

John Proctor
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Education:

January 2010-December 2012

Vermont College of Fine Arts, Montpelier, VT (Low-Residency Program)
MFA in Creative Nonfiction

January 1994-May 1999

Murray State University, Murray, KY
B.A. in Literature, M.A. in Composition

Teaching Experience:

January 2009-Present

*Lecturer in Academic Writing, **Manhattanville College**, Purchase, NY*

- Coordinate the college's transition from Freshman Preceptorial to Freshman Year Program
- Teach the writing portion of the Freshman Year Program, equivalent to Freshman Composition
- Teach other classes in the Department of Communication, including [Writing for the Media](#) and [Convergent Media, Divergent Voices](#)
- Meet regularly with faculty who teach the seminar portion of the Freshman Year Program
- Attend Department and college-wide faculty meetings and events regularly

January 2008-December 2008

*Visiting Professor, **Manhattanville College**, Purchase, NY*

- Taught Writing for the Media, including journalism, advertising, and public relations
- Taught 2 other classes in the Department of Communication, including Introduction to Communication and Theories of Communication
- Taught Freshman Preceptorial, leading readings in the humanities, philosophy, and political theory while also serving as my students' academic advisor
- Served as Faculty Advisor for 30 students in the Department of Communication
- Attended Department and college-wide faculty meetings and events regularly

January 2006-December 2007

*Adjunct Professor, **Manhattanville College**, Purchase, NY*

- Taught Writing for the Media, including journalism, advertising, and public relations
- Taught Communicating in the Business World (COMM2030), focusing on all levels of business communication including letters, proposals, presentations, memos, queries, and resumes
- Taught Freshman Preceptorial, leading readings in the humanities, philosophy, and political theory while also serving as my students' academic advisor

January 2002-December 2005

*Lecturer, CUNY Language Immersion Program(CLIP) City College of Technology
Campus, Brooklyn, NY*

- Taught intensive writing, reading, and listening course for 25 classroom hours a week
- Developed and utilized content-driven curriculum around which all classroom activities revolved (sample themes available on request)
- Utilized computer lab, including MS Office, Internet and Typing Tutor, to facilitate students' learning
- Prepared students for the college experience by continually working on effective study habits, time management, computer literacy and social skills

September 2001-January 2002

Teaching Assistant, CLIP, CityTech Campus, Brooklyn, NY

- Assisted instructors in developing and teaching theme-driven curriculum
- Composed and executed individual lessons based on the class instructor's theme
- Evaluated student essays utilizing ACT Entrance Exam standards and basic standard principles of writing
- Met daily with individual students regarding short- and long-term goals

January 1997-December 1998

Teaching Assistant, Murray State University, Murray, KY

- Taught English 101 and 102 to incoming freshmen
- Assisted in teaching developmental freshman English
- Supervised undergraduate tutors
- Member of development team for freshman English curriculum

Classes Taught (all descriptions come from the course catalog):

Introduction to Communication and Media Studies

This course surveys human and media-enabled communication. Starting with concepts in communication theory, we consider interpersonal, public and nonverbal communication. A primary focus is the mass media—the history and means by which they communicate, the effects of this communication, and the professional and ethical issues involved. We cover print media, photography, radio, cinema, television and new media, and such related fields as advertising, public relations and political communication.

Theories of Communication

Required for a communication studies major, and not open to other students, this course considers key models of communication before surveying theoretical aspects of information, perception, persuasion, and also interpersonal, intercultural, nonverbal, small group and political communication. In studying mass media and interpersonal communication, we contrast the social science- based "process" school with more language-based systems such as semiotics. We consider how media operate and audiences respond, introducing cultivation analysis, cultural studies, issues in new media and computer-mediated communication, and the social construction of class, race, and gender. Various texts provide examples, and in-class exercises include interpersonal dynamics and analysis of advertising and media.

Communicating in the Business World

This course prepares students to express themselves clearly in the business world. The focus is on understanding basic principles (listening and persuasive presentation, aspects

of written communication), the culture of the workplace environment (diversity, ethics) and how to work in teams (leadership principles, decision making). We also cover negotiation and organizational issues, question and answer sessions, documentation and interviewing skills.

Writing for the Media

Oriented toward social-science and business media, this creative nonfiction course examines issues of style, history, ethics and practice in writing for media research and criticism, public relations, advertising and the internet. Types of writing to be covered include copy editing, position papers, proposals, releases, "backgrounders" and new media copy.

