

Dr. Sean Weidman

Department of English | University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire
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EDUCATION

Pennsylvania State University (University Park, PA)

PhD, English (2021)

- *Dissertation*: “Hospitalities: Modernist Cultures and the Politics of Welcoming”
Committee: Janet Lyon (director), John Marsh, Kevin Bell, Magalí Armillas-Tiseyra

Pennsylvania State University (University Park, PA)

MA, English (2016)

Westmont College (Santa Barbara, CA)

BA, English (2014), *magna cum laude*

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire | Department of English (Eau Claire, WI)

Visiting Assistant Professor (2023 – present)

Lycoming College | Department of English (Williamsport, PA)

Visiting Assistant Professor (2022 – 2023)

Pennsylvania State University | Department of English (University Park, PA)

Lecturer in English (2021 – 2022)

Postdoctoral Fellow (2021 – 2022, *deferred)

Graduate Teaching Assistant (2014 – 2021)

PUBLICATIONS & SCHOLARLY PROJECTS

Articles:

“‘A Necessity of Smallness’: Dorothy Day’s Modernist Hospitality.” *Twentieth-Century Literature*. (Forthcoming, 2025)

“Modernism and Gender at the Limits of Stylometry.” Co-authored with Aaren Pastor. *Digital Humanities Quarterly*, vol. 15, no. 4, 2022. ([Open Access](#))

“Suspended Affect and Harlem Renaissance Poetics.” *Modernism/modernity*, vol. 28, no. 4, 2022, pp. 637-659.

“Of Hospitality and Hosting: Tracing Colonial Haunting in W.B. Yeats.” *English Literary History*, vol. 85, no. 4, 2018, pp. 1025-1063.

“The Limits of Distinctive Words: Re-evaluating Literature’s Gender Marker Debate.” Co-authored with James O’Sullivan. *Digital Scholarship in the Humanities*, vol. 33, no. 2, 2018, pp. 374-390.

Book Chapters:

“Materiality, Modernity: Recovering Dorothy Day’s Intermaterial Modernism.” *The Politics of Intermedial Modernism*, Routledge. (Forthcoming, 2026)

“The Problem of Intradisciplinarity.” *Digital Futures of Graduate Study in the Humanities*. Edited by Anouk Lang, Gabriel Hankins, and Simon Appleford. U of Minnesota P, 2024, pp. 166-173. ([Open Access](#))

Book & Project Reviews:

Review of *Viral Modernism: The Influenza Pandemic and Interwar Literature*, by Elizabeth Outka. *English Studies*, vol. 102, no. 8, 2021, pp. 1184-1187. ([Online Access](#))

“Encountering Anew the Ghosts of Modernism.” Review of *Haunting Modernisms: Ghostly Aesthetics, Mourning, and Spectral Resistance Fantasies in Literary Modernism*, by Matt Foley. *Journal of Modern Literature*, vol. 43, no. 3, 2020, pp. 190-194.

“Translation Ecologies: A Beginner’s Guide.” Digital Project Review. Co-authored with Thomas Beebee and Dawn Childress. *Interdisciplinary Studies of Literature*, vol. 1, no. 4, 2017, pp. 1-14.

Under Review:

“Precarity’s *Accueil*.” *The Space Between: Literature and Culture, 1914-1945*, Special Issue on “Contingency, Precarity, Jeopardy.”

Book In-Progress:

“Hospitalities: Modernist Cultures and the Politics of Welcoming”

A literary-cultural history of modern welcoming, this book project follows the social wake of global war, widespread poverty, and Europe’s imperial decline to argue two things primarily: first that hospitality was an organizing feature of both 20th-century imperial modernity and its conditions of anti/coloniality, and second that modernist authors drew on hospitality’s cultural histories and political vocabularies to shape modern ideas about welcoming—in the home, the nation, and the world. In service of those claims, each of the project’s five chapters features a case study of hospitality, cutting across modern literary contexts rife with new ideas, representations, and forms of contact, upheaval, and un/welcoming: Irish national mythmaking and W.B. Yeats; India, the Raj, and Rabindranath Tagore; English immigration policy and Ford Madox Ford; WWI France and Edith Wharton’s refugee relief; and Depression-era US labor activism and Dorothy Day. I contend that, in the aftermath of unthinkable violence, poverty, and dispossession, modernists leveraged the literary to circulate and reimagine discourses of hospitality—and what welcoming others made possible. Some revised anti/imperial cultures and anti/colonial politics, others reframed civic duty as a matter of welcoming guests and neighbors, and a few even rethought hosting’s social codes to resist (or to repackage) reactionary fears and exclusions. Together, I claim, these modernists shared in a global Anglo-literary project that variously tested, disturbed, and revised dominant cultures of hospitality around the *fin de siècle*, producing new politics of welcoming for modern publics under the duress of modern crises.

