### ALEXANDER MENRISKY Curriculum Vitae

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#### **APPOINTMENTS**

2021-Present	Assistant Professor   University of Connecticut Department of English American Studies
2018–2021	Lecturer   University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Department of English & Communication First-Year English Program Honors College
2012–2018	Instructor   University of Kentucky Department of English Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies
<b>EDUCATION</b>	
2014–2018	PhD, English   University of Kentucky

2014–2018	PhD, English   University of Kentucky
2012–2014	MA, English   University of Kentucky Graduate Certificate in Social Theory
2008–2012	<b>BS</b> , Journalism ( <i>summa cum laude</i> )   Honors Tutorial College, Ohio University Undergraduate Minors in English & French

#### **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

American cultures from 1900 to present, multiethnic literatures of the United States, environmental humanities, writing studies, gender studies and queer theory, critical race and Indigenous studies.

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Books**

<u>Wild Abandon: American Literature and the Identity Politics of Ecology</u>. Cambridge University Press, 2021.

Everyday Ecofascism: Contemporary Narratives of Crisis and Consumption. Introduction and three of five chapters drafted.

#### **Book Chapters**

- "Embracing Identity in the Climate Classroom." *An Existential Toolkit for Climate Justice Educators*, edited by Sarah Jaquette Ray and Jennifer Atkinson. Publication forthcoming.
- "Edward Abbey's Misanthropic Vision of Sustainability." *Palgrave Global Handbook of Sustainability*, edited by Robert Brinkmann, Palgrave Macmillan, 2022. Solicited by the editor.

#### **Peer-Reviewed Articles**

"Hicks, Homos, and Home Cooking: Literary Recipes in Queer Appalachia." *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, vol. 28, no. 3, 2022.

- "The Reluctant Environmentalist: Finding Evidence of Injustice in James Wright's Ambivalent Writing of Place and Identity." *Resilience: A Journal of the Environmental Humanities*, vol. 9, no. 1, 2022, pp. 37–55.
- "Hallucinogenic Ecology and Psychoanalytic Prehistory in Margaret Atwood." *Mosaic, an Interdisciplinary Critical Journal*, vol. 52, no. 3, 2019, pp. 19–36.
- "The Ecological Alternative: Edward Abbey, the New Left, and Environmental Authenticity." *Criticism: A Quarterly for Literature and the Arts*, vol. 61, no. 1, 2019, pp. 51–71.
- "The Natural Death of Alexander Supertramp: Ecological Selfhood and the Freudian Rhetoric of *Into the Wild.*" *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*, vol. 26, no. 1, 2019, pp. 46–64.

#### **Digital Projects**

Against the Ecofascist Creep. Web zine and teaching resource. Hosted by the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE), 2022. (With April Anson, Cassie Galentine, Shane Hall, and Bruno Seraphin.)

https://www.asle.org/teaching\_resources/against-the-ecofascist-creep/

>> Featured in Gaye Taylor, "Webzine Uses Comic Strip Characters to Counter Creeping Ecofascism," *The Energy Mix*, June 2022.

 $\underline{\text{https://www.theenergymix.com/2022/06/05/webzine-uses-comic-strip-characters-to-counter-creeping-ecofascism/}$ 

### **Public-Facing Articles**

- "Stemming the Creep of Ecofascism: A Primer." Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE), May 2022. (With April Anson, Cassie Galentine, Shane Hall, and Bruno Seraphin.) <a href="https://www.asle.org/features/stemming-the-creep-of-ecofascism-a-primer/">https://www.asle.org/features/stemming-the-creep-of-ecofascism-a-primer/</a>
- "Webzine 'Against the Ecofascist Creep' Smashes Dangerous Delusions." *Deceleration*, May 2022. (With April Anson, Cassie Galentine, Shane Hall, and Bruno Seraphin.) <a href="https://deceleration.news/2022/05/19/against-the-ecofascist-creep/">https://deceleration.news/2022/05/19/against-the-ecofascist-creep/</a>
- "How Being an Environmentalist Became an Identity." *Edge Effects* Magazine, February 2021. <a href="https://edgeeffects.net/alex-menrisky-environmentalist-vocabulary/">https://edgeeffects.net/alex-menrisky-environmentalist-vocabulary/</a>
- "Eco vs. Ego: Environmentalism, Identity, and Psychological Vocabulary." *Fifteen Eighty Four: Academic Perspectives from Cambridge University Press*, December 2020.

