

ALEXANDER MENRISKY
Curriculum Vitae

Department of English | University of Connecticut
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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

EDUCATION

- 2014–2018 **PhD**, English | University of Kentucky
- 2012–2014 **MA**, English | University of Kentucky
Graduate Certificate in Social Theory
- 2008–2012 **BS**, Journalism (*summa cum laude*) | 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

[Wild Abandon: American Literature and the Identity Politics of Ecology](#). 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. <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.) <https://www.asle.org/features/stemming-the-creep-of-ecofascism-a-primer/>
- “Webzine ‘Against the Ecofascist Creep’ Smashes Dangerous Delusions.” *Deceleration*. May 2022. (With April Anson, Cassie Galentine, Shane Hall, and Bruno Seraphin.) <https://deceleration.news/2022/05/19/against-the-ecofascist-creep/>
- “How Being an Environmentalist Became an Identity.” *Edge Effects Magazine*, February 2021. <https://edgeeffects.net/alex-menrisky-environmentalist-vocabulary/>
- “Eco vs. Ego: Environmentalism, Identity, and Psychological Vocabulary.” *Fifteen Eighty Four: Academic Perspectives from Cambridge University Press*, December 2020. <http://www.cambridgeblog.org/2020/12/eco-vs-ego-environmentalism-identity-and-psychological-vocabulary/>
- “The Vocabularies We’ve Inherited.” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE), December 2020. https://www.asle.org/features/modern-environmentalisms-identity-politics-or-the-vocabularies-weve-inherited/?fbclid=IwAR2JRImU4S1a1Bi5T4WmAddwQ6yNqV3ndxiLp82E65FFtDwevv_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.

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

“Embracing Identity in the Environmental Classroom.” *Edge Effects* Magazine, January 2019.

<http://edgeeffects.net/environmental-identity-in-the-classroom/>

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

“New Books in Environmental Studies: *Wild Abandon: American Literature and the Identity Politics of Ecology*.” *New Books Network*, August 2021. Podcast episode.
<https://newbooksnetwork.com/wild-abandon>

“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 2600 *Introduction to Literary Studies*. An introduction to skills essential for successful pursuit of an English degree, including textual analysis (close reading of prose and poetry), literary criticism and theory, research and citation methods, and critical writing about literature.
- 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 3***EW *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.)

- ENL 102 *Critical Writing & Reading II*. Second of two-course first-year writing sequence. Analysis, synthesis, argument, and revision-focused course that develops students' academic writing strategies. (Online syllabus also developed and taught.)
- ENL 200 *A History of Hip in American Lit*. Traces the development of countercultural capital in the United States from the Harlem Renaissance to the present, especially as it has involved transits and appropriations across lines of race and age. (Online syllabus also developed.)
- ENL 200 *American Politics, Literary Disgust*. A consideration of disgust as a prominent literary tone or theme, as well as its role in representations of various political and social exclusions in the United States. (Online syllabus also developed and taught.)
- HON 202 *Environmental (In)Justice*. Honors seminar investigating asymmetrical environmental impacts on people of color in the United States from the colonial era to the present, with a service-learning component. (Online syllabus also developed and taught.)
- HON 301 *Honors Research Across Disciplines*. Interdisciplinary preparation for honors thesis project, including ideation, research methods and ethics, presentation, revision, and time management, culminating in submission of prospectus. Instructor serves as de facto project advisor for all students until advisor is selected and approved. (Online syllabus also 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 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)