

DEREK WITTEN

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2616 Duke Homestead Rd
Durham, NC 27705

EDUCATION

Ph.D. English | Medieval and Early Modern Literature | Duke University 2020–2026

Dissertation: The Sign of Labour: Symbol, Craft, and Theology in Middle English Literature, 1348–1450

M.A. in Theological Studies | Regent College 2013–17

B.A. English (Hons.) | Trinity Western University 2008–13

Duke University: Certificate in College Teaching 2022–TBD

Duke University: Writing in the Disciplines Certificate (in process) 2023–TBD

TEACHING

As Instructor of Record

ENGL / CIN 290, Shakespeare and Film, Duke University 2025 (spring)

- [Syllabus](#); [Evals](#).

ENGL 331, Late Medieval Literature and Culture, Duke University 2023 (fall)

- [Syllabus](#); [Evals](#).
- Received Course Evaluation Instructor Honour: Top 5%

WRTG 101, Nature Writing (Intro to Writing), Duke University 2023 (spring)

- [Syllabus](#); [Student Evals](#); [Director Eval](#).

As Primary Instructor (under supervision of Dir. of Graduate Studies)

ENGL 996, Practicum in Teaching College English, Duke University 2024–25

As Teaching Assistant / Apprentice

ENGL / LING 204, History of English Language, Duke University 2024 (spring)

- Grading, test design

ENGL / CIN 289, America Dreams American Movies, Duke University 2024 (spring)

- Grading, test design, film group leading

ENGL 338, Shakespeare on Love, Duke University 2022 (fall)

- Grading, group leading, lecture and discussion lead on King Lear and theology

ENGL 338, John Milton: Poetry, Theology, Politics, Duke University 2021 (fall)

- Grading, co-teaching, lecture and discussion lead on Book IV, *Paradise Lost*

ENGL 235, Shakespeare & Contemporaries, Duke University 2021 (spring)

- Grading, lecture and discussion lead on reading Macbeth within its political context

- Taught two weekly tutorial groups of 6-7 students each week. Classes were part lecture and part discussion based around key primary texts.
- Marked written assignments, midterms, and final exams with a group of other TAs.
- Took a credited course in pedagogy as a part of my TA-ship, which involved weekly meetings with the professor and in-depth written reflection on pedagogical practice.

- Tutored students from grades 6 to 12 in composition, grammar, and literature.
- Was trained by Dr. Winnifred Tang in pedagogical techniques for students with dyslexia in order to construct a solid basis for the language skills required in a high school classroom.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Academic

“The Double Possibility of Labour in *Cursor Mundi*, *Egerton Genesis*, and the *York Corpus Christi Plays*” in *Studies in Philology*. Vol. 123.3, (forthcoming summer 2026).

"[Dante's Construction of the Creative Reader in the *Commedia's* Passages of Direct Address](#)" in *Dante Studies*. Vol. 141 (Summer 2024).

"*King Lear's* Edgar and Early Modern Renderings of Peter" in *Medieval and Renaissance Drama in England*. Vol. 36 (Dec 2023).

Reviews

[Review of *Amateur Scientist's Notebook*](#), by Jesse DeLong, *Carolina Quarterly*, (Jan. 2022).

Review of *Angels and Saints*, by Eliot Weinberger, *Carolina Quarterly*, Vol. 70.3, (Spring/Summer 2021).

Review of *The Parcel*, by Inosh Irani, *Foment Literary Journal*, Issue 5, (2017).

Review of *Your Heart is a Muscle the Size of a Fist*, by Sunil Yapa, *Foment Literary Journal*, Issue 4, (2016).

Review of *Under the Keel*, by Michael Crummey, *Foment Literary Journal*, Issue 2, (2014).

[Review of *Dark Diversions*](#), by John Ralston Saul, *Ottawa International Writer's Festival*, (2013).

PRESENTATIONS

“The Possibilities and Perils of Labour in N-Town *Noah*,” International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, forthcoming May 2026.

Invited Lecture: “Political and Religious Contexts of *Piers Plowman* and the York Corpus Christi Plays.” ENG 890S, Versions of Charity and its Impediments: Thomas Aquinas, William Langland, and Corpus Christi in the Later Middle Ages. Nov. 2025.

“Craft and Eucharist in the York *Magi* Pageant. International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, May 2025.

