

BENJAMIN D. UTTER Ph.D.

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Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in English, University of Minnesota, 2016
Minor concentration in Medieval Studies

M.A. in English, Wake Forest University, 2008
Thesis: “‘A dark rose of sunset between tree and tree’: Landscape Imagery
in the Arthurian of Charles Williams”

B.A. in English and Political Science, Ouachita Baptist University, 2002

DISSERTATION

“Fawty and Falce”: *Sin, Sanctity, and the Heroics of Devotion in Late-Medieval English Literature*. Committee: Rebecca Krug (chair), Andrew Scheil, John Watkins, Siobhan Craig.

POSITIONS HELD

Assistant Professor, Ouachita Baptist University (Fall 2019- present)
Visiting Assistant Professor, Ouachita Baptist University (Fall 2017- Spring 2019)
Middle School Instructor, Episcopal Collegiate School, Little Rock, AR (2016-17)
Graduate Instructor and Teaching Assistant, University of Minnesota (2009-2016)
Adjunct Instructor, Forsyth Technical Community College, Winston Salem, NC (2008-09)
Adjunct Instructor, Mitchell Community College, Statesville, NC (2008-09)
Tutor, Wake Forest University Writing Center, Winston Salem, NC (2006-08)
Visiting Assistant Professor, Yantai University, China (2002-03)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Arthuriana; Charles Williams and Inklings studies; medieval hagiography; ecclesiastical history; American Christianity; health humanities; film studies

COURSES TAUGHT

Composition

Composition I
Composition II: “Narratives of Illness and (Sometimes) Healing” (Medical Humanities emphasis for science majors)
Intro. to Technical Writing

Literature

Senior Seminar: Arthurian Legend
Introduction to Literature
Introduction English Studies
Early British Literature
Chaucer
Shakespeare
C.S. Lewis Seminar
Literary Criticism
Introduction to World Literature
Literature-Based Research Methods (both online and regular course sections)

Liberal Arts

Argument-Based Research
OBU Connections: “Mind Your Head: Learning in an Age of Digital Distraction & Discord”

Individual Directed Studies

Creative Writing and the Christian Imagination
Medieval Women’s Saints Lives and Modern Evangelical Feminism
Survey of English and American Horror Fiction
The Fostering and Adoption Movement in American Evangelical Christianity

PUBLICATIONS

“Accessories Included: Armed Christians and the Mythos of Heroic Violence,” *Review & Expositor*, Aug. 2020.

Co-Editor of Vol. 117, issue 3 on “Bullets, Baptists, and the Bible,” for *Review & Expositor*, Aug. 2020.

“‘What does the line along the rivers define?’: The Rhetoric of Empire in Charles Williams’s Arthurian Poetry,” in *The Inklings and King Arthur*, Søren Higgins, ed. Apocryphile Press, 2017.

“Gawain and Goliath: Davidic Parallels and the Problem of Penance in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*.” *Comitatus*, 44 (2013) 121-155.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 “The Poetics of Rot: Medieval Appropriation and the Grotesque in John Fuller’s *Flying to Nowhere*.” Paper presented at the International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, May.
- 2017 “Living ‘between the worlds’: Reflections on Competing Cultural Commitments,” paper presented at the 5th Biennial Meeting of the BABEL Working Group, on Make/Risk/Work, University of Nevada, Reno, October.
- 2015 “‘Hawking and hunting is but an accessory thing’: Triathlon, Dissertating, and other Vain Pursuits.” Paper presented at the 4th Biennial Meeting of the BABEL Working Group, University of Toronto, October
- “Malory’s Secular Pelagianism: Worshyp, Will, and Heroic Destiny in the *Morte Darthur*.” Paper presented at the International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, May
- 2014 “‘mech tribulacyon for cawse of hys wrytyng’: The Apostolic Exemplarity of Saint Paul in *The Book of Margery Kempe*.” International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, May
- 2013 “The Medieval Book in the Schools Outreach Project.” Community education project report delivered to University of Minnesota Center for Medieval Studies 25th Anniversary Conference: Teaching & Learning in the Middle Ages, November
- 2012 “Teaching in an Age of Digital Distraction & Constant Connectivity.” Instructors’ Symposium on Engaging Student Writers: Writing, Reading, and Technology, at University of Minnesota, May
- “The Obdurate Nature of Penance: Davidic Parallels in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*.” Third Annual Skeiron Synod Conference, Hosted by Medieval and Early Modern Research Group, University of Minnesota, April
- 2011 “‘Though he bere hem no breed’: Allegory, Altruism, and the Problem of Poverty in Langland’s England.” Tenth Annual Vagantes Medieval Graduate Student Conference, University of Pittsburgh, PA, March
- “‘Tell no one what you’ve seen!’: Vanity and Secrecy in the Prose Lives of Cuthbert.” Newberry Library Center for Renaissance Studies Multidisciplinary Graduate Student Conference, Chicago, IL, January
- “Changing for the Better: Transfiguration and Sanctification in *Guthlac A*.” International Congress in Medieval Studies, at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, May
- 2008 “Grounds for Appreciation: Landscape and Emotion in the Icelandic Sagas.” Ninth Annual North Carolina Colloquium in Medieval and Early Modern Studies,