Convergent Media, Divergent Voices

This seminar explores trends toward multimedia presentation and the convergence of print, broadcast and online media, and how these have influenced news and creative discourses from the 1960s to the present. We discuss changes in social, political, and personal discourse caused by media evolution, and consider the New Journalism movement of the late 1960s, the rise of online investigative media and recent blogging culture. The role of convergence in corporate media's shrinking number of players in the mainstream is a concern, as are alternative media as viable divergent voices in the media landscape. **NOTE: I developed this seminar course for Manhattanville College, including the course materials and curriculum.**

Academic Writing

First-Year Writing is a year-long sequence that will provide thorough instruction in composition in order to enable students to develop the writing skills necessary to meet the demands of college-level study. The course will include an intensive review of grammar, style and structure; and it will examine strategies for written analysis, persuasion, and argumentation. Instruction will emphasize revision, and, in direct coordination with the First-Year Seminar, students will be encouraged to recognize the connection between critical thinking and academic writing.

Freshman Seminar/Preceptorial

The Freshman Seminar (formerly called the Preceptorial) is a year-long, course required of all Manhattanville freshmen. It is intended to foster the intellectual development of students and provide a foundation for college-level academic work through an introduction to the liberal arts tradition of world civilization. Beginning in the Fall with the theme "Search for the Good Life," students read and discuss classic texts by such intellectuals as Plato and Adam Smith, or sacred scriptures from both East and West. Preceptorial classes are kept purposefully small in order to facilitate careful consideration of the ideas contained in these texts, ideas that have influenced people, institutions, and whole societies for hundreds, sometimes thousands of years. In the Spring the Preceptorial moves on to "Search for a Good World," focusing on more contemporary, global texts reflecting the increased interaction of different peoples, cultures, and civilizations—the modern situation that has created new issues, concerns, and opportunities. The Preceptorial's overall mission is to provide a setting in which students may increase their awareness of the world, both ancient and modern; to strengthen academic skills such as reading, speaking, and analyzing as a foundation for further study, as well as a richer and more meaningful life; to help students get to know well a diverse group of their fellow students while engaging in a common intellectual endeavor; and to insure that they develop, through regular contact, a constructive relationship with their academic advisor that will serve them well as they proceed beyond their freshman

year at Manhattanville. The teacher of the Preceptorial (the Preceptor) is also the student's academic advisor until the student declares a major and selects an advisor in his or her major field. In addition to guiding the student to plan appropriate courses for both Freshman semesters, the Preceptor introduces him/her to the Manhattanville Portfolio System and establishes a mentoring relationship that facilitates a successful adjustment to college.

Non-Teaching Experience:

April 2001- August 2001

Junior Account Executive, AgitProp Public Relations, Inc., New York, NY

- Wrote press releases for clients such as d/g*, Thomas Register and Arts International
- Researched best client media and editorial placements
- Organized and attended promotional events
- Worked with Senior Staff in long-term client planning

December 2000-March 2001

Communications Manager, Tradewell Inc., New York, NY

- Conducted production and release of client letters from all Sales personnel
- Researched and reported leads to Sales Department
- Troubleshot user-end email and network access issues
- Worked with Executive Vice President on weekly release of corporate newsletter

August 2000-December 2000

Print Advertising Coordinator, Tradewell Inc., New York, NY

- Provided administrative assistance to Senior Vice President of Print Media
- Wrote, proofread, and edited correspondence between Tradewell and clients/advertisers
- Researched leads on print advertising for clients
- Used MS Office (Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Publisher) to coordinate department functions

February 1999-December 1999

Documentation, Security & Disaster Recovery, Vencor, Inc., Louisville, Kentucky

- Documented implementation of various new security standards and programs
- Utilized MS Word and Lotus Notes to write correspondence, memos, and reports
- Wrote complete implementation handbook for Meditech database program
- Implemented security for Meditech database
- Provided all administrative support for corporate and hospital users
- Mediated security transactions between Vencor, Inc. and Meditech support
- Instituted and updated intricate filing system for all hospital users nationwide

Honors, Appointments, and Inclusions:

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| 2016 | “Meditating Underwater” reviewed in Laurie Easter’s Sunday Spotlight |
| 2015 | “The Question of Influence” selected as Notable in <i>The Best</i> |