PRESENTATIONS, TALKS, & PANELS

Conference Papers:

“Precarious Recovery,” Modernist Studies Association (MSA), Chicago, 2024

“‘Two Roads’ to White Liberalism,” American Literature Association (ALA), Chicago, 2024

“SLAC Modernisms,” MSA, Brooklyn, 2023

- “Dorothy Day’s Hospitality,” ALA, Boston, 2023
- “Dorothy Day: Modernist,” MSA, Chicago, 2021 (*conference cancelled*)
- “Decolonial Empathy: Forster, Tagore, and Politics of Welcoming,” MLA, Seattle, 2020
- “Robert Frost: A Liberalist Poet,” MLA, Seattle, 2020
- “‘A House on Fire’: Edith Wharton’s Interwar Hospitality,” MSA, Toronto, 2019
- “Hospitality under Siege: Ford Madox Ford and Good English Sociability,” NeMLA, Pittsburgh, 2018
- “Ford Madox Ford and the Ends of Hospitality,” Louisville Conference on American Literature and Culture Since 1900, University of Louisville, 2018
- “Markers of Modernist Transition: A Computational Approach to Style, Gender, and Modernism” (with Aaren Pastor), Keystone DH Conference, Philadelphia, 2017
- “Political and Poetic Liberty: Re-imagining the Fidelities of Robert Frost,” NeMLA, Baltimore, 2017
- “‘Distilled of all its coarseness’: Subversive Performance in Friel’s *Philadelphia, Here I Come!*,” American Conference for Irish Studies (ACIS), Notre Dame, 2016
- “Of Hospitality and Hosting: Tracing Ireland’s Colonial Haunting in W.B. Yeats,” ACIS, Notre Dame, 2016
- “Periodization and the (D)evolution of Gender and Literary Style,” Keystone DH Conference, University of Philadelphia, 2015
- “Gender Markers: Distinctive Words in Male and Female Authorship” (with James O’Sullivan), Digital Humanities Conference, University of Sydney, 2015
- “‘To make us love our country, our country ought to be lovely’: Brian Friel’s Feminist Genealogy,” American Conference for Irish Studies South, Berry College, 2015

Invited Talks:

- “A Liberalist Poet in the Era of High Neoliberalism,” University of Chicago Workshop Series, 2025
- “We Are All of Us Precarious Now,” MSA Virtual Roundtable on *The New Precarity*, hosted by the Caucus for Contingent and Independent Scholars, 2025
- “A Writer’s Guide to Generative AI,” Lakefly Writers Conference, Oshkosh, WI, 2025
- “Generative AI and the Writing Classroom,” Professional Development Workshop Series, Department of English, University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire, 2024
- “Cultural Composition,” Teaching Effectiveness Series, Lycoming College, 2023
- “Digital Humanities Workshop: An Introduction to Stylometry,” Humanities Research Center, Lycoming College, 2023
- “Undesirable: Ford Madox Ford and the English Picturesque,” Center for American Literary Studies Graduate Awards Symposium, Penn State University, 2020
- “‘A House on Fire’: Edith Wharton’s Hospitality,” Humanities Institute, Penn State University, 2019

“Learning from Digital Approaches to the Humanities,” Liberal Arts Scholarship and Technology Summit, Penn State University, 2015

Organizing & Seminars:

Organizer, *The New Precarity*, MSA Caucus for Contingent and Independent Scholars, Virtual Roundtable, 2025

