshops Roundtable, Department of English, University of Tennessee, Fall 2024.

"Service Learning Online," Webinar, UT Symposium 2021: Integrating High-impact Practices into Online, Hybrid, and Distance Learning, UT System, 9 June 2021.

"Behind the Scenes: Service Learning Online During a Pandemic," Presentation, Innovative Teaching and Learning Conference, University of Tennessee, Spring 2021.

"Experience Learning 'Lite': Using the One-Hour Classroom as a Gateway to Deeper Learning," Roundtable, Innovative Teaching and Learning Conference, University of Tennessee, Spring 2020. Cancelled due to Covid-19.

Fall Teaching Workshops Presenter, Department of English, University of Tennessee, Fall 2012-2019.

"Service Learning Makes it Real: Teaching through Crowdfunding." Innovation in Teaching and Learning: Reimagine Learning Symposium, Tennessee Teaching and Learning Center, Fall 2016.

Spring English 102 Teaching Workshops Presenter, Fall 2013-2016.

English 102 Proposal Workshops Presenter, Fall 2013-2016.

Presenter, Stokely Conference on Teaching Writing for K-12 Teachers, Stokely Fund, Department of English, University of Tennessee, Summer 2016.
“English: Community Building Online in English 102.” IT Community of Practice Brown Bag Lunch Meeting. November 27, 2013.
Panelist, “Big Ideas,” First-Year Studies 101 Instructor Conference, First-Year Studies Program, University of Tennessee, Spring 2013.
Presenter & Web Designer, Stokely Conference on Teaching Writing for K-12 Teachers, Stokely Fund, Department of English, University of Tennessee, Summer 2012.
Presenter, Teaching the 200-level Class, Graduate Students in English, Department of English, University of Tennessee, Fall 2011.
Fall Teaching Workshops Presenter, Department of English, University of Tennessee, Fall 2007-Fall 2009.
End of Semester English 102 Teaching Workshop Presenter, University of Tennessee, Fall 2008.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

Participant, “Volunteer Experience Track,” UT’s 2022 Course Redesign Institute, Summer Mini-Term 2022.
Participant, “Childhood Studies Track,” Children’s Literature Summer School, University of Antwerp, Summer 2021.
First-Year Studies Instructor Conference Attendee, University of Tennessee, 2021.
Participant, OIT Jumpstart Training for Revision of English 255 Online, University of Tennessee, Summer - Fall 2020.
Participant, “Accessibility and UDL: Course Design for Everyone,” Workshop Presented in Zoom by Eric Moore, University of Tennessee, 27 May 2020.
Participant, Academics for Black Survival and Wellness Rewind and Remix Training, Hosted Online by Academics for Black Survival and Wellness, 1-21 August 2020.
Attendee, Back to School Better Conference, Hosted via Zoom by Cengage, 30-31 July 2020
Participant, Virtual Vol Bootcamp, Teaching and Learning Innovation and Office of Information Technology, University of Tennessee, Summer 2020.
First-Year Studies Instructor Conference Attendee, University of Tennessee, 2020.
First-Year Studies Instructor Conference Attendee, University of Tennessee, 2019.
Attendee, Innovative Teaching and Learning Conference, Hosted by University of Tennessee Teaching and Learning Innovation, 8 April 2019.
Participant, “Diversi-Tea: Supporting International Students,” Hosted by UTK Teaching and Learning Innovation, University of Tennessee, 27 March 2019.
First-Year Studies Instructor Conference Attendee, University of Tennessee, 2018.
Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI), Social and Behavioral Research-Basic Course, University of Tennessee, 2015, renewed 2017.
Experience Learning Summer Institute, University of Tennessee, Summer 2017.
First-Year Studies Instructor Conference Attendee, University of Tennessee, 2017.
“Making Accessibility Happen, Part I,” IT Community of Practice Brown Bag Lunch Meeting, September 28, 2016.

“Reflection,” Experience Learning, Tennessee Teaching and Learning Center and Office of the Provost, October 2015.

“Real-World Problem Solving,” Experience Learning, Tennessee Teaching and Learning Center and Office of the Provost, September 2015.

First-Year Studies Instructor Conference Attendee, University of Tennessee, 2015.

First-Year Studies Instructor Conference Attendee, University of Tennessee, 2014.