  <a href="http://www.cambridgeblog.org/2020/12/eco-vs-ego-environmentalism-identity-and-psychological-vocabulary/">http://www.cambridgeblog.org/2020/12/eco-vs-ego-environmentalism-identity-and-psychological-vocabulary/</a>
- "The Vocabularies We've Inherited." Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE), December 2020.
  - $\frac{https://www.asle.org/features/modern-environmentalisms-identity-politics-or-the-vocabularies-weve-inherited/?fbclid=IwAR2JRlmU4S1a1Bi5T4WmAddwQ6yNqV3ndxiLp82E65FFtDwevv\_taIUYsRg$
  - >> Featured on the Network in Canadian History & Environment's (NiCHE) "Environmental History Worth Reading" list as one of 2020's "most popular and significant environmental history articles." https://niche-canada.org/2021/01/12/envhist-worth-reading-december-2020/

"Can a Shaman Cure My Fear of Normalcy?" and Other Curveballs." Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States (MELUS) Blog, June 2019.

<a href="https://melusteachingblog.wordpress.com/2019/06/06/can-a-shaman-cure-my-fear-of-normalcy-and-other-curveballs/">https://melusteachingblog.wordpress.com/2019/06/06/can-a-shaman-cure-my-fear-of-normalcy-and-other-curveballs/</a>

"Embracing Identity in the Environmental Classroom." *Edge Effects* Magazine, January 2019. <a href="http://edgeeffects.net/environmental-identity-in-the-classroom/">http://edgeeffects.net/environmental-identity-in-the-classroom/</a>

#### **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

### **Conference Proceedings**

- "Intergenerational Environmental Humanities." Modern Language Association (MLA). San Francisco, CA, January 2023. (Upcoming.)
- "Against the Ecofascist Creep: A Collaborative Digital Resource." Modern Language Association (MLA), Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE) Session. San Francisco, CA, January 2023. (Upcoming.)
- "Ecotopia's Enclosures: Consumption, Borders, and 'Natural Law." American Studies Association (ASA). New Orleans, LA, November 2022. (Upcoming.)
- "Reasons to Care: Appalachian Poetry's Evidence of Injustice amid Political Ambivalence." Northeast Modern Language Association (NEMLA), Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE) Session. Baltimore, MD, March 2022.
- "Everyday Ecofascism." Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE). Virtual, July 2021.
- "Interdisciplinarity and Community Engagement in the Environmental Justice Classroom: A Sample Assignment Arc." Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE). Virtual, July 2021.
- "Fascist Foodstuffs: Settler Colonialism and Representations of Consumption." Modern Language Association (MLA), Western Literature Association (WLA) Session. Virtual, January 2021.
- "American Environmentalism's Identity Politics." Modern Language Association (MLA), Race and Ethnicity Session. Virtual, January 2021.
- "Hicks, Homos, and Home Cooking: Appalachian Environmentalism and Queer Literary Culture." Modern Language Association (MLA). Seattle, WA, January 2020.
- "Psychedelic Primitives, Prelinguistic Myths, and the Poetry of Simon Ortiz." MELUS: The Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States. Cincinnati, OH, March 2019.
- "The Identity Politics of Ecology: Postwar Literature, Radical Psychoanalysis, and the Authentication of American Environmentalism." The Futures of American Studies Institute, Dartmouth College. Hanover, NH, June 2018.
- "The Hallucinogenic Oceans of the Mind': Ecology, Catastrophe, and *The Year of the Flood*'s Psychedelic Language of Decay." Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE). Detroit, MI, June 2017.
- "Queer Ecology and Psychoanalytic History." Modern Language Association (MLA). Philadelphia, PA, January 2017.

