

Prentiss B. Clark

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Education

Ph.D. State University of New York at Buffalo, Department of English, June 2014
M.A. State University of New York at Buffalo, Department of English, September 2010
B.A. Haverford College, English Literature, Departmental Honors, May 2005

Employment

Associate Professor, Department of English, The University of South Dakota (2021–present)
Assistant Professor, Department of English, The University of South Dakota (2015–2021)
Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of English, The University of South Dakota (2014-2015)

Selected Awards and Honors

Blair and Linda Tremere Professorship in the Humanities, University of South Dakota, 2023-2028
Belbas-Larson Award for Excellence in Teaching, University of South Dakota, Spring 2019
Monsignor James Doyle Humanities Teaching Award, USD College of Arts & Sciences, Spring 2018
Nominated by students for the USD Belbas-Larson Award, '15, '16, '17, '18, '19, '22
Research Travel Award, USD College of Arts & Sciences, Spring '15, '16, '17, '18, '22, '23
University of South Dakota College of Arts & Sciences Curriculum Transformation Grant, '16
Excellence in Teaching Award, SUNY Buffalo, 2013
Robert and Carol Morris Dissertation Completion Fellowship, SUNY Buffalo, 2012-2013
Ralph Waldo Emerson Society Graduate Student Paper Award, 2009
Morris Opler & Lucille Opler Scholarship, SUNY Buffalo, 2007-2009

Books

[*Ralph Waldo Emerson: A Companion*](#) (McFarland 2022)

Solicited Essays

“[‘Allied to all’: Emerson and Ethics Beyond Self-Reliance.](#)” *The New Cambridge Companion to Ralph Waldo Emerson*, edited by Michael Jonik, Cambridge UP, 2026.
“[‘The arch abolitionist’: Emerson, Love, and Social Justice.](#)” *The Oxford Handbook of Ralph Waldo Emerson*, edited by Christopher Hanlon, Oxford UP, 2024.

Essays

“[‘intricate, overlapped, interweaved, and endless’: Emerson, Henry James, and the Nature of Moral Life.](#)” *Henry James Review*, vol. 42, no. 3, Fall 2021, pp. 265-271.
“[‘Society and Solitude for an ‘everlasting Now.’](#)” *Emerson Society Papers*, vol. 31, no.1, Spring 2020, pp.1, 5-6.
“[‘What ‘no chart can tell us’: Ordinary Intimacies in Emerson, Du Bois, and Baldwin.](#)” *James Baldwin Review*, vol. 5, no. 1, 2019, pp. 23-47.
“[‘Pulse for pulse in harmony with the universal whole’: Hearing Self-Reliance Anew,](#)” *Nineteenth-Century Literature*, vol. 69, no. 3, December 2014, pp. 319-341.
“After Acknowledgement: Theodore Parker as Representative Man.” *Arizona Quarterly*, vol. 66, no. 3, Fall 2010, pp. 1-22.

Solicited Book Reviews

Gilmore, Richard. *Emerson as Philosopher: Postmodernism and Beyond*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2023. *Emerson Society Papers*, forthcoming.
Marcus, James. *Glad to the Brink of Fear: A Portrait of Ralph Waldo Emerson*. Princeton UP, 2024. *American Literary History Review*, vol. 37, no. 2, 2025, pp. 534-536.

- Crick, Nathan. *The Keys of Power: The Rhetoric and Politics of Transcendentalism*. U of South Carolina P, 2018. *Nineteenth-Century Prose*, vol. 46, no. 1, Spring 2019, pp. 216-220.
- Mudge, Jean McClure, editor. *Mr. Emerson's Revolution*. Open Book Publishers, 2015. *Nineteenth-Century Prose*, vol. 44, no. 1, Spring 2017, pp. 202-207.
- Cramer, Jeffrey, ed. *The Portable Emerson*. Penguin, 2014. *Emerson Society Papers*, vol. 27, no. 2, Fall 2016, p.14.
- Arsić, Branka. *Bird Relics: Grief and Vitalism in Thoreau*. Harvard UP, 2016. *The New England Quarterly*, vol. 89, no. 3, September 2016, pp. 520-523.

