

## David Morris

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### EDUCATION

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Ph.D. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Department of English.	2012
M.A. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Department of English.	2005
B.A. University of Rochester Major: English. Minor: Music.	2003

### RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

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American Literature	Religion and Secularism
Rhetoric and Composition	Utopian Studies
Critical Theory	Film
Arab-American Literature	African-American Literature

### PUBLICATIONS

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#### Books

*Public Religions in the Future World: Post-Secularism and Utopia*  
Forthcoming December 2021 from University of Georgia Press

*Public Religions in the Future World* argues that religions energize future visions of care and community against neoliberalism. Reading texts by Carl Sagan, Tim LaHaye, Octavia Butler, Margaret Atwood, and G. Willow Wilson, *Public Religions* invites us to rethink the bases of religious identification and practice.

#### Journal Articles

“Intellect and Activism: The Secular Authority of *Left Behind*.” *Cultural Critique* 90.1 (Spring 2015): 64-87.

“‘Only a Religion Could Do It:’ Octavia Butler’s (R)evolutionary Movements for the

Twenty-First Century.” *Utopian Studies* 26.2 (fall 2015): 270-88.

### **Journal Articles in Progress**

“Job vs. Yeats: The Intrusion of Belief in the HBO series *The Leftovers*.”

*In this article, I use the three-season HBO series The Leftovers to explore a new phase of the post-secular, in which belief “intrudes” on the everyday “real” economization of neoliberalism. This article explores the colliding theological, secular, and post-secular narratives of the “Sudden Departure,” a rapture-like event that begins the series.*

“‘Men are Trouble:’ Theodicy in the Modern Alien Contact Narrative.”

*Reading Mary Doria Russell’s The Sparrow (1996), Robert Sawyer’s Calculating God (2000), and several post-2000 short stories, I argue that the “alien contact narrative” became a chief imaginative form for rethinking the theological problem of evil during the late-twentieth-century fundamentalist resurgence.*

### **In-House Publications**

Editor (with Dana Kinzy). *Instructor Guide for I-Write: Teaching First-Year Composition at Illinois*. University of Illinois Rhetoric Program, 2019.

Assistant Editor. *I-Write: A Writing Guide for the Undergraduate Rhetoric Program at the University of Illinois*. 1<sup>st</sup> Edition. Ed. Kristi McDuffie. University of Illinois Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning, 2018.

“Citing and Documenting Like a Researcher.” In *I-Write: A Writing Guide for the Undergraduate Rhetoric Program at the University of Illinois*. Ed. Kristi McDuffie. University of Illinois Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning, 2018. 114-29.

“The Rhetorical Victory of SB 1062.” Co-written with Patrick Fadely. *Kritik: A Public Forum Hosted by The Unit for Criticism and Interpretive Theory, University of Illinois*. March 2014.  
<<http://unitcrit.blogspot.com/2014/03/the-rhetorical-victory-of-sb-1062-guest.html>>

“Organizing Assemblages: Response to Frank Donoghue’s *The Last Professors: The Corporate University and the Fate of the Humanities*.” *Kritik: A Public Forum Hosted by The Unit for Criticism and Interpretive Theory, University of Illinois*. October 2009.  
<[http://unitcrit.blogspot.com/2009/10/authors-roundtable-2-response-from\\_625.html](http://unitcrit.blogspot.com/2009/10/authors-roundtable-2-response-from_625.html)>

### **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

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“Islamic Secularism in G. Willow Wilson’s *Alif the Unseen*.” American Literature

Association Conference, Boston, MA, July 2021

“Scrambled Theology: Junk Religions and Precarious Hope in Margaret Atwood’s *MaddAddam* series.” Society for Utopian Studies Conference, East Lansing, MI, October 2019.

“Poetics of the Hijab: Muslim Women’s Bodies in Secular America.” ASA, Chicago, IL, November 2017

“Competing Raptures: *Left Behind*, *The Leftovers*, and the Narratives of Secularization.” Midwest MLA, St. Louis, MO, November 2016

“Octavia Butler’s *Earthseed*: A Utopian Organization for the 1990s.” The Midwest Conference on Utopian Studies, Valparaiso, IN, March 2014.

“‘Just Give Me That Horrible Saturday’: Ritualizing Banality in the 9/11 Novel.” The American Literature Association Symposium: God and the American Writer. San Antonio, TX, February 2015

“‘Not Dwelling on Ultimate Purposes’: Utopian Humility in Margaret Atwood’s *MaddAddam* novels.” The Midwest Conference on Utopian Studies, Valparaiso, IN, March 2012.