Seminar, *Media Migrations*, MSA, Chicago, 2024

Organizer, *The New Precarity*, MSA, Chicago, 2024

Seminar, *Anticolonialisms/Antifascisms*, “Tagore’s Offerings,” MSA, Brooklyn, 2023

Organizer, *Refuge, Upheaval, and Cultures of Modernist Welcoming*, MSA, Toronto, 2019

Seminar, *Digital Modernist Studies Now*, “Gender’s Modern Style,” MSA, Toronto, 2019

Organizer & Chair, *Modernist Hospitalities*, NeMLA, Pittsburgh, 2018

Seminar, *Liberalism and Modernism*, “Robert Frost’s Liberalism,” MSA, Columbus, 2018

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire

1 Section, Honors 332, “Reality, Inc.”

- an Honors College colloquium that treats reality TV as a deep archive of social documentary, an incisive form of cultural critique, and a sophisticated means of incorporating, and studying, private and public life, truth and fiction; students watch global reality TV shows, scaffolding their consumptive attentions with critical readings on, e.g., capitalist realism, surveillance cultures, biopolitics, gender performance, neoliberalism, and so on; among other assignments, students develop a history of feminized family labor, design an arc analysis of romance/trauma (for themselves and a reality TV “persona”), and produce self-reflective, multimodal podcast/vlog episodes of their own “real” stories

1 Section, English 481, “Binging Empire”

- this course thinks both binging and empire as concentrated forms of viewership and witnessing that evolve from totalizing, extractive demands for bodies, attentions, attachments; buttressed by critical essays in empire studies, students watch a season per week of a popular TV show (*Andor*, *Succession*, *White Lotus*, etc.) that centralizes the representation of settlers, or recovers stories of the dispossessed, or reimagines the work of colonization; reflecting on how viewership expands/limits our capacities to witness the slow violence of exploitation, students submit “imperial reflections” and a final “binge project” that theorizes how TV gives to see, and what it means to lose ourselves in power

1 Section, Honors 335, “Vibes: Affect and the Politics of Feeling”

- an honors colloquium that studies “vibes” via affect theory, aimed at illuminating how social identity is sutured through feeling and onto cultural forms, political structures, and disciplinary hegemonies; students complete a unique series of assignments—among others, cultural studies “vibe checks,” a “vibe manifesto,” an “emotion work journal,” and a theoretically informed final “vibe-work”—while encountering vibes in all of their messy contours: as embodied sensation, social sensorium, romantic remainder, and political tool

- 3 Sections, Writing 114, “Intensive Blugold Seminar in Critical Reading & Writing”
- 7 Sections, Writing 116, “Blugold Seminar in Critical Reading & Writing”
- 4 Sections, Writing 118, “Accelerated Blugold Seminar in Critical Reading & Writing”
 - organized around the theme “Rhetorics of Resistance,” this rhetoric-based, process-oriented writing seminar helps students become practiced, ethical rhetors; students work through a sequenced series of writing assignments that culminate in a multimodal project about how language, form, and rhetorical means of persuasion might—and must—help us to imagine more-equitable futures

Lycoming College

- 6 Sections, English 106, “Composition”
 - a socially engaged gen-ed composition course designed to introduce writing as a mode of thinking new ideas; students work through five modules and essay assignments (rhetorical analysis, cultural object lessons, social history, journal profile, and creative memoir) and hold robust peer review sessions alongside biweekly “writing masterclasses”

Pennsylvania State University (21 sections of 7 courses)