Selected Conference Presentations

- “‘outside of slogans and flags and programs’: *Blues for Mister Charlie* in the Classroom.” American Literature Association. Boston, MA. May 2025.
- “‘to roar History back on stage’: James Baldwin’s *Just Above My Head* as Encore.” The Second Triennial James Arthur Baldwin International Symposium. Virginia State University. October 2024.
- “To ‘make transparent the whole web of circumstances’: Freedom, Fate, and Emerson’s Aesthetics.” Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy. Denver, CO. March 2023.
- “Provocations for Emerson Studies Now.” American Literature Association. Zoom panel. July 2021.
- “James Baldwin’s *Blues for Mister Charlie* in the General Education Classroom.” American Literature Association. San Diego, California. May 2020. *Conference cancelled due to COVID-19*
- “‘More day to dawn’: Aesthetic Experience and the Possibility of Ethics in Thoreau and William James.” Transcendentalist Intersections: Literature, Philosophy, Religion. University of Heidelberg, Germany. July 2018.
- “The ‘perpetual achievement of the impossible’: Emerson, Du Bois, and Baldwin Writing Toward ‘a larger, juster, and fuller future.’” American Literature Association. Boston, Massachusetts. May 2017.
- “When ‘things most listened for’ Remain Unsaid: Making Something Matter in the Poetry of Walt Whitman.” NEMLA. Toronto, Canada. May 2015.
- “Rediscovering the Intimacies in which We Exist: Emerson and the Ethical Life.” Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy Annual Conference. Grand Rapids, MI. March 2015.
- “‘I sit with Shakespeare and he winces not’: On Forms of Life Made Possible in Words.” The Return of the Text: A Conference on the Cultural Value of Close Reading. Syracuse, New York. September 2013.
- “Impossible Mourning and the Work of Imagining in Elizabeth Stuart Phelps’s *The Gates Ajar*.” American Literature Association. Boston, Massachusetts. May 2013.
- “Romancing the World: Emerson, *Nature*, and the Voice of ‘Experience.’” American Literature Association. Boston, Massachusetts. May 2009.
- “After Acknowledgement: Theodore Parker as Representative Man.” Stanley Cavell and Literary Criticism. Edinburgh University, Edinburgh, Scotland. May 2008.

Public Lectures

- “Jimmy & Waldo.” University of South Dakota, Department of English Faculty Work in Progress, December 2024.
- “James Baldwin’s *Blues for Mister Charlie* in the General Education Classroom: History, Identity, and ‘the report that only the poets can make.’” University of South Dakota, Humanities Research Forum. February 2019.
- “Herman Melville’s *Moby-Dick*: From Epic to Novel to ‘draught of a draught.’” Department of English Colloquium Series on Literature, University of South Dakota, November 2018.
- “Thoreau’s ‘wildness’ and William James’s ‘joy’: Aesthetic Experience and the Possibility of Ethics.” Department of English Colloquium Series on Literature, University of South Dakota, September 2017.
- “Pressing Questions: From the Philosophical to the Aesthetic to the Political in 19th-Century American Literature and Beyond.” Department of English Colloquium Series on Literature, University of South Dakota, September 2016.
- “How to Say Things with Genre: American Essays, Novels, and Poems as Test Case.” Department of English Colloquium Series on Literature, University of South Dakota, September 2015.
- “Transformative Texts: The Work of Words in Early American Writing.” Department of English Colloquium Series on Literature, University of South Dakota, October 2014.

