

English Department Faculty

John Bassett, Ph.D.

Professor of English. John Bassett became Clark University's eighth president in July 2000. He is a scholar and teacher of American literature and has published ten books and over thirty articles. His books include studies of William Faulkner, Sherwood Anderson, Southern Literature, the Harlem Renaissance, Thomas Wolfe, and Mark Twain.

Louis Bastien, Ph.D.

Lecturer. Professor Bastien is a committed Generalist who teaches a wide variety of undergraduate courses, from Introduction to Literature and First Year seminars, to intermediate level classes in romance, tragedy, and Major British Writers I and II. He also teaches an advanced seminar in Mythopoetics, a study in Modernism.

James P. Elliott, Ph.D.

Professor of English. Trained as a textual editor in the field of American literature, Professor Elliott has been associated with the Edition of the Writings of James Fenimore Cooper for more than 30 years. Most recently, he has been looking at blogs to theorize the uses of narrative in that popular forum.

SunHee Kim Gertz, Ph.D.

Professor of English, Director of Graduate Studies in English. Professor Gertz's research and publications are centered in western European literature in the late Middle Ages (12th to 14th centuries). In particular, she works with Old French, Middle High German, Latin, Middle English, and Italian narratives and poetry, using literary, semiotic, and rhetorical theory (classical, medieval, and modern).

Betsy Huang, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of English. Professor Huang researches and teaches representations of ethnic identities and politics in 20th-century American literature and popular culture. Her scholarship focuses on literary treatments of ethnicity in narratives about immigration, assimilation, and citizenship, and she is particularly interested in the ways in which the "ethnic" and the "American" persist as mutually exclusive terms in the American cultural consciousness.

Fern L. Johnson, Ph.D.

Professor of English. Professor Johnson is a sociolinguist specializing in the study of gender, race, and ethnicity in discourse. Her teaching and research center on the relationship of cultural systems to language-in-use, especially ideological codes in discourse and language policy issues.

Lisa Kasmer, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of English. Professor Kasmer's teaching and research interests center on the cultural and political construction of gender, sexuality, and race within eighteenth- and nineteenth-century British literature. She is especially interested in examin-

ing the intersections among these cultural and political positions and the narrative and generic forms in British literature.

Stephen Levin, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of English. Professor Levin specializes in contemporary British and postcolonial literature, transnational cultural studies, and critical and literary theory. His research focuses on the ways in which twentieth-century global conditions have shaped contemporary culture and produced new discourses of self and identity.

Meredith Neuman, Ph.D.

(on sabbatical AY 2008-2009)

Assistant Professor of English. Professor Neuman teaches and researches in the fields of early and nineteenth-century American literature. In her current book project, *Letter and Spirit: Literary Theories of the Sermon in Puritan New England*, she seeks to uncover complex and often competing theories of language in sermons and related literature, such as conversion narratives.

William Tapply, M.A.T.

Instructor, Writer in Residence. William G. Tapply is the Writer in Residence for Clark University, where he has been teaching for the past 14 years. Bill has written 43 books, of which 30 are novels, one is a how-to-write book, and the rest are collections of essays. He also writes for several magazines and is a member of the Editorial Board for *The Writer* magazine.

Lucilia Valerio, Ph.D.

Instructor. Professor Valerio's teaching interests center on contemporary world literature, with a particular focus on postcolonial literature and fiction by women writers.

Virginia M. Vaughan, Ph.D.

(plans to be on sabbatical Fall 2009)

Professor of English, Department Chair. Professor Vaughan specializes in Renaissance literature, especially in Shakespeare. She has published 3 books on Othello and her most recent monograph, *Performing Blackness on English Stages, 1500-1800*, analyzes the role blackface performance played in early modern English drama.

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for course listings
and additional information.

TRR 11/15/2008



Clark University's MA in English

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comes to literature.*

Clark University
Graduate Studies in English
950 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01610 USA

508-793-7630
engma@clarku.edu
www.clarku.edu/english

The English Department Master of Arts in English

Our Master's program supports innovative as well as traditional approaches to studying literature. Fostering the interdisciplinary study of American literature and culture, British literature within historical and theoretical frameworks, as well as the roles of gender and ethnicity as shaping factors in literary production and analysis, our faculty are highly appreciated by students for the individual guidance we give them, guidance that leads to a substantive M.A. thesis.

Moreover, we are one of a few M.A. programs that offer teaching assistantships each year as well as a limited number of full- and part-time tuition remission scholarships on a competitive basis.