- American Essays 2015*
- 2015 Panelist, “Beyond Scaffolding: Constructing an Essay Collection,” [NonfictionNOW Conference](#), Flagstaff, AZ [upcoming]
- 2014 Interviewed in Lori A. May’s *The Write Crowd: Literary Citizenship & the Writer’s Life*, Bloomsbury, ISBN 978-1-628923094
- 2014 Presenter, “The List and the Story of Our Lives: Essaying History in Short Form,” [VIII Congreso Internacional de Minificción/International Conference on Microfiction](#), University of Kentucky
- 2013 “Dad for All Seasons” Columnist, [A Child Grows in Brooklyn](#)
- 2013 Finalist, *Diagram* Annual Essay Contest
- 2012 Panelist, “Longform Nonfiction and Digital Distribution,” [NonfictionNOW Conference](#), Melbourne, Australia
- 2012-Present Online Editor, *Hunger Mountain Journal of the Arts*
- 2010-2011 Founding Contributor, [Numero Cinq Magazine](#)
- 2010-2011 Awarded Merit Scholarship for MFA studies at Vermont College of Fine Arts
- 1999 Participated in intensive Screenwriting/Independent Filmmaking Workshop conducted by Archie Borders in conjunction with the Louisville Visual Arts Association
- 1998 Managing Editor, *Notations*, Murray State Literary Journal
- 1997-1998 International Student Mentor, Murray State English Language Institute
- 1997-1998 Secretary & Founding Member, Sigma Tau Delta, English Honors Fraternity
- 1997 & 1998 Presenter, Celebrate Women Conference, Murray, KY
- 1997 Outstanding Senior, Murray State Writers’ Colloquium
- 1996-1997 Murray State University Dean’s List

Publications (Online publications linked, .pdf files available for all publications):

- 2016** “**The Beginning and the End**”
Minificción y nanofilología: latitudes de la hiperbrevedad
 Written transcript of presentation given at the 2014 conference
 “**[Teachin’: A Reclamation of Research and Critical Thought](#)**”
Assay: A Journal of Nonfiction Studies
 Critical/personal praxis on using *The Best American Essays* to discover essays in oneself
 “**The Eternal Return of the Grievous Angel**”
New Madrid Journal of Contemporary Literature, Summer 2016
 Personal essay about Nietzsche, Gram Parsons, my dead uncle, leaving, and return
 “**[‘I have revealed it here, just in case anyone cares...’: A review of Patrick Madden’s Sublime Physick](#)**”
Numero Cinq
 Review of Madden’s essay collection
- 2015** “**[Best American Essays 2004 with John Proctor](#)**”
Essay Daily, December 4, 2015
 My entry in *Essay Daily*’s “Essay Advent” series of a different piece by a different essayist for a different volume of *The Best*

- American Essays* each day of December
[“My Summer with Zack Hample, the A-Rod of Ballhawking”](#)
The Weeklings, September 30, 2015
Immersive essay about Alex Rodriguez’s 3000th hit, the guy who caught it, and the baseball as object and metaphor
- [“Meditating Underwater”](#)**
Atlas and Alice Literary Magazine
Personal essay recounting ten hours of waiting during my mother’s reconstructive back surgery
- [“Where I’m From: A Normal Conversation with Andrew Malan Milward”](#)**
The Normal School
Interview with Milward about his newly published short story collection, *I Was a Revolutionary*
- [“Royal Blue: Return of the Repressed”](#)**
The Weeklings, April 6, 2015
Personal essay on the resurgence of the Kansas City Royals in the media and imagination
- [“On Listening to Steven Church’s Ultrasonic”](#)**
Essay Daily, February 26, 2015
Review/essay in conversation with Church’s book
- 2014 **[“The Question of Influence”](#)**
The Normal School, Fall 2014
Personal essay on William Burroughs, cats and dogs, and the origins and derivation of my name [selected as Notable in *The Best American Essays 2015*]
- [“The Love Song of Kumquat J. Farthing”](#)**
The Austin Review, Issue 2
Personal essay chronicling my brother’s and my shared love of porn-spam email nomers
- 2013-2015 **[“Dad for All Seasons”](#)** Column
A Child Grows in Brooklyn
Informational and entertaining column on parenting from a dad’s point of view, including cooking, outdoors, music, and general child-rearing tips and anecdotes
- 2013 **[“Guest Blog Post: The List and Story of My Life”](#)**
Superstition Review, September 25, 2013
Critique and explanation of my ongoing [“The List and the Story”](#) project on my author website
- [“Blue Crabs in the Hudson River”](#)**
Underwater New York, September 9, 2013
Journalistic essay on the enduring relationship between blue crabs and a defunct nickel cadmium battery plant in the Hudson River
- [“How to Tell a Good Joke”](#)**
Diagram, Issue 13.2
Hybrid essay exploring the relationship between humor and pathos in literature and history, with personal narrative about my aunt telling dirty jokes, getting my hand caught in a merry-go-round, and my adoptive father trying to cut my finger off
- 2012 **[“The Revelator”](#)**
Superstition Review, Issue 10, Fall 2012
Personal essay using a minor car malfunction to explore my past,