Teaching (University of South Dakota)*Undergraduate*

UHON 110: Honors English (Fall '17, '18, '19, '21, '22)
 UHON 211: Interdisciplinary Civilization (Spring '16)
 ENGL 210: Introduction to Literature (Fall '14, '16)
 ENGL 292: Careers in English (Spring '21)
 ENGL 241: American Literature 1 (Fall '14, '15, '16, '17, '20, '21, '22, '24)
 ENGL 284: Introduction to Criticism (Fall '14, '19, '22, Spring '15, '17, '18, '20, '21)
 ENGL 455: American Novel I (Fall '25)
 ENGL 492: Topics—Ethics in Literature (Spring '16, Fall '18)
 ENGL 492: Topics—Emerson & Du Bois (Fall '16)
 ENGL 492: Topics—James Baldwin (Spring '26)
 ENGL 489: Capstone (Fall '18, Spring '20, Spring '25)
 ENGL/WMST 453: American Renaissance: Women Wording the American Nineteenth Century (Spring '15)
 ENGL/ARTH/CLHU/PHIL/THEA 487: Aesthetics (Fall '20, Fall '23)
 ENGL 493: Workshop – Writers on Writing (Fall '23)

Graduate

ENGL/WMST 553: American Renaissance: Women Wording the American Nineteenth Century (Spring '15)
 ENGL 555: American Novel I (Fall '25)
 ENGL/ARTH/CLHU/PHIL/THEA 587: Aesthetics (Fall '20, Fall '23)
 ENGL 592: Topics—Emerson & Du Bois (Fall '16)
 ENGL 592: Topics—Ethics in Literature (Spring '16, Fall '18)
 ENGL 592: Topics—James Baldwin (Spring '26)
 ENGL 593: Workshop – Writers on Writing (Fall '23)
 ENGL 792: Topics—Contemporary Criticism (Fall '15)
 ENGL 792: Topics—“Perception at the Pitch of Passion”: Henry James & James Baldwin (Spring '21, '24)
 ENGL 733: 19thC Studies—Writing the “American Renaissance” from the 19th Century to Now (Spring '15)
 ENGL 733: 19thC Studies—Provocations: From the “American Renaissance” to the “dawning of the Twentieth Century” (Spring '19)
 ENGL 733: 19thC Studies—“a thought so passionate and alive”: Aesthetics, Politics, and Philosophy in 19th Century American Writing (Spring '22)
 ENGL 733: 19thC Studies—Aesthetics in the American 19th Century and Beyond (Fall '24)

Dissertation and Thesis CommitteesUndergraduate Honors Theses (Director)

Deanna Bradshaw (English, 2017)

Josephine Whelan (English, 2015)

Undergraduate Honors Theses (Committee Member)

Carson Sehr (English, 2022)

Serina Lund (Nursing, 2022)

Emily Origer (English, 2020)

Alec Faiman (English, 2020)

Candra Mart (English, 2019)

Bailey Quanbeck (English, 2018)

Braley Dodson (English, March 2015)

M.A. Theses or Projects (Director)

Anna Van Holland (English, 2025)

Addison Jensen (English, 2025)

Cassandra Martin (Interdisciplinary Studies, 2021)

Vicki Weldon (Interdisciplinary Studies, 2017)

Gina Mairose (English, 2015)

M.A. Theses or Projects (Committee Member)

Kenzi Covey (English, ongoing)

Eliasu Ibrahim (English, 2026)
 Ethan Stone (English, 2025)
 Oliver Kalan (Art, 2025)
 John ("Jack") Richards (History, 2024)
 Jasmine Kulm (English, 2024)
 Mark Schmidt (English, 2024)
 Alec Faiman (English, 2023)
 Miranda Liebsack (English, 2023)
 Carter Jonke (English, 2023)
 Molly Cameron (English, ongoing)
 Elias (formerly Anneliese) Donstad (English, 2022)
 Jacquelin Morgan (English 2021)
 April Bayer (English, 2021)
 Kurt Frisch (History, 2016)
 AnnMarie Celis (English, 2016)
 Lindsey Peterson (History, 2015)

Doctoral Dissertations (Director)

Bentley Snow (co-director) (English, ongoing)
 Kacie Fodness (English, 2023)

Doctoral Dissertations (Committee Member)

Stephen Snyder (English, ongoing)
 Taya Sazama (English, ongoing)
 Nicole Bieber (English, ongoing)
 Talitha Griever (English, ongoing)
 Amelia Harrington (English, 2025)
 David Levine (English, 2024)
 Jeremiah Davis (English, 2023)
 Jayna Fitzsimmons (English, 2023)
 Julie Boutwell Peterson (English, 2022)
 Holly Richard (English, 2018)