"Abbey's Alternative: Nature, Self, and Civilization after the American New Left." American Literature Association (ALA), Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE) Session. San Francisco, CA, May 2016.

- "Into the Wild's Psychoanalytic Ecologies." Midwest Modern Language Association (MMLA), Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE) Session. Columbus, OH, November 2015.
- "Family Portraiture: *The House of the Seven Gables*' Uncanny American Identities." South Central Modern Language Association (SCMLA). Nashville, TN, October 2015.
- "Myth and Masculinity in American Literature and Culture." Louisville Conference on Literature since 1900. Louisville, KY, February 2014.

#### **Invited Talks**

- "American Environmentalism's Identity Politics." Department of American Studies, Fordham University. Virtual, March 2021.
- "Everyday Ecofascism." Department of English, University of Connecticut. Virtual, February 2021.
- "Performing Ecological Attachments." Roundtable and workshop in collaboration with performance artists. Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present (ASAP). College Park, MD, October 2019.
- "The Walking Cure: The Environmentalist Afterlives of Political Psychoanalysis." Cincinnati Association for Psychoanalytic Thought. Cincinnati, OH, June 2019.
- "Black Writers and the Identity Politics of Ecology." English Department, Missouri Southern State University. Joplin, MO, February 2019.
- "University English and the Job Market Today." English Graduate Student Organization, University of Kentucky. Lexington, KY, February 2018.
- "State of Nature Skepticism: Toni Morrison and the Identity Politics of Ecology." Urbana University. Urbana, OH, January 2018.

### **Institutional Presentations**

- "What Is Ecofascism? Nature, Nation, and Rhetorical Effect." University of Connecticut Department of English "Brown Bag" Work-in-Progress Series. Virtual, February 2022.
- "Understanding Ecofascism." Queer Scholars Series, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. Virtual, March 2021.
- "An Introduction to Environmental Injustice." Honors College, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. Virtual, October 2020.

## **Session Organization and Moderation**

- Panel Organizer (with Sarah Dimick, Harvard University), "Intergenerational Environmental Humanities." Modern Language Association (MLA). San Francisco, CA, January 2023.
- Panel Organizer, "Everyday Ecofascism: Representation and Resistance." Modern Language Association (MLA), Western Literature Association (WLA) Session. Toronto, ON, January 2021.
- Panel Chair, "Writing Women's Lives." KY Gender and Women's Studies Conference. Lexington, KY, September 2017.

- Panel Chair, "Post Humanist." International Conference on Narrative. Lexington, KY, April 2017.
- Panel Organizer, "Antisocial Ecologies." Modern Language Association (MLA). Philadelphia, PA, January 2017.
- Area Chair, "Psychology and Literature." South Central Modern Language Association (SCMLA). Dallas, TX, October 2016.
- Panel Organizer, "Contemporary Perspectives on Psychoanalytic Theory in Literature and Culture." Louisville Conference on Literature since 1900. Louisville, KY, January 2014.

#### **INTERVIEWS**

- "Thanos Was an Ecofascist (But You Don't Have to Be)." *Deceleration*, July 2022. Podcast episode. (With April Anson, Cassie Galentine, Shane Hall, and Bruno Seraphin.) https://soundcloud.com/gharman/thanos-is-an-ecofascist
- "New Books in Environmental Studies: Wild Abandon: American Literature and the Identity Politics of Ecology." New Books Network, August 2021. Podcast episode. <a href="https://newbooksnetwork.com/wild-abandon">https://newbooksnetwork.com/wild-abandon</a>
- "The Ego and the Eco: Alex Menrisky and the Identity Politics of Ecology." *ASLE EcoCast*, April 2021. Podcast episode. http://asleecocast.podbean.com/
- "Alexander Menrisky: Scholar of the Month." *Association for the Study of Literature and Environment* (ASLE), July 2020. Print interview. https://www.asle.org/stay-informed/scholar-of-month/alexander-menrisky-july-2020-scholar-of-the-month/

