

DANICA STERUD MILLER

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Department of English, Fordham University, New York July 2013

Dissertation: “The (Post) Colonial State of Indian Country: Native American Literary Responses to Federal Law”

Committee: Maria Farland (Director), Leonard Cassuto, and Granville Ganter

This project analyzes how various works by Native American writers—including Mourning Dove, D’arcy McNickle, Louise Erdrich, Leslie Marmon Silko, and Sherman Alexie—engage the ways in which federal laws attempt to limit Native American tribal sovereignty. These writers portray Native American characters who use their unique socio-political position to contest legal marginalization and actualize new modes of identity. Each of my chapters pinpoints a moment at which Native Americans draw upon distinctive cultures and histories—family clan structures, oral tradition, communal land—in order to formulate resistance.

M.Phil, Department of English, Fordham University, New York 2007
English with a concentration in Early American literature and Native American Literature.

M.A. Department of English, Fordham University, New York 2006

B.A. English Literature, Western Washington University 2000
Minor degrees in Classics and Linguistics

International TEFL Certificate (ITC), Prague, Czech Republic 1998

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Alumni Dissertation Fellowship, Fordham University 2012-2013
• University-wide competitive award providing full financial support

Newberry Fellow, Newberry Library 2008-2009
• Funded research at the D’Arcy McNickle Center at the Newberry Library, Chicago.

Summer Research Fellowship, Fordham University 2009

Presidential Scholar, Fordham University 2006-2009

PUBLICATIONS

“You See, In Many Ways, the Ceremonies Have Always Been Changing’: Determining Sovereignty in Leslie Marmon Silko’s *Ceremony* and Sherman Alexie’s *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*.” Under Review at *Studies in American Indian Literature*.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Washington Tacoma
Assistant Professor of Indigenous Studies

Present

American Indian Literature

- This course introduces students to both traditional and contemporary Native American literature with an emphasis on the transition between oral and written narratives. Among other voices, we read works by Vi Hilbert, Robert Allen Warrior, and Red Jacket.

Contemporary Native American Art, Literature, and Film (VLPA)

- We analyze contemporary interpretations of the Native American experience and discuss how the experience is shaped by history and culture. How is Native American art influenced by tradition, yet influenced and inspired by the present? We analyze the transition between oral tales to more contemporary formats.

Native American Literature and Federal Law

- This class examines how the intersection of federal law and Native American sovereignty is engaged in Native American literature. Texts include Louise Erdrich’s *The Bingo Palace*, N. Scott Momaday’s *House Made of Dawn*, and D’Arcy McNickle’s *The Surrounded*.

University of Connecticut Instructor-in-Residence
Instructor-in-Residence

2010-2012

Introduction to Native American Literature

- In this course, we examine both traditional and contemporary texts by Native American authors.

Northwest Tribal Traditions

- This writing intensive course focuses on various northwest tribes, analyzing both their pre-contact and contemporary culture. Lectures include a two-week lesson on Lushootseed, the Salish language indigenous to the location, as well as a lengthy study of northwest tribal art, and a consideration of current tribal political issues.

Film Representations of Native Americans

- This course investigates the evolving relationship between Native Americans and cinema through a historical analysis of how and why Native American stereotypes have evolved.

The course ends with a six-week segment on contemporary Native American filmmakers and their works. Films include *Powwow Highway*, *The Fast Runner*, and *Skins*.

Introduction to Native American Literature and Film

- This contemporary course examines the various ways that Native American writers and artists are currently expressing themselves. We analyze Native American perspectives by listening to oral stories, reading graphic tales, and screening films. Works include *Playing Indian*, *Smoke Signals*, and *Trickster: Native American Tales: A Graphic Collection*.

Introduction to Film Genre

- This course examines the development of different genres of film both within and beyond the Hollywood tradition.

Introduction to the Short Story

- In this class, we look at how the shorter works of various authors—including Sherman Alexie, Alice Walker, and Herman Melville—were influenced by their historical contexts.

American Literature Since 1860

- An introduction to American literature through both short stories and novels. Texts include *Daisy Miller*, *The Woman Warrior*, and *Fun Home*.

**Fordham University
Teaching Fellow**

2006-2009

Composition and Rhetoric

- A rigorous course based on the classical trivium of grammar, logic, and rhetoric. Students explore the connection between writing and thinking as they prepare short essays and longer, research-orientated papers.

Close Reading and Critical Writing

- This course introduces students to literature through an analysis of various texts and critical schools. Texts have included *The Bluest Eye*, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, and *Ceremony*.

Basic Writing

- This class prepares students for writing at the academic level. Special attention to non-traditional and EFL students.

HEOP (Higher Education Opportunity Program)

- Tutored university students from disadvantaged backgrounds in a variety of subjects, including English, History, Philosophy, and Psychology
- Delivered monthly lectures on *Close Reading* to HEOP students at various university levels.

Lingua Centrum, ESL Teacher. Olomouc, Czech Republic 2001

- I taught ESL using the comprehensive method of language acquisition to students of all levels.

SPUSA, ESL Teacher. Prague, Czech Republic 1998-2001

- Taught ESL to students of all levels.
- Taught at Radio Free Europe during the 1999 teaching year. My classes consisted of students from many post-communist nationalities and native languages.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Native American Literature
 Federal Law and Native American Sovereignty
 Native American Film
 Post-Colonial Theory
 19th and 20th Century American Literature
 Rhetoric and Composition

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“The Trickster and the Federal Narrative in Louise Erdrich’s *Tracks*.” Northeast Modern Language Association, Harrisburg, April 2014.

“Salish Education and Colonial punishment in D’Arcy McNickle’s *The Surrrounded*.” Northeast Modern Language Association, Boston, March 2013.

“‘Laughter and Tears are Pretty Much the Same Thing’: Humor as Resistance in Sherman Alexie’s *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*.” Northeast Modern Language Association, Rochester, NY, March 2012.

“Mourning Dove’s *Cogewea: Mixed Blood and Colonial Identity*.” Northeast Modern Language Association, Boston, February, 2009.

Panel Chair/Organizer: “Post-colonial Readings of Native American Literature.” Northeast Modern Language Association, Boston, February, 2009.

“The Reconstruction of Place and Family in Louise Erdrich’s *Tracks*.” Midwest Modern Language Association, Minneapolis, November, 2008.

“‘Follow Your Leader’: Narrative Power and the Power of Authority in Herman Melville’s *Benito Cereno*.” Popular Culture Association Convention, Boston, April, 2007.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Faculty Advisor, Native American Cultural Society, University of Connecticut, 2010-2012

LANGUAGES STUDIED

German, Czech, and Lushootseed.

REFERENCES

Leonard Cassuto, Professor of English, Fordham University
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Daniel Contreras, Associate Professor of English and Associate Chair, Fordham University
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Maria Farland, Associate Professor of English, Fordham University
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Anna Mae Duane, Associate Professor of English and Director of American Studies,
University of Connecticut
anna.duane@uconn.edu

Wayne Franklin, Professor of English and Department Chair, University of Connecticut
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Granville Ganter, Associate Professor of English, St. John's University
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Moshe Gold, Associate Professor of English and Director of Writing Program, Fordham
University.
mgold@fordham.edu