

DONNA L. DUNBAR-ODOM

Department of Literature & Languages
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Commerce, TX 75429
(903) 886-5264
Donna.Dunbar-Odom@tamuc.edu
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Education:

- 1993 Ph.D. in English (Cultural and Critical Studies) with a specialization in Composition, University of Pittsburgh
Dissertation title: Speaking for Others: Failed Claims of Liberatory Pedagogy
Dissertation Director: David Bartholomae
- 1980 M.A. in English, University of Nebraska at Omaha
- 1977 B.G.S. in English, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Teaching Experience:

- Fall 2007-Present Professor of English, Department of Literature & Languages, Texas A&M University-Commerce
- Fall 1997-Fall 2007 Associate Professor of English, Department of Literature & Languages, Texas A&M University-Commerce
- Fall 1993-Spring 1997 Assistant Professor of English, Department of Literature & Languages, Texas A&M University-Commerce (formerly East Texas State University)
- Fall 1992-Spring 1993 Visiting Instructor, Department of English, University of Pittsburgh
- Fall 1987-Spring 1992 Teaching Fellow, Department of English, University of Pittsburgh
- Fall 1981-Summer 1987 Instructor, Indiana State University
- Spring 1981 Instructor, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Areas of Teaching and Research Interest:

Composition Studies, Literacy Theory, Memoir, Pedagogy

Administrative Experience

- Fall 2012-Present Director, Liberal Studies (applied for department status in Spring 2016)
- Spring 2010-Spring 2012 Head, Department of Literature and Languages
- Fall 2007-Spring 2010 Co-Director, Converging Literacies Center, Texas A&M University- Commerce
- Fall 2007-Spring 2010 Doctoral Coordinator, Department of Literature and Languages, Texas A&M University- Commerce
- Summer 2004, 2003, 2000 Acting Head of the Department of Literature and Languages, Texas A&M University-Commerce
- 1998-1999 Director of the Writing Center and Basic Writing, Texas A&M University-Commerce

- 1993-2007 Director of First-Year Composition, Texas A&M University-Commerce (formerly East Texas State University).
- 1992-1993 Liaison for Professional Development of Part-time Faculty, Department of English, University of Pittsburgh. Offered professional support for the teaching development of 78 part-time faculty members, (with Rita Capezzi).
- 1992-1993 Member, Committee for the Evaluation and Advancement of Teaching, University of Pittsburgh. Observed and evaluated first-year graduate teaching assistants and fellows for the English Department.
- 1989-1990 Assistant to the Director of Composition, University of Pittsburgh. Facilitated drop-and-add procedures for composition courses, scheduled meetings for and evaluations of beginning teaching assistants and fellows, oversaw procedures for annual composition awards.
- 1982-1987 Director of the Writing Lab, Indiana State University.

Courses Taught:

Texas A&M University-Commerce (formerly East Texas State University)
First-Year Composition (Two-semester sequence writing courses introducing students to academic discourse and to argumentation and research)
Advanced Composition
Graduate Teaching Colloquia (Two-semester sequence pedagogy courses)
Aesthetics
Approaches to the Teaching of Writing (Graduate course with varying emphases: Basic writing theory and practice; Teaching in the two-year college)
Reading Theory for Composition Teachers (Graduate seminar)
American Literacy, American Culture (senior level “capstone” course providing a cross-disciplinary examination of literacy issues and definitions)
Introduction to Literary Theory (undergraduate and graduate levels)
Literary Genre (Memoir)

University of Pittsburgh
Written Professional Communication (a business/technical writing course of my design)
General Writing (an entry-level writing course introducing students to academic discourse)
Literature and Ideas (introductory literature course)
Literature: Tradition and the New (introductory literature course adapted to address literacy issues)

Honors and Awards:

- 2017 MyrnaGilstrap Creativity in Teaching Award, Texas Association of Black Personnel in Higher Education
- 2013 “Fearless Investigation” Research Award, Texas A&M-Commerce Faculty Senate
- 2013 Professor of the Year, Hunt/Hopkins County African-American Leadership Conference
- 2003 Honors Professor of the Year
- 1997 NISOD Excellence Award, May 28, 1997.
- Distinguished Teaching Award, presented by the Faculty Senate and the Texas Association of College Teachers, April 25, 1996.
- Best Rhetoric, Composition, and Technical Writing paper delivered at the Conference of College Teachers of English, in Waco, TX, March 4, 1995.

Publications:

“We All Remember the Alamo: Materializing the Personal.” In *Inventing Place: Writing Lone Star Rhetorics*. Ed. Casey Boyle and Jenny Rice. Carbondale: SIU P, forthcoming.

Book, *Placing Myself*. Manuscript under review at University of Pittsburgh Press.