Service-Learning Workshop Attendee, University of Tennessee, 2013.

Summer Teaching Institute, University of Tennessee, Summer 2012.

HONORS:

Participant, Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Reflection Project (\$1500 Grant), Wrote Reflection Titled “It’s Okay Not to Be Okay: Reflections on Teaching through COVID and Other Crises of 2020-2021,” Summer 2021.

Faculty Research Mentor Award, EURECA, Arts and Sciences: Humanities Division, University of Tennessee, Spring 2021.

New Student Organization of the Year, Thriving after Trauma, University of Tennessee, AY 2018-2019.

Outstanding Instructor, First-Year Studies 101, University of Tennessee, 2017.

Hodges Composition Teaching Award, University of Tennessee, 2014.

John C. Hodges Better English Course Reduction Award for Pedagogy, University of Tennessee, 2014.

Grant to Design Fully-Online Course for Summer 2014, Arts and Sciences, University of Tennessee, 2013-2014.

John C. Hodges Better English Course Reduction Award, University of Tennessee, 2007

Recognition by University of Florida Anderson Scholars as One of the Most Influential Undergraduate Instructors, 2004.

Departmental Teaching Award, University of Florida, 2004.

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Baskin Scholarship for Students of American Literatures, University of Florida, 2002-2003.

Excellent Writing Program Instructor, University of Kentucky, 2001.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS:

“The Importance of Stories and Narrative: Resilience and Empathy.” College Scholars Program, 16 September 2020. Zoom.

“Reflecting on Women’s Rights and Bonnie Kate.” Mother’s Day Celebration, Marble Springs State Historic Site,” 10 May 2020. Cancelled due to COVID-19.

“Fairy Tales from Prostitutes to Tomboys.” Honors Dinner with a Professor, Becker Seminar. Chancellor’s Honors Program, 4 March 2020. Howard Baker Center.

PUBLICATIONS:

“*Schooling Readers: Reading Common Schools in Nineteenth-Century American Fiction.*

Allison Speicher. Tuscaloosa, AL: University of Alabama Press, 2016.” (Book Review).

The Journal of American Culture. Forthcoming.

- “*By Any Media Necessary: The New Youth Activism*. Henry Jenkins, Sangita Shresthova, Liana Gamber-Thompson, Neta Kligler-Vilenchick, and Arely M. Zimmerman. New York: New York University Press, 2016.” (Book Review). *The Journal of American Culture*. Forthcoming.
- Rhetoric of Inquiry*, 4th edition. (co-edited with Kirsten Benson and Jeff Moody). Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2015.
- “*Orbiting Ray Bradbury’s Mars: Biographical, Anthropological, Literary, Scientific, and Other Perspectives*. Ed. Gloria McMillan. Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, Inc, 2013.” (Book Review). *The Journal of American Culture*. 38.3 (September 2015): 305-306.
- “*Citizenship and the Origins of Women’s History in the United States*. Teresa Anne Murphy. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2013.” (Book Review). *The Journal of American Culture*. 37.3 (September 2014): 340-341.
- “*The Politics of Faith During the Civil War*. Timothy L. Wesley. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2013.” (Book Review). *The Journal of American Culture*. 37.3 (September 2014): 371-372.
- “Chapter 20: Microsoft Word.” *Kaplan Guide to Successful Writing*. ed. Diane Martinez, Susan Carlson, and Kara Van Dam. Kaplan Publishing, 2010.
- “Washington Irving’s *The Sketchbook of Geoffrey Crayon*.” *Themes in American Literature*. ed. Jennifer McClinton-Temple. Facts on File, 2010.
- “Mary Rowlandson’s *The Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson*.” *Themes in American Literature*. ed. Jennifer McClinton-Temple. Facts on File, 2010.
- “Fairy Tales and Prostitutes: Sexualized Corpses and the Encouragement of True Womanhood in Popular Nineteenth Century American Literature.” *Death Becomes Her: Cultural Narratives of Women and Death in Nineteenth Century America*. eds. Sheri Weinstein and Elizabeth Dill. Cambridge Scholars Press, 2008.
- “American Indian Movement.” *Encyclopedia of American Indian Literature*. eds. Jennifer McClinton-Temple and Alan Velie. Facts on File, 2007.
- “Trail of Tears.” *Encyclopedia of American Indian Literature*. eds. Jennifer McClinton-Temple and Alan Velie. Facts on File, 2007.
- “Review of Kat Meads’ *Not Waving*.” *Wind Magazine*. Winter 2002.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