James Joyce's "The Dead," family, and mortality

["Sideways Review: We Are Not Alone"](#)

Hunger Mountain, September 2012

Review of 9/11-related essays from *The Best American Essays 2002*

"The Transfiguration of Señor Gato"

New Madrid Journal of Contemporary Literature, Summer 2012

Personal essay using a series of grey tomcats and an old children's tune as tropes

["I Was Young When I Left Home"](#)

Defunct, Spring 2012 Volume III, Issue I

Nine-part "memoir-in-a-box" exploring my displacement from my Kansas family and search for a new home in Brooklyn

"Over and Under"

Imagination & Place: Weather

(Print Anthology, ISBN 978-0-9819566-3-3)

Personal essay commingling childhood in Kansas with a freak tornado that went through my Brooklyn neighborhood in the fall of 2010

["Sideways Review: Two Sides of Albert Goldbarth"](#)

Hunger Mountain, January 2012

Review of the essay "Everybody's Nickname" by Albert Goldbarth

["Sideways Review: Beads, Fabric, and Yarn"](#)

Hunger Mountain, February 2012

Review of the essays "On Necklaces" by Emily R. Grosholz, "Satin Worship" by Holly Welker, and "Yarn" by Kyoko Mori

["Sideways Review: A Charming Combination"](#)

Hunger Mountain, March 2012

Review of the essays "The Love of My Life" by Cheryl Strayed and "The Habit" by Francis Spufford

["Sideways Review: Out of Time"](#)

Hunger Mountain, April 2012

Review of the essays "America, Look at Your Shame!" by James Agee and "Amor Perdida" by Tennessee Williams

["In Praise of Barry Lopez \(and Salt\)"](#)

Número Cinq, January 13, 2011

Review of workshop I attended with writer and activist Barry Lopez, author of *Winter Count* and *Of Wolves and Men*, with a micro-essay I generated from it

["What It's Like Living Here"](#)

Número Cinq, March 4, 2011

Cultural and historical essay about New York City, with my work commute providing the guideposts

["The Immortality of the Crab"](#)

Número Cinq, June 24, 2011

Hybrid essay exploring the philosophy of crabbing, book collecting, and socialist political theory

["Another Loose Sally: Book Shame!"](#)

Hunger Mountain, July 2011

Panel piece with twelve other authors on one book each of us is ashamed to have read, and one that each of us is ashamed not to have read

2011

[“The Day After the Memoir: An Interview with Steven Church”](#)

Numero Cinq, July 29, 2011

Interview with Steven Church, author of *The Day After The Day After* and *The Guinness Book of Me* and editor of *The Normal School Literary Magazine*

[“Sideways Review: A Crush”](#)

Hunger Mountain, September 2011

Review of the essay “Joyas Voladoras” by Brian Doyle

[“Sideways Review: The Cycle of Cool”](#)

Hunger Mountain, October 2011

Review of the essay “Against Cool” by Rick Moody

[“Sideways Review: The Dearth of the Eulogy”](#)

Hunger Mountain, November 2011

Review of *The Best American Essays 2010*

[“The Answer I Found in a Fortune Cookie: Toward a Digital Conception of Nonfiction”](#)

Numero Cinq, November 28, 2011

Extensive theoretical and historical overview of nonfiction with emphasis on non-linear modes of writing, including Montaigne, Viktor Shklovsky, John O’Banion, Sei Shonagon, Christopher Smart, and many modern essayists

[“Sideways Review: I’ll Be the Moon”](#)

Hunger Mountain, December 2011

Review of “You Be the Moon” by Amy Leach

2010

[“The Revolution Is Imminent, and Your Daughter Is Not Invited.”](#)

McSweeney’s Internet Tendency

Mock-letter correspondence in the voice of a Marxist father in dialogue with a Randian free-market enthusiast father about our children’s behavior on the tot lot

[“Sanders, Shklovsky, and the Role of the Personal Essayist”](#)

Numero Cinq, April 18, 2010

Early critical application of the work of Viktor Shklovsky to the essay

[“7 Things I Learned from Reading 15 List Essays”](#)

Numero Cinq, May 13, 2010

Early critical exploration of the list essay as a nonfiction form

[“Burroughs and Son”](#)

Numero Cinq, May 24, 2010

Personal essay recounting William Burroughs, his family, and their dealings with my own family

