

STEVE BENTON

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Ada, OK 74820
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Educational Experience

EAST CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

Ada, Oklahoma

Assistant Professor of English, 2008-present.

CITY COLLEGES OF CHICAGO

Chicago, Illinois

Project Align Coordinator, 2006-2007

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

Chicago, Illinois

Graduate Teaching Assistant, 2000-2006

Graduate Assistant to the Associate Dean of Curriculum and Instruction, 2000-2002

XIAMEN UNIVERSITY

Xiamen, Fujian Province, China

Lecturer in English Language and Culture, 1994-1998

ASSOCIACION CULTURAL HISPANO NORTE-AMERICANO

Madrid, Spain

Teacher of English as a Second Language, 1989-1994

Courses Taught

One of my main pedagogical goals is to make the larger intellectual community visible to my students, to give them some sense of its worth, and to make it easier for them to join it. To that end, I seek every opportunity I can find to open my classroom up to the differing views expressed by my colleagues and peers on this and other campuses. I want my students to think of our classroom discussions and writing assignments not just as opportunities to polish their language skills and become persuasive debaters who engage in argument for argument's sake, but as meaningful contributions to a living conversation about what we choose to value as a culture.

East Central University, 2008-present

Seminar in American Literature: The Educator in American Fiction and Film (Fall 2011)

Enduring Questions in Western Civilization: Honors Seminar (Fall 2011)

General Humanities I (Fall, 2011)

Reading and Writing Advanced Essays

Interpreting Film

Approaches to Grammar

Introduction to Linguistics

Composition I and II

Responding to Literature

Fundamentals of English

University of Illinois at Chicago, 2000-2006

Composition I: Learner, Writer, Citizen, Self: Contemporary Issues in American Education, Or
What Are They Doing To Us? (And What Can We Do About It?) (Focus: Writing Genres)

Composition I: Inside Looking Out? or Outside Looking In?: Choosing Perspectives Toward
School and the Rest of the World (Focus: Ethnographic Writing)

Composition I: Learning Cluster: Race and Gender in the Mass Media and the American Political
System (Focus: Writing Across the Disciplines)

Composition I: Engaging the Voice of the Other (Focus: Writing Argument)

Xiamen University, Xiamen, China, 1994-1998

Introduction to American Literature I

American Culture through Film

English as a Second Language: Speaking and Writing for Advanced Students

Asociación Cultural Hispano Norte-Americano, Madrid, Spain, 1989-1993

Advanced Speaking for ESL Students: Contemporary Controversies and Opposing Viewpoints

Dozens of classes for adult speakers of English as a Second Language at levels ranging from fluency
to complete beginners

Experiment in International Living, Babson Park, Florida, 1992

English as a Second Language: Speaking and Writing for Advanced Students

Experiment in International Living, Brattleboro, Vermont, 1990

English as a Second Language: Speaking and Writing for Advanced Students

Education

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

Ph. D. in English, Specializing in Language, Literacy and Rhetoric, Spring 2008

Qualifying exams, passed with distinction:

Areas: Theories of American Fiction; Pedagogical Theory; History of Rhetoric and Composition
Studies; Depictions of Educators in Popular Fiction and Film.

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

M.A. in Humanities, Spring 1999

Thesis: *Progressive Pedagogue as Brechtian Actor*, Spring 1999

Director: Gerald Graff

FUNDACIÓN PONCE DE LEÓN, Madrid, Spain,

Certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language, Spring 1990

TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

B.A. in English, with honors, Writing Emphasis, May 1989

Dissertation: *Ichabod's Children: Anti-Intellectualism and the Pedagogical Imagination*

Committee: Gerald Graff (director), Todd DeStigter, Patricia Harkin, David Schaafsma, Steve Tozer

Ichabod's Children: Anti-Intellectualism and the Pedagogical Imagination examines cultural rhetorics that have shaped the American pedagogical imagination from the early years of the Republic to the present. By drawing attention to the affinities between our collective classroom fantasies, our national identity narratives and the structure of our schools, *Ichabod's Children* offers an explanation of why schools so often fail to give students the intellectual training they need as citizens in a democratic society. As this study shows, a deeply anti-intellectual conception of schooling has haunted many of the most prominent depictions of educators in popular American fiction and film. Though this anti-intellectualism is more evident in texts like Washington Irving's "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," which casts the educator as a laughing stock, it is also in texts that celebrate American educator-heroes, from Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women* novels to popular films like *Blackboard Jungle* and *Dead Poets Society*. Were these anti-intellectual prejudices evident only in popular fiction and film—and not real schools—they would be interesting to genre scholars. But as *Ichabod's Children* reveals, there is a troubling correspondence between the pedagogical fantasies that play out in our popular culture and the pedagogical structures that shape the educational experiences of many students.