#### SELECTED AWARDS, HONORS, AND GRANTS

2022	Provost's General Education Course Enhancement Grant   University of Connecticut
2021	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Climate, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Grant (with El Instituto and other faculty)   University of Connecticut
2021	Robert G. Darst University Honors College Service Award   University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
2020-2021	Service-Learning Faculty Fellow   University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
2020	Scholar of the Month   Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE)
2020	Professional Equity Grant   Conference on College Composition and Communication
2019	Honors College Development Fellowship   University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
2017	Dissertation Writing Fellowship   University of Kentucky, College of Arts and Sciences
2017	Ellershaw Award for an Outstanding PhD Candidate   University of Kentucky, English Department
2017	Nominee, Presidential Fellowship   University of Kentucky
2016	Honoree, Alpha Sigma Phi Selfless Professor Reception   University of Kentucky

2016	Summer Research Fellowship   University of Kentucky, English Department
2016	Excellence in Teaching Award   University of Kentucky, Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies
2016	Finalist, Jean G. Pival Outstanding Writing Teaching Assistant Award   University of Kentucky
2012-2014	Daniel R. Reedy Quality Achievement Award (3 times)   University of Kentucky
2012	Dean's Citation for Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis   Ohio University
2012	Second Place, Ohio University Research and Creative Expo
2009–2011	Dean's Discretionary Fund Grant (4 times)   Ohio University
2010	Provost's Research Fund Grant   Ohio University

#### **COURSES**

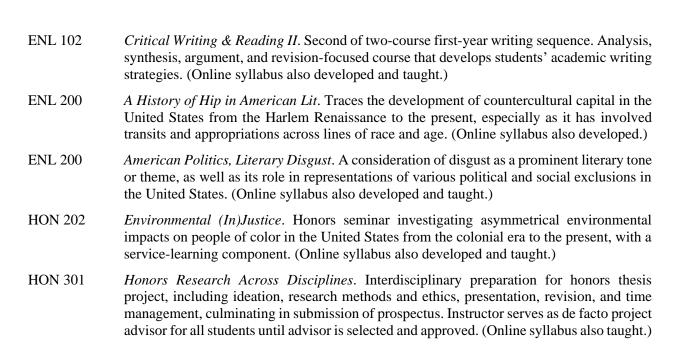
(Includes courses taught and/or developed for inclusion in catalog.)

#### **University of Connecticut**

- ENGL 2049W Writing through Research. Course devoted to considering and putting into practice the differences between, uses of, and methods for primary and secondary research, as well as writing new arguments in conversation with existing ones.
- ENGL 2055WE Writing, Rhetoric, and Environment. Course centered on analysis of and community-based practice in writing about complex environmental phenomena and issues for non-specialist audiences, with attention to questions of rhetoric, representation, and ethics.
- ENGL 2635E *Literature and the Environment*. An introduction to human relationships with environment through the lens of literature, with an eye specifically toward how ideas about "nature," race, and gender have influenced each other in an American context.
- ENGL 3003W *Writing about Climate*. Topical seminar in writing studies that explores the rhetorical challenges of writing about climate for a general audience and puts into practice strategies for communicating climate changes effectively.
- ENGL 3xxxEW *Environmental Justice Writing*. Seminar that investigates writing across a variety of genres in response to asymmetrical environmental impacts on working-class and people of color in the United States. Community-oriented writing-intensive version also developed.
- ENGL 6850 *Keywords in American Studies: Nature*. Rigorous historical and literary examination of the cultural work performed by competing definitions of the term "nature," especially as the concept organizes social identities and hierarchies along vectors such as race, gender, sexuality, and disability, and variably links them to nonhuman environment.