[“Montaigne’s Motifs,” \[Part 1\]\(#\), \[Part 2\]\(#\), \[Part 3\]\(#\), and \[Part 4\]\(#\)](#)

Numero Cinq, August-December, 2010

4-part series of critical essays focusing on key elements of Michel de Montaigne’s essays currently employed by contemporary personal essayists

2009

[“Drug Rug at Mercury Lounge”](#)

New York Cool, February 26, 2009

Concert review

[“Fanfarlo’s Reservoir”](#)

New York Cool, June 2009

- Album review
[“New York Stories: Capture the Flag, Brooklyn”](#)
New York Cool, July 17, 2009
Immersion reporting on street games played in Brooklyn
[“Arlo Guthrie at River to River Festival”](#)
New York Cool, July 30, 2009
Concert review
- 2008**
[“Latin Alternative Music Conference”](#)
New York Cool, July 2008
Music Conference and concert review
- 2007**
[“The New Pornographers”](#)
Trouser Press Online
Artist Review, with Steve Klinge and Ira Robbins
[“Calling All Nerds: Williamsburg Spelling Bee at Pete’s Candy”](#)
New York Cool, February 2007
Immersion reporting on a wildly popular “drinking spelling bee” in Brooklyn
[“Alexi Murdoch at Mercury Lounge”](#)
New York Cool, February 7, 2007
Concert review
[“Beyond Race Launch Party”](#)
New York Cool, February 21, 2007
Report on launch party for progressive magazine *Beyond Race’s* 2007 Music Issue
[“The Bowmans at Joe’s Pub”](#)
New York Cool, March 3, 2007
Concert review and interview
[“Chris Smither at Joe’s Pub”](#)
New York Cool, March 9, 2007
Concert review
[“Langhorne Slim at Southpaw”](#)
New York Cool, March 23, 2007
Concert review
[“That 70s Show at powerHouse Arena”](#)
New York Cool, April 2007
Review of art exhibit compiling photos and artifacts from the late 70s punk scene in New York City
[“Erin McKeown at Southpaw”](#)
New York Cool, April 20, 2007
Concert Review
[“Second Annual Punk Rock Record Fair at Southpaw”](#)
New York Cool, May 12, 2007
Review of Brooklyn record fair
[“Immersed in English”](#)
Gotham Gazette, August 3, 2007
Short piece on the Language Immersion Program, an intensive program for conditionally admitted immigrant students at the City University of New York
- 2006**
[“Converting the Lovebugs”](#)
Perspectives, NYC College of Technology Faculty Annual Volume XXVIII 2005/2006

- Long-form journalistic piece focusing on my relief trip to the Louisiana/Mississippi Gulf Coast
- 2004** **“Death Is a Dog” and “The Trial and the Sentence”**
Perspectives, NYC College of Technology Faculty Annual
 Volume XXVI 2003/2004
- Two micro-fiction pieces
- 2003** **“[And the City Swallowed the Moon](#)”**
La Petite Zine, Winter 2003 Issue 12
- Blank verse poem—“Waiting for the train, the awkward tango.”
- 2002** **“The Fountainhead of Hades”**
Stained Sheets, Spring 2002 Issue 32
- Poetic transcription of spoken-word piece mythologizing my shower
- 2001** **“[Out the Window #5](#)”**
Poetz.com, [Marc Desmond Memorial](#)
 Poem written in memoriam to fellow poet Marc Desmond
- 2000** **“[Dead Bug](#)”**
Poetz.com
 Mock ode poem
- 1998** ***U.S.S. Hornet: A Pictorial History***
 Contributed a segment of the full-length book published by Turner Publishing, Paducah, KY
- 1997** **“Ode to a Championship Football Team” and “4th of July, Lone Star Lake”**
[Notations, Murray State Literary Journal](#)
 Poems—one mock ode, and one narrative

Other Experience:

- 2004-Present Founder, [Stagolee’s Variety Used & Antiquarian Books](#)
- 2006 *Curriculum Development Fellowship*, **CUNY Language Immersion Program (CLIP)**, New York, NY
 Met regularly with directors and other current and former CLIP teachers focusing on evolving program guidelines to develop and implement a complete semester curriculum for new teachers in the program
- 2002 **Knitting Factory Records, Rubric Records, Narnack Records**
 Copywriting and editing of catalog entries
- 2001 **Ellen Jacobs Media, Words at Work**, NY, NY
 Documentation and proposal writing for startup of both companies
- 2000-2001 **American Lawyer Media, New York Observer, Carnegie Hall**
 General freelance/contracting