- 2 Sections, English 262, “Reading Fiction”
 - a literary survey in which students grapple with the representational work of 20th-century fiction; students turn in weekly one-page close readings, and they submit two research essays that pair a critical model or theoretical lens with explications of our course texts
- 1 Section, English 263, “Reading Poetry”
 - a genre/movement-based survey in which students learn to read and feel with modern and contemporary poetry; students submit biweekly close readings across a variety of genres (lyric, blues, war, beat, language, etc.), lead a flipped-class discussion/reading of a poem, and submit a 10-page essay that explores a short book of poetry of their choosing
- 1 Section, Honors English 030, “Ideology and American Culture”
 - a freshman honors course that uses objects in contemporary US culture to teach the critical methods of cultural studies; each week centers a keyword or topic—e.g. “Environmentalism and Poverty”—and students present on everyday cultural artifacts, write short analyses, and complete a 10-page research essay
- 4 Sections, English 015, “Rhetoric and Composition”
- 3 Sections, English 015, “Rhetoric and Composition,” Global Campus (Online)
 - a first-year composition course designed to introduce rhetorical theory, academic research practices, scholarly argumentation, and public advocacy; students write 5 major papers, including close-readings, position arguments, and proposals for civic projects
- 4 Sections, LEAP Early-Start Program, English 015, “Rhetoric and Composition”
 - an “early-start” version of first-year composition, condensed into an intensive, six-week summer course; students have longer class periods with readings due daily and a major essay due each week
- 2 Sections, English 202A, “Writing in the Social Sciences”
- 1 Section, English 202A, “Writing in the Social Sciences,” Global Campus (Online)
 - an upper-level writing course focused on the methodologies and research practices necessary for an academic or professional career in the social sciences;

coursework concludes with a formal, 20-page research study and 20-minute presentation on a topic of their choosing

1 Sections, English 202D, “Business Writing”

2 Sections, English 202D, “Business Writing,” Global Campus (Online)

- an advanced writing and professionalism course that equips students with professional communication strategies for business; students develop feasible business plans as volunteer consultants for local businesses, as well as a business portfolio, for which they design personal websites and workshop cover letters, resumes, CVs, and other job materials

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire

Outstanding Blugold Seminar Instructor Award (2025)

University Research and Creative Activity Award (2025)

Department of English, Faculty Travel Grant (2023, 2024)

Pennsylvania State University

Teaching Awards

Department of English, Lecturer Excellence in Teaching Award (2022)

Department of English, PhD Excellence in Teaching Award (2018)

College of the Liberal Arts, Superior Teaching and Research Award (2015)

Research Awards

Milton Bryer Dolinger Graduate Fellowship (Fall 2020 – Spring 2021)

Research and Graduate Studies Office Dissertation Award (Spring 2020)

Humanities Institute, Graduate Scholar in Residence (Fall 2019)

Raymond E. and Roberta Lombra Outstanding Graduate Research Award (2019)

Center for American Literary Studies, Graduate Fellow (Summer 2019)

Department of English, George and Barbara Kelly Travel Award (2014, 2016, 2018)

Department of English, Award for a Graduate Student Publication (2017)

Wilma Ebbitt Fellowship (Spring 2015)

McCourtney Family Distinguished Graduate Fellow (Fall 2014)

University Graduate Fellow (Fall 2014 – Spring 2015)

Other Academic Institutions

Modernist Studies Association, Conference Travel Grant (2024)

Lycoming College, Faculty Advancement Grant (2023)

Modern Language Association, Conference Travel Grant (2019)

Modernist Studies Association, Conference Travel Grant (2019)

T.S. Eliot International School, Tuition Scholarship (2019)

Digital Humanities Summer Institute, Tuition Scholarship (2017)

The Folger Institute, Visualizing English Print Fellowship (2016)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & DEVELOPMENT

Scholarly Peer Review

- Referee, *Digital Humanities Quarterly* (2019 – present)
- Referee, *Digital Scholarship in the Humanities* (2020 – present)
- Referee, *Digital Humanities Conference* (2016 – present)
- Referee, *The Explicator* (2020 – present)

University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire

- Appointed Member, Writing Program Assessment Team, Department of English (2024)
 - reviewed 140 portfolios of student work, gauging whether students were successfully achieving both university and program assessment standards for general rhetorical awareness and critical reading and writing skills; also helped to assess new, standardized AI-assisted writing policy and helped develop AI-critical curricula for the Writing Program
- Appointed Member, Writing Program Committee, Department of English (2023 – 2025)
 - a service position supporting a variety of program efforts for the University’s Blugold Seminar in Critical Reading and Writing: curriculum design and guidance, professional development planning, textbook review/selection, search committee service, and awards committee work for undergraduate research
- Faculty Graduate, Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (2023)
 - attended a weeklong summer seminar and a semester-long series of professional development workshops and educational talks aimed at equipping educators—often via strategies for accessible syllabus design and curricular planning—with the latest universal design principles for promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion in the classroom, especially for first-gen, multilingual, gender-nonconforming, neurodiverse, and differently abled students