#### **University of Massachusetts Dartmouth**

- ENL 099 *Critical Writing & Reading Workshop*. Provides added developmental support for students in ENL 101.
- ENL 101 *Critical Writing & Reading I.* First of two-course first-year writing sequence. Analysis and synthesis-focused course that introduces students to academic reading comprehension and writing strategies. (Online and honors syllabi also developed and taught.)



### University of Kentucky

- ENG 230 *Introduction to Literature: The Walking Cure*. Examines American wilderness narratives from the early twentieth century to the present, especially as they have encoded cultural assumptions about race, gender, and nation.
- ENG 251 Survey of American Literature to 1865. Survey of American literature from pre-Columbian texts through the Civil War, covering key literary developments during the period and the social conditions in which they occurred—namely, colonization, the revolution, slavery, emancipation, and the emergence of women's rights. (Teaching assistant.)
- WRD 110 *Composition & Communication I.* First of two-course first-year multimodal writing sequence. Emphasizes critical thinking and information literacy in an academic context.
- WRD 111 Composition & Communication II. Second of two-course first-year multimodal writing sequence. Develops writing skills by focusing on a single research project in which students explore an issue of public concern and compose and communicate an argument about it in written, oral, and visual modes. (Online syllabus also developed and taught.)
- WRD 112 *Accelerated Composition & Communication*. A compressed version of the two-course multimodal first-year writing sequence (WRD 110 and 111).
  - >> "Feminist Alliance" film project by students Sydney Hendrix, Archana Jeeji, Carson Mullins, and Kristen North selected for publication in 2017 WRD Spring Writing Gallery.
- WRD 203 *Business Writing*. Instruction in writing and research for business and government workplaces, with emphasis on communicating with multiple audiences in a variety of professional situations from an ethical stakeholder (rather than shareholder) perspective.
  - >> "Kentucky Farm Chain" web project by students Sara Newman, Megan Semall, and Carmen Siguenza received Honorable Mention for Group Digital Project at the 2016 WRD Excellence in Composition awards.

WRD 204 *Technical Writing*. Instruction and experience in writing for science and technology, with emphasis on clarity, conciseness, and effectiveness in preparing letters, memos, and reports for specific audiences. (Online syllabus also developed and taught.)

## **Invited Teaching**

2021	Literature and the Environment (ENGL 250, California State University Fullerton). Invited by Nicole Seymour. Unit on ecofascism and environmental justice.
2020	American Environmental Writing (ENL 357, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth). Invited by Jerry Blitefield. Unit on Indigenous American environmentalisms.
2016	Queer Literature (GWS 300, University of Kentucky). Invited by Carol Mason. Unit on transnational queer fiction in Eastern Europe.

### MENTORSHIP

#### **Graduate Students**

2022-Present	Major Advisor, Leon Perniciaro (PhD, English, University of Connecticut)
2022-Present	Associate Advisor, Kyle Barron (PhD, English, University of Connecticut)
2022-Present	Associate Advisor, Lindsay Hunnicutt (PhD, English, University of Connecticut)
2022	Reader, Dan Pfeiffer, "Striving Artists: New York City, Neoliberalism, and the Twenty-First Century Art Novel" (PhD dissertation, English, University of Connecticut)

### **Undergraduate Students**

2022–2023 Advisor, Victoria Zucco (Honors thesis, English & Environmental Studies, University of Connecticut)

### **SERVICE**

Institutional	(University of Connecticut)
2022-Present	English Department Graduate Application Review
2021-Present	English Department Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee
2021-Present	English Department Graduate Job Market Committee
2021-Present	Edwin Way Teale Award for Nature Writing Prize Committee
2021-Present	Academic Adviser, Department of English
2021–2022	El Instituto Graduate Student Retention Working Group (funded by a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Climate, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Grant)
Institutional	(University of Massachusetts Dartmouth)
2021	First-Year English Peer Observation Reform Working Group
2021	Organizer, Office of Faculty Development Reading Group