- “Fairy Tales and Trauma in Mizuki Tsujimura’s *Lonely Castle in the Mirror*.” Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association Conference, 2024.
- “‘At Least the Baby Didn’t Die’: Amanda Palmer’s Messy Motherhood.” Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association Conference, 2022.
- “A Lucky Girl Needs her PALs: *Spirit Riding Free* and Girl Power in the 19th Century and Beyond.” Mid-Atlantic Popular and American Culture Association Conference, 2021.
- “Using Picture Books in the University Classroom to Teach Issues of Race, Ethnicity, and Gender.” Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference, 2021.
- “Crowdfunding Fairy Tales for Today: *Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls*.” 48th Annual Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Conference, 2018.

- “‘She Ain't Anybody's But Her Own’: Gender/Genre in SyFy’s *Wynonna Earp*.” Annual Conference of the Popular/American Culture Association in the South, 2016.
- “Once Upon a Time and Happily Ever After: The Rhetoric of Online Fairy-Tale Parody.” 45th Annual Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Conference, 2015.
- “Wolves, Girls, and Wolf Girls: Teaching ‘Red Riding Hood.’” Annual Conference of the American Folklore Society, 2013.
- “Fairy Tales Pedagogy Roundtable.” Organizer and participant discussing use of versions of fairy tales in the writing classroom to teach impact of small revisions. 43rd Annual Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Conference, 2013.
- “Bluebeard: Revision and Moments of Change.” Annual Conference of the Popular/American Culture Association in the South, 2012.
- “Twisted Fairy Tales: Neil Gaiman’s Tales of the Strange and Fantastic.” 42nd Annual Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Conference, 2012.
- “Sleeping Beauties, Slayers, and Actives: What Joss Whedon Teaches Us about Fairy Tales and Gender Roles.” 41st Annual Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Conference, 2011.
- “Fairy Tales and Necrophilia: Poe, Gothicism, and the Adaptation of the European Fairy Tale.” 40th Annual Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Conference, 2010.
- Panel Chair, “Fairy Tales: Viewing Fairy Tales Through a Critical Lens.” 40th Annual Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Conference, 2010.
- “Horror (Fiction and Film): Roundtable II: Pedagogy of Horror—Using Horror to Teach across the Disciplines.” 39th Annual Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Conference, 2009.
- “Antebellum Women’s Writing: Appropriating European Fairy Tales, Subverting Gender Ideology.” 39th Annual Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Conference, 2009.
- Panel Chair, “Fairy Tales IV: Fairy Tales and Subversion of Culture and Ideology.” 39th Annual Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Conference, 2009.
- “Detection and Domesticity: Striking a Balance in the Female Detective Novel.” Annual Conference of the Mid-Atlantic Popular/American Culture Association, 2008.
- “*Oprah*, *Flavor of Love Girls*: *Charm School*, and Nineteenth Century Women’s Popular Culture: a Century and a Half of Women’s Advice and Culture.” Annual Conference of the Mid-Atlantic Popular/American Culture Association, 2007.
- “Recreating Antebellum Literature: Faction in Matthew Pearl’s *The Poe Shadow*.” Annual Conference of the Mid-Atlantic Popular/American Culture Association, 2006. “Fairy Tales and Prostitutes: Sexualized Corpses and the Encouragement of True Womanhood in Popular Nineteenth-Century American Literature.” Annual Conference of the Mid-Atlantic Popular/American Culture Association, 2005.
- “Happily Ever After and the Everyday: Anne Sexton’s *Transformations* as Everyday Theory.” Presented at the Women’s Caucus (“Celebrating 200 Years of Women’s Poetry”) at the Annual Conference of the Northeast Modern Language Association, 2004.
- “Us Against the World’: The Pimp as Hero in American Popular Culture.” Presented at the 45th

Annual Conference of the Western Social Science Association, 2003.
“Serialization and Men: A Brief Study of the World Wrestling Federation.” Presented at the
22nd Annual Conference of the Southwest / Texas Popular Culture Association /
American Culture Association, 2001.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

Popular Culture Association
American Culture Association