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, February

INVITED TALKS

- 2014 “in ‘kindly Christendom’: Fate and Causality in J.R.R. Tolkien’s *The Fall of Arthur*,” delivered to the Rivendell Discussion Group. Sponsored by the Southeast Community Library of Minneapolis (September)
- 2013 “The Problem of Penance in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*.” Two Short Talks by Wake Forest Alumnae, co-sponsored by Medieval Studies and the Department of English at Wake Forest University, Winston Salem, NC (November)

CAMPUS & DEPARTMENTAL TALKS

- 2019 “Tales from Summer Camp: Mentorship and Vocational Discernment.” presented to the Faculty Colloquium, Ouachita Baptist University.
- 2018 “How (and Whether!) to Apply to Graduate School in the Humanities,” presented to the Ouachita Baptist University chapter of Sigma Tau Delta
- “On Charles Williams’s ‘Bors to Elayne: On the King’s Coins,’” presented at *Poetry 101*, Ouachita Baptist University.
- 2017 “The poetry and Arthurian imagination of Charles Williams,” presented to the Faculty Colloquium, Ouachita Baptist University
- “On Philip Larkin’s ‘An Arundel Tomb,’” presented at *Poetry 101*, Ouachita Baptist University.
- “An Experiment in Memorization,” presented at chapel, Episcopal Collegiate School, Little Rock, AR

PROFESSIONAL & UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2020 Member of hiring search committee, Dept. of Language and Literature.
- Member of leadership team to help administer the NetVUE grant for “Discerning Vocation through Writing” of \$37,309, to be administered over two years between May 2020 and May 2022.
- 2019-present Director of OBU College Society of undergraduate scholars.
- Contributed “The Heart of Meaningful Study in Interdisciplinary Studies,” an essay in *The Heart of Our Work: Stories of Meaningful Studies in Liberal Arts. A Collection of Essays by Ouachita Baptist University Faculty*. Henderson, Trennis, et al, editors. Ouachita Baptist University, 2019.

- 2017 Co-Organizer, “Here I am, stuck in the middle with you,” a special session on faith commitments and secular scholarship at the 5th Biennial Meeting of the BABEL Working Group on Make/Risk/Work, University of Nevada, Reno
- 2016-17 Director of Writing Center, Episcopal Collegiate School, Little Rock, AR
- 2015 Co-Organizer, Special Session on “The Sweaty Scholar.” 4th Biennial Meeting of the BABEL Working Group, University of Toronto
- 2014 Organizer, Session on “Saint Paul: Reception, Representation, and Influence in the Middle Ages.” International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University
- 2013 Teaching Mentor, New Graduate Instructor Orientation. University of Minnesota
- 2012-15 Coordinator; classroom presenter for *Making a Medieval Book in K-12 Schools Community Education Program*, sponsored by the Center for Medieval Studies at the University of Minnesota
- 2010-12 President; Vice President of Medieval and Early Modern Research Group, University of Minnesota
- 2011 Co-Organizer, 2nd Annual Skeiron Synod, hosted by Medieval and Early Modern Research Group, University of Minnesota
- 2010-12 Graduate Student Organization representative to English Faculty Graduate Studies Committee, University of Minnesota
- 2000-02 Chair, Academic Integrity Committee, Ouachita Baptist University (2000-2002)

LANGUAGES

Old English (proficient reading); Middle English (proficient reading); Latin (proficient if very slow reading); German (reading knowledge); Spanish (reading knowledge); Mandarin Chinese (intermediate speaking)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Medieval Academy of America
Modern Language Association
International Arthurian Society, North America Chapter
Charles Williams Society

HONORS & GRANTS

- 2018 Selected as Ouachita Baptist University representative at the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE) Seminar on Teaching Vocational Exploration, to be held in 2019

- 2014-15 University of Minnesota Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship.
- 2014 Samuel Holt Monk Memorial Prize for Published Scholarship, awarded by University of Minnesota Department of English faculty for “Gawain and Goliath: Davidic Parallels and the Problem of Penance in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*,” published in *Comitatus*
- 2011-13 Three-time nominee for Outstanding Instructor Award for First-Year Writing, University of Minnesota
- 2010 University of Minnesota Center for Medieval Studies grant to attend Minnesota Manuscript Research Laboratory, an Introduction to Codicology and Paleography, at the Hill Library and Manuscript Museum, St. John’s University, Collegeville, MN
- 2008 Gordon A. Melson Outstanding Graduate Student Travel Award, Wake Forest University
- 2006-08 Merit-Based Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Wake Forest University
- 2002 Faculty-selected “Outstanding Senior Man” of Ouachita Baptist University graduating class of 2002

EXTRA-ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Gladys the Grayish Green Dragon. An illustrated children’s book. Bowen Press, 2017.

Co-creator, senior editor, and contributor to [Vital](#), a web-based health humanities magazine.

REFERENCES

Dr. David B. Perkinson
Head of School
Episcopal Collegiate School
1701 Cantrell Road
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
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Dr. Rebecca Krug
Professor of English
University of Minnesota
207 Lind Hall
207 Church St. SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455
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Dr. Scott Gregory Lien
Teacher, Middle School History
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