Doctoral Dissertations (Outside Reader)

Jean-Paul Lerea Villalón, Instituto Franklin, University of Alcalá (American Studies, 2020)

Workshops

- "Choosing and Using Textual Support," USD Writing Center (ongoing)
- "Revision Strategies: From Thesis Statements to 'Flowing' Prose," USD Writing Center (ongoing)
- "Useable Writing: From Seminar Paper to Conference Presentation, Writing Sample, Thesis/Dissertation Chapter, and Beyond," USD Writing Center (ongoing)
- "Allons! A Collaborative Walt Whitman Workshop," Dakota Writing Project, University of South Dakota, March 2019
- "Transforming Your Research into Writing for Generalists: Tips for Presentations, Grant Applications, and Beyond," UDiscover Undergraduate Research Program, University of South Dakota, July 2018

Service (University of South Dakota)

English Department Service

- Chair, Graduate Placement Committee (Fall 2016–S22, F23-present)
- Graduate Studies Committee (AY 16-17, Fall 2018–S22, F23-present)
- Event Committee (Fall 2025-present)
- Library Liaison (Fall 2015-2021, 2023-present)
- Interim Coordinator of the Graduate Program in English (2023-2024)
- Promotion and Tenure Committee (Fall 2023)
- Promo Team (Fall 2014-Spring 2015)
- Colloquium Committee (Fall 2014-Spring 2015, F23-S24)

College of Arts & Sciences Service

- Chair, Humanities Initiative Committee (Spring 2025-present)
- Sustainability Program Advisory Committee (SAC) (Fall 24-present)
- Humanities Strategic Planning Taskforce (Spring 2024)
- Committee Member, College of Arts & Sciences Strategic Planning Taskforce (AY 21-22)
- Chair, College of Arts & Sciences Curriculum and Instruction Committee (AY 18- 19)
- Committee Member, College of Arts & Sciences Curriculum & Instruction (AY 17- 18)
- Harrington Lecture Committee (2015 – 2017)
- Panel moderator, “Unsung Heroines and Fantasy Goddesses,” USD Biennial Women and Gender Research Conference (Spring 2015)

University Service

- Workshop leader, University of South Dakota Writing Center (ongoing)
- Chair, University Senate Committee on University Communications (2025-present)
- University Faculty Senate (2025-present)
- USD Honors Program Scholarship Committee (AY25-26)
- USD Graduate Council, proxy for Dr. Lisa Ann Robertson (2023-2024)
- USD Honors Program Inclusive Excellence Committee (2020 –2022)
- USD Honors Program Truman Scholarship and Fulbright application review and mock interviews (2019-2022)
- USD Honors Freshman Common Read (Fall 2015, 2017, 2021)
- Belbas-Larson Award for Excellence in Teaching, Awards Committee (2020, 2021)
- Faculty advisor and panel chair for IdeaFest (2015, 2017, 2018, 2022, 2026)
- UDiscover – Undergraduate Research Faculty Mentor for Matthew Miller (Summer 2017)
- USD Honors Program Scholarship Interviews (Fall 2015)

Service to the Profession

- *James Baldwin Review*, Contributing Editor (2025-present)
- Communications Liaison, The Ralph Waldo Emerson Society (2025-present)
- Past-President, The Ralph Waldo Emerson Society (2024-2026)
- President, The Ralph Waldo Emerson Society (2022-2024)
- President-Elect, The Ralph Waldo Emerson Society (2020-2022)
- Chair, Ralph Waldo Emerson Society Media Committee (2020-2021)
- Book Review Editor, *The Emerson Society Papers* (2018-2021)
- Chair, Ralph Waldo Emerson Society Special Awards Committee (2019-2020)
- Committee Member, Ralph Waldo Emerson Society Special Awards Committee (2017-2019)
- Board Member, Ralph Waldo Emerson Society Advisory Board (2015-2018)