“Local and Global: The Writing Class’s Vital Role in Composing Citizens.” *Issues in Writing*. 18.2 (2010): 168-184. [Note: this issue is dated 2010 but came out in Winter 2011.]

“The Activist Writing Center.” Co-authored with Shannon Carter and Tabetha Adkins. *Computers and Composition Online* (Spring 2011). <http://www.bgsu.edu/cconline/NCOW/default.htm>

“I Was Blind but Now I Read: Salvation Tropes in Literacy Narratives.” *Reader*. Winter (2010): 121-128.

“The Converging Literacies Center: An Integrated Model for Writing Programs.” Co-authored with Shannon Carter. *Kairos: A Journal of Rhetoric, Technology, and Pedagogy*. http://kairos.technorhetoric.net/14.1/praxis/Carter_Dunbar-Odom/index.html (2009).

Place Matters. Co-authored with Christy Foreman and Shannon Carter. Southlake, TX: Fountainhead P, 2008. (Textbook.)

Book, *Defying the Odds: Class and the Pursuit of Higher Literacy*. Albany, NY: SUNY P, 2007.

Transitions: Writing, Researching, Reflecting. Southlake, TX: Fountainhead P, 2005. (Textbook.)

“Composing Literacy: How Teachers’ Literacy Narratives May Shape Literacy Instruction.” *English in Texas* 34.1 (2004): 20-23.

“Resistance and Authority: Film as a Tool to Train Teachers.” *Composition Forum* 14.1 (2003): 17-32.

“Small Scenes, Big Ideas.” *Texas Voices* 16.2 (2002): 19-20, 23.

Working with Ideas: Reading, Writing, Researching Experience. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2001. (Textbook.)

Two notes (#22 and #111) in *Comp Tales: An Introduction to College Composition through its Stories*. Ed. Richard H. Haswell and Min-Zhan Lu. New York: Longman, 2000. 31-32 and 143-144.

“Representing Student Culture: Ethnography and John Singleton’s *Higher Learning* in the Composition Classroom.” *Cinema-(to)-Graphy: Film And Writing in the Multicultural Classroom*. Ed. Ellen Bishop. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann Books, 1999. 45-55.

“Speaking Back with Authority: Students as Ethnographers in the Research Writing Class.” *Attending to the Margins: Writing, Researching, and Teaching on the Front Lines*. Eds. Michelle Hall Kells and Valerie Balester. Heinemann/Boynton Cook. 1999. 7-22.

“Reading, Writing, and Internalizing Cultural Narratives: The Literacy Narratives of *Melanie* and *Stanley and Iris*.” *PostScript* 16.2 (1997): 56-63.

“Literacy and Film: An Introduction.” *Post Script* 16.2 (1997): 3-4.

“And They Wrote Happily Ever After: The Nature of Basic Writing as Portrayed in Textbooks.” *Composition Chronicle* 9.5 (1996): 4-7.

“Juggling Theory and Practice: A Rationale for English 675.” *Composition Studies* 23.2 (1995): 15-20.

"Mastering Representation: Rhetorical Constructions of the Life of Frederick Douglass." *CCTE Studies LX* (1995): 26-32.

"Making a New England of the South: Literacy Lessons of Emancipation." *English in Texas*, 26.4 (Summer 1995): 4-8.

Review of C. H. Knoblauch and Lil Brannon, *Critical Teaching and the Idea of Literacy*. *Composition Studies* 22.1 (1994): 117-9.

"Radical Teaching with Conservative Effect." *Democratic Culture*, 3.2 (1994): 31-2.

"Teaching Academic Survival Skills in the Writing Center." *Indiana English* 11.1 (1987): 18-21.

"The Writing Center as Finishing School: Helping Students Comprehend the World of Academia." *Conference Proceedings for the 1986 Midwest Writing Centers Association Conference*. Overland Park, KS: Johnson County Community College, 1986.

"Directed Journals: Reading, Writing, and Reasoning for the Basic Writing Student." *Indiana English* 8.3 (1985): 17-21.

Selected Papers Presented:

"Manufactured Homes: Narrative Representations of the Translocal." Popular Culture Association/American Studies Association Conference, San Diego, CA, Apr. 14, 2017.

"Cultivating Town-Gown Connections: Productive Failure and Sustainable Change." CCCC, Portland, OR, March 16, 2017.

"Making Place and Politics Graphic: Guy Delisle's *Burma Chronicles* and *Jerusalem*." Southwest Popular and American Culture Association Conference, Albuquerque, NM, Feb. 11, 2016.

"We All Remember the Alamo: Mythologizing Material Culture." Popular Culture Association/American Studies Association Conference, New