“‘The Home of all Muslims’: Pilgrimage and the American Muslim in Mohja Kahf’s *Girl in the Tangerine Scarf*.” The Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900, Louisville, KY, 2012.

“The Epic of a World Abandoned by [The Holy Spirit]: The Postmodern Genre and Politics of *Left Behind*.” Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900, Louisville, February 2009.

## TEACHING

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### Literature and Film courses for English Majors:

Novels on Film (2015)

*An upper-level writing course for English majors that engages the history and theory of screen adaptation of the novel across the twentieth century; included set of filmic adaptations by Hitchcock, Heckerling, and Scott.*

Introduction to Literary and Cultural Study (2020, 2009, 2005)

*An introduction to methods of literary study for English majors; included a set of poems, short stories, and novels from Shakespeare to Pushkin to Zadie Smith.*

### Literature and Film courses, General Education:

Introduction to Film (2019-2021, 2017, 2014, 2013)

*An introduction to formal elements of film from cinematography to sound editing; featured films by Hitchcock, Goddard, Henzell, Rozema, Deren, Ford, and others.*

Introduction to Fiction (2015)

*A general-education introduction to formalist close-reading and historicist criticism of fiction from Herman Melville to Kate Chopin to Zadie Smith.*

Introduction to Poetry (2012)

*An introduction to genres, major movements, and performance styles of poetry; included texts from Homer to Milton to Elizabeth Bishop to Abdal-Hayy Moore.*

American Literature (2008, 2010, 2011)

*A survey of canonical and non-canonical works in American lit, beginning with John Winthrop, moving through Walt Whitman, and ending with Mohja Kahf.*

The Short Story (2006)

*An introduction to the major genres of the short story; included texts from E.T.A. Hoffmann to Katherine Mansfield to Octavia Butler.*

### **Composition and Rhetoric:**

Writing and Research (2014-2020; 18 sections)

*A freshman composition course focused on rhetorical analysis, invention of research questions, evaluating sources, writing sophisticated, researched arguments.*

Principles of Writing (2017-2018)

*A basic writing course focused on understanding arguments, differentiating academic and non-academic sources, and composing argumentative texts. Also features weekly one-on-one tutoring sessions with each student.*

Principles of Research (2018-2019)

*A basic writing course focused on rhetorical analysis, invention of research questions, evaluating sources, writing sophisticated, researched arguments. Also features weekly one-on-one tutoring sessions with each student.*

Writing @ The University of Illinois (2011-2014)

*A freshman composition course designed to help students pursue original research around the university's history, organizations, and student life.*

Principles of Composition (2003-2011)

*A composition course for first-year students built to introduce students to college-level thinking, reading, and writing.*

Advanced Composition (2005-2011)

*An advanced composition course focused on writing in disciplines and for differing audiences.*

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

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LAS Impact Award, 2021

University of Illinois College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, 2016

University of Illinois English Department Undergraduate Teaching Award, 2015

University of Illinois Undergraduate Rhetoric Program Award for Excellence in Writing Instruction, 2011

List of Teachers Ranked Excellent or Outstanding by Their Students, Univ. of Illinois (2004-present)

## **ADMINISTRATION**

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Interim Co-Director, Program in Professional Writing, 2019-present

Assistant Director, Undergraduate Rhetoric Program, 2017-19

Professional Development Coordinator, Undergraduate Rhetoric Program, 2014-15

## **SERVICE**

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### **Course Development**

Co-Developer (with Siebel Center for Design), “Science and Literature: Stories at the Limits of Possibility.” General Education Pilot Course, in progress

Co-Developer (with Kristi McDuffie), “Rhetoric 105 Online:” Moodle-hosted Online First-Year Composition pilot course, 2017-18

### **Lecture Series Organization**

Co-Creator and Organizer (with Mary Lucille Hays), “The New Academy” Lecture and Podcast Series, 2017-present

Co-Creator and Organizer (with Gail Hapke), “Research Off the Tenure Track” Lecture Series, 2014-15

### **Selected Committee Service**

Senator, Faculty-Student Senate, 2019-2021  
Committee on Specialized Faculty, 2018-2019  
Advisory Committee to the Department Head, 2016-2018; 2019-2020  
Film Studies Committee, 2015-2016  
Curriculum Committee, 2014-2015

## **ASSESSMENT AND CONSULTING**

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Sample Selection and Table Leader, AP English Literature Exam (2020)

Table Leader, AP English Literature Exam (2014-2017)

University of Illinois Rhetoric Program First-Year Composition Assessment (2014)

Reader, AP English Literature Exam (2009-2013)

Consultant, Bellevue, WA Central School District #405 (2006-2009)

Rater, GRE Exam: Analytical Writing Section (2008-2012)