2020–2021	Honors College Curriculum Committee
2020–2021	Program Coordinator, Honors College "Research Roundtable" Speaker Series
2020–2021	Academic Adviser, Arts & Sciences Undeclared
2018-2021	First-Year English Curriculum Assessment/Development Committee
2020	Office of Faculty Development Online Pedagogy Working Group, Honors College Rep
2020	Inaugural Honors College Faculty/Curriculum Development Committee
2020	Professional Development Session: "Tour My Course" (campus-wide instructional support during COVID-19 pandemic)
2020	English Department advising data collection and analysis
2020	"Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship in the UMass Dartmouth Honors College" Pedagogical Resource Development Working Group
2019–2020	First-Year English Accelerated Learning Program Working Group
2018-2020	Chair, College Now Entrance Essay Review Committee
2019	Pilot Instructor, First-Year English Accelerated Learning Program
2019	Organizer, American Studies Student Reading Group
2018–2019	University Studies Writing Curriculum Committee
Institutional	(University of Kentucky)
2017	Consultant, Dissertation Bootcamp
2017	Professional Development Session: Proposing a Panel at an International Conference.
2016–2017	Treasurer, English Graduate Student Organization
2015–2017	Instructor, "FastTrack" summer sequence in Composition & Communication
2015–2016	Administrative Assistant, Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies
2012-2013	Consultant, Writing Center
Professional	
2022–Present	Manuscript Reviewer, MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States
2021-Present	Member, Northeast MLA (NeMLA) Diversity Caucus
2021–Present	Manuscript Reviewer, Ecocene
2018–Present	Creator and Curator, Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE) Teaching Resource Bank
2016-Present	Manuscript Reviewer, ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment
2022	Host, Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE) Public Humanities Workshop
2013–2014	Editorial Board, disclosure: A Journal of Social Theory

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2022	Workshop: First-Year Writing   University of Connecticut
2022	Training: Advising Graduate Students   University of Connecticut
2022	Training: The Antiracist Classroom   University of Connecticut
2021	Webinar: How to Start a Book Series   Humanities Institute, University of Connecticut
2021	Training: Virtual Care for Students   University of Connecticut
2021	Workshop: Career Outcomes for PHDs   University of Connecticut
2021	Workshop: Student Mental Health   University of Connecticut
2021	Workshop: Course Development and Proposal   University of Connecticut
2021	Engaged Scholarship Symposium   University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
2021	Workshop: Public Writing and Civic Engagement   Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE)
2020	Professional Learning Community: Strategies for Teaching General-Education Literature   University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Department of English
2019	Professional Learning Community: Strategies for Retention   University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Department of English
2019	Professional Learning Community: Strategies for Bolstering Participation   University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Department of English
2018	New Faculty Institute   University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
2015–2018	"Lacan Salon" Trans-Disciplinary Reading Group

### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Studies Association (ASA)

Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE)

Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present (ASAP)

Modern Language Association (MLA)

Northeast Modern language Association (NeMLA)

Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States (MELUS)

### OTHER WRITING/EDITING EXPERIENCE

2013–2015	Editorial Staff   Pulse Magazine (Lexington, KY)
2012-2013	Editorial Staff   Limestone Review (Lexington, KY)
2012	Editorial Staff   Honors Tutorial College, Ohio University (Athens, OH)

2010–2012	Reporter   The Athens NEWS (Athens, OH)
2009–2012	Publisher/Associate Editor/Feature Writer   Backdrop Magazine (Athens, OH)
2011	Public Information Office Staff   Supreme Court of the United States (Washington, DC)
2010–2011	Research Apprentice   Honors Tutorial College, Ohio University (Athens, OH)
2010	Textbook Draftsman   Ohio University (Athens, OH)
2007-2008	Reporter   Springboro Star Press (Springboro, OH)

# LANGUAGES

English (native speaker)

French (reading, writing, and speaking proficiency)