Academic Awards/Honors:

Dean's Fellowship Award Winner, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2004-2005

Dean's Fellowship Award Winner, University of Illinois at Chicago, 1999-2000

Scholarship for Study in the Master's of Arts Program in the Humanities, University of Chicago, 1998-1999

Publications and Conference Presentations

"*Blackboard Jungle* and The Schoolhouse Western." Literature/Film Association Annual Conference, New Britain, CN, scheduled November, 2011.

"Extermination by Any Other Name: Louisa May Alcott, Horace Greeley, and the American Educational Imperative." Ninth Native American Symposium, Durant, OK, scheduled November, 2011.

"Louisa May Alcott: Keeping America's Schools Safe from Intellectuals." Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Conference, San Antonio, TX, April 2011.

"The Story: *Baal* (Brecht, Bertolt)." *Masterplots*, Fourth Revised Edition, ed. Laurence Mazzeno, Jr. Pasadena, CA, Salem Press, 2010.

"Movies Love Teachers Who Love (and Hate Schools, which Don't)." Literature/History Association Conference, Milwaukee, WI, November 2010.

"Washington Irving: Shaping the American Imagination." American Studies Association of Texas Annual Conference, Commerce, TX, November 2010.

"Literature Rules vs. Literature Sucks," with Dr. Joshua Grasso, Oklahoma Literary Arts Festival, Ada, OK, November, 2010.

"Losing My Religion on a Post-Soviet Train." Scissortail Creative Writing Festival, Ada, OK, April 2010.

"What was George Lucas Thinking? Interpreting Cinematic Image and Allusion." Oklahoma Literary Arts Festival, Ada, OK, November, 2009.

- "Get a Room!": Predatory and Liberatory Desires in *Dead Poets Society* and *The History Boys*." Literature/Film Association Annual Conference, Carlisle, PA, October, 2009
- "The Troubling Appeal of the Tough-Love Teacher, or 'Skulls Full of Mush,' Meet Professor Kingsfield." Southwest/Texas Popular and American Culture Association Conference, Albuquerque, NM, February, 2009.
- "Teaching the Conflicts in China," Modern Language Associate Convention, New Orleans, LA, December 2001
- "A Template Approach to Undergraduate Research," *2004 Reinvention Center Conference Proceedings: Integrating Research into Undergraduate Education: The Value Added* (30-32), co-sponsored by The National Science Foundation and The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation) in Washington, D.C..
- "Conflicts over Conflicts." *Pedagogy* 3 (2): 245-249 (2003).
- "Commitment Concealed." *Pedagogy* 1 (2): 251-259 (2001).

Academic Service

- Co-director and grant writer, *The Tournees Film Festival*, sponsored by the French-American Cultural Exchange, East Central University, February, 2011.
- Director, "Page One Literary Art Gallery" in association with the Scissortail Creative Writing Festival, Ada Arts and Heritage Cultural Center, April 2010 and April 2011.
- Designer and Moderator of "ecu honors" Enduring Questions website, Fall 2011.
- Convener, moderator, and participant, "Literary Analysis Colloquia," November, 2010.
- Reviewer, Pearson Education, *Grammar Upside Down*, November, 2010.
- Designer and Moderator of "ecuscissortail" website for Scissortail Creative Writing Festival, Spring 2010-present.
- Coordinator, Interscholastic Meet, East Central University, 2010-present.
- Member, Staffing Committee, ECU Department of English and Languages, 2008-2010.
- Member, Search Committee: East Central Assistant Professor of English position, 2010-2011.
- Co-sponsor, Sigma Tau Delta, international honor society for English majors, 2009-present.
- Designer and Moderator of "ecu flick talk" departmental website for film discussion, Fall 2009-present.
- Member, University Library Committee. 2009-present.
- Secretary, University Library Committee. 2009-2010.
- Chair, Scheduling Committee, ECU Department of English and Languages, Spring 2009-present.
- Designer and Moderator of "ecu english talk" departmental website for English majors, Spring 2009-present.
- Supervisor of departmental "Centennial Wall: 1909-2009" project, 2009-2010.
- Judge and Co-Coordinator, Interscholastic Meet, February, 2009.
- Judge, "Poetry Out Loud" contest, January 2009 and February 2010.
- Co-Founder and Organizer of Departmental Comp Talk Colloquia, Fall 2008, Fall 2010, Spring 2011.
- Designer and moderator of "ECU to Grad School" website for English majors, Fall 2008--present.
- Member, Planning Committee, ECU Department of English and Languages, 2008-2010.
- Member, Scheduling Committee, ECU Department of English and Languages, 2008-2009.
- Reviewer for journal: *Pedagogy*, Pearson Education.
- Recorder, Humanities and Discursive Social Sciences session, *2004 Reinvention Center Conference*, co-sponsored by The National Science Foundation and The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, in Washington, D.C..

Tutor, University of Illinois at Chicago Writing Center, 2000

Student representative, Master of Arts Program in the Humanities Advisory Council, University of Chicago, 1998-1999

Student Book Club Faculty Sponsor and Coordinator, Xiamen University, 1995-1998

Languages:

Fluency in Spanish