- “Labouring Bodies and the Corpus Christi: Measurement in York’s *Crucifixio* Pageant.” Vagantes Conference on Medieval Studies, Durham / Chapel Hill, April 2025.
- “The Theology of Craft in *Piers Plowman*.” Piers Plowman Society Conference, London, July 2023.
- “Translating Charity in *Piers Plowman*.” International Medieval Congress, Leeds, July 2023.
- "Milton's Materialism and his 'Sweet New Speech.'" Sixteenth Century Conference, Minneapolis, Oct. 2022.
- "*Lettore in Scrittore*': Dante's Construction of the Believing Author in His Passages of Direct Address." Modern Languages Association Convention, Washington D.C, 2022. Online.
- "Nicholas Love's Subversive Pauline Exegesis: Lay-Affirming Epistemology in *The Myrroure of the Blessed Life of Jesus Christ*," at the International Medieval Congress, Leeds, UK, 2021. Online.
- “The Siren, Beatrice, and the I AM: Dante’s Theological Justification for the Exaltation of Individuality in Pre-Renaissance Italy,” at St. Louis University Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies, MO, 2018.
- “Dante’s Human Guidance Towards the Beatific Vision,” at Regent College Academic Symposium, 2015.
- “Perceiving the Transcendence of the Mundane: A Comparison of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and John Ames from the Novel *Gilead*,” at the 17th Bonhoeffer Society Lectures at Regent College and Vancouver School of Theology, May 2014.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

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| • Aleane Webb Dissertation Research Fellowship | 2025–26 |
| • Duke competitive Summer Research Fellowship (\$10,000) | 2025 |
| • Host-institution volunteer at 24 th Vagantes Conference on Medieval Studies | 2025 |
| • Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (Finalist) | 2024 |
| • Course Evaluation Instructor Honour: Top 5% (For Engl 331) | 2024 |
| • Measured against all Duke undergraduate humanities instructors | |
| • Duke International Dissertation Travel Award (\$3,500) | 2023 |
| • Conducted archival research in Bodleian, British, and York Minster libraries | |
| • Duke International Conference Funding | 2023 |
| • Duke Conference Travel Award | ‘21 ‘22 ‘25 |
| • Honourable Mention in J.F. Powers Prize for Short Fiction for "Old Wooden Saint" | 2022 |
| • Longlist: Mitchell Prize in poetry for " Assiniboine River Horseshoe " (\$20,000 for winner) | 2021 |
| • Conway Holy Land Travel Bursary (\$5000) | 2014 |
| • Traveled to Israel and Palestine to research modern Palestinian religion and culture. | |
| • President’s Scholarship (TWU’s highest academic scholarship) | 2008–12 |
| • Alberta Weekly Newspaper Association Better Newspaper’s Competition: Third Place for Environmental Writing | 2010 |

PROFESSIONAL

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| Durham Tech Educational Programming for First Generation Students | 2023 (sum) |
| <i>Provost’s Intern</i> | |
| • Prepared research documents for the implementation of a peer mentorship program at Durham Tech Community College. | |

- Produced a survey designed to data on current first generation students.
- Researched potential funders and drafted three letters of inquiry for future use.

Regent College Communications and Public Engagement Dept.

2016–2020

Senior Writer and Editor

- Wrote news items, conducted and published interviews, produced and edited copy for the school's web and print materials.
- Contributed creative content for advertisements, both web and print.
- Acted as lead editor for Regent's biannual popular-level academic online magazine *Regent World*—planning, editing, writing, publishing, overseeing visual design and SEO.
- Supervised assistant staff in production of web content and social media.

Regent College

2016

Editor in Chief, Etcetera Campus Newspaper

- Published weekly school newspaper, managing all aspects of its production.
- Recruited and managed a team of volunteer writers.
- Designed visual layout on Adobe InDesign.

Parliament of Canada

2013

Communications and Parliamentary Assistant for Member of Parliament Joan Crockatt

- Wrote and edited speeches and Member's statements delivered in settings including community gatherings, political conferences, and the House of Commons.
- Designed and maintained the official M.P. website.
- Handled case files, helping constituents with immigration issues, employment insurance, old-age security, and communications with appropriate departments.
- Managed the Member's mail, email, and telephone correspondence.

Parliament of Canada

2012

Communications Intern for Member of Parliament John Weston

- Wrote and edited speeches and newspaper articles for the Member.
- Led a team of volunteers in managing the Member's correspondence to constituents.

The Mountaineer Publishing Company

2010, 11 (Sums)

Journalistic Reporter (Intern)

- Wrote and photographed stories for several sections: police, court, sports, and town council.
- Published in-depth feature stories, interviewing notable citizens and investigating memorable happenings in the community.
- Contributed bi-weekly opinion column.

Mars' Hill Newspaper

2010–11

Academy Section Editor

- Managed 3-page section of university newspaper devoted to accessible academic writing.
- Supervised, guided, and edited a team of 10–15 writers.
- Frequently authored editorial pieces on relevant academic topics.

[Spaces] Literary Journal

2010–11

Associate Editor

- Assisted in planning, writing, and vetting (poetry and fiction) for the yearly journal.

LANGUAGES

Middle English: advanced reading

Latin: advanced reading

Italian: advanced reading; limited speaking

Spanish: limited reading; limited speaking

Koine Greek: limited reading

REFERENCES

Sarah Beckwith, Katherine Everett Gilbert Distinguished Professor of English

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David Aers, James B. Duke Distinguished Professor of English

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Tom Ferraro, Professor of English at Duke University

Phone: 919 724 2604

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