Pennsylvania State University

- Invited Visitor, Program in Writing and Rhetoric (2018 – 2020)
 - “Adaptive Pedagogy Panel” (2020)
 - introduced new English composition instructors to best practices for designing curricula centered around equity, diversity, and accessibility
 - “Teaching Creative Writing in Composition” (2019)
 - led a workshop for English graduate students on approaches to and exercises for teaching creative writing modules in composition courses
 - “Article-Writing Workshop Series” (2018)
 - provided a series of lessons, tips, and workshop ideas for turning early drafts of research into essays for publication in academic journals
- President, Modernist Studies Graduate Student Organization (2018 – 2019)
 - organized funding, travel, scheduling, and all logistics for a multi-year series of professional talks, events, and special lectures for a 50-member group
- Grade Appeals Committee, Program in Writing and Rhetoric (2016 – 2019)
 - served on the English department’s Grade Appeals Committee, assessing grading standards and hearing appellate cases for undergraduates enrolled in writing, rhetoric, or composition courses at Penn State
- Mentorship Organizer, English Graduate Program (2015 – 2018)
 - helped new graduate students acclimate to the responsibilities of graduate training, offering best practices for time management in teaching, research, graduate coursework, and professional development; organizing mentorship meetings and pairings with elder scholars; and working generally as a touchstone for a diverse set of scholar-teachers acclimating to a new profession

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES & ADMINISTRATION

Digital Humanities Projects & Programs

- Department Lead, Machine Resource Learning Library (2025)

- developing a digital resource guide for the UWEC English department, with pedagogical resources for teaching digital critical literacy across English curricula as well as a series of best practices for engaging AI critically in English classrooms and teaching college writing effectively in an era of generative AI
- Contributing Member, *Network Ecologies* (2016 – 2018)
 - wrote project grants for the NEH and Penn State’s Center for Humanities and Information, winning \$10,000 in project funding; led a team of graduate assistants working on data collection/curation and an interactive graph database for exploring translation networks of the Anglo-literary marketplace
- Participant, *Digital Humanities Summer Institute* (University of Victoria, 2017)
 - enrolled in Maciej Eder’s weeklong “Stylometry with R” course, which provided a collection of R-based introductory lessons, best practices, and digital materials for using and teaching quantitative methods for text-based humanities research
- Research Assistant, Department of Comparative Literature (2016)
 - led a small team of students investigating Nobel literary styles; collected and analyzed a 100-year corpus of Nobel Prize-winning literature to assess and visualize features, trends, and predictability; oversaw independent student projects and submissions to PSU’s annual Undergraduate Research Exhibition
- DH Research Assistant, Pennsylvania State Libraries (2015)
 - assisted the DH Research Designer with departmental outreach; presented as a digital methods guest-speaker in under/graduate humanities courses; collected data and ran text analyses for several small proof-of-concept digital projects

Graduate Research Positions

- Graduate Intern, University Fellowships Office (2017)
 - helped students apply for competitive scholarships/fellowships; guided and edited student cover letters, research statements, personal philosophies, and writing samples; led weekly writing and professionalism workshops that demystified award processes for underserved students; developed those workshops into a short curriculum used variously at Penn State’s satellite campuses
- Research Assistant, Hemingway Letters Project (2016 – 2017)
 - researched and annotated volumes 4 and 5 of *The Letters of Ernest Hemingway* (ed. Sandra Spanier, Cambridge UP); coordinated daily workflow with archives, libraries, editors, scholars, and the Letters Project team

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Modern Language Association (MLA)
 Modernist Studies Association (MSA)
 American Literature Association (ALA)
 Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations (ADHO)

LINGUISTIC & TECHNICAL SKILLS

<i>Languages</i>	English (native speaker), French (reading comprehension)
<i>Proficiencies</i>	LMS (Canvas & Moodle), R, Gephi, Tableau, Markdown, Adobe Design Suite, Microsoft Office Suite

REFERENCES

University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire

Joel Pace

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Lycoming College

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Pennsylvania State University

Janet Lyon (Dissertation Director)

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Associate Professor of English and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

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