- A teaching assistantship is a full-time appointment involving a 2-year course of study, with 2 academic courses, a pedagogy course, and T.A. duties each semester. Responsibilities include conducting discussion sessions, projects, which typically involve a commitment of approximately 17.5 hours a week. Assistantships provide tuition remission and a stipend (currently \$10,300) to cover most living expenses.
- A scholar appointment is generally a 1.5-year course of study that may provide tuition remission for up to 8 courses.

In addition to awarding T.A.s and tuition remission, we are distinctive too because of our strongly international character. The international students in our M.A. program often allow vital exchanges that provide our U.S. students with new perspectives and friendships. Actually, in this regard, we have done so well that we have been able to secure a number of international agreements with foreign universities, as well as with the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (German Academic Exchange Service) and the Fulbright Commission.

We were attractive to these different international institutions in part because we try to keep our English M.A. program small (ca. 12 to 15 candidates in residence each year). This way, we can ensure that our graduate students receive close mentoring from faculty who are deeply committed to a broad range of scholarly interests. As such, our program meets the needs of those who wish to complete their education with the M.A. degree, although many of our graduates do go on for the Ph.D. degree.

Importantly, our program has a committed teaching faculty, who draw on their scholarship in the classroom. Indeed, our close mentoring is deeply enhanced by our devotion to scholar-

ship and also provides research opportunities for our M.A. candidates. Not only do we have a wealth of libraries in the region, but we also have strong ties with the American Antiquarian Society. Based in Worcester, the AAS is an internationally renowned repository for printed material (including journals, novels, letters, broadsides, and ephemera) published in the U.S. before 1876. In addition to Cotton Mather's library, the *Bay Psalm Book*, and John Eliot's *Algonquin Bible*, the AAS houses many uncatalogued materials by women and African Americans, which students can mine for their M.A. theses.

General Requirements

- The English Department has no foreign language requirement.
- An academic year of study in residence is a minimum requirement for a master's degree.
- Each student must complete at least 8 semester courses in a program approved by the Department, two of which are required, Introduction to Graduate Studies and Master's Thesis. In addition, students must register for the Departmental Colloquium. Credit for a maximum of 2 courses at another institution may be approved by the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research upon recommendation of the Director of Graduate Studies in English.
- The M.A. Thesis is written on a topic in the field of the student's special interest under the supervision of the candidate's thesis committee (3 professors, headed by a member of the English Department, and as approved by the Graduate Board), in a style, length, and format that are appropriate to the problem being researched. Regulations for submission of theses and degrees are available from the Graduate School Office.
- Upon completion of the thesis, each candidate must pass a final oral defense, administered by the thesis committee.

Application for Admission

Admission to Clark's graduate programs is open to holders of the bachelor's degree or its equivalent and is determined on a competitive basis.

Inquiries from both U.S. and international students concerning our M.A. program in English should be addressed to the Program Assistant of Graduate Studies in English.

The applicant will be provided with a **Formal Application Form** that should be returned to the English Department's Graduate Program Assistant, Terri Rutkiewicz, accompanied by the following materials:

- Formal Application Form and \$50 fee
- official transcripts of all undergraduate and any subsequent academic work

- 3 letters of recommendation from persons who are competent to judge qualifications for graduate study.
- A recent writing sample: one formal essay of at least 2,500 words on some aspect of American or English literature
- A statement of purpose outlining the applicant's academic interests and goals.
- The Graduate Record Examination (administered by the Education Testing Service, Princeton, NJ) for both the **general** and **advanced literature in English** exams. GRE exams are optional for international students.

For non-native speakers of English, however, it is necessary first to submit a **Preliminary Application** for faculty to review before formally applying. Fluency in reading, speaking, and writing the English language and a background in English and American literature are essential.

Application Deadlines

The English Department's deadline for M.A. applications for the forthcoming fall is **February 1**. The Preliminary Application deadline, required of non-English speaking applicants, is **December 1**. Application materials cannot be returned.

The Graduate School

Information on the following may be found at the Graduate School website www.clarku.edu/graduate/newstudents :

- Graduate Housing
- Meal Plans
- Health Insurance
- Health Services
- Immunizations and Requirements

Graduate Tuition and other Fees for AY 2008-09

Full-time Graduate Students: Tuition: \$33,900 per academic year (or \$16,950 per semester). In the English Department the per-course charge is \$4,237.50.

Part-time Graduate Students: Tuition is charged on a \$4,237.50 per-course basis.

Other Fees

- Grad Student Activity Fee: currently \$10 per semester
- Health Insurance: Information is available from the graduate school.
- Graduation Fee: currently \$100
- Non-resident fee: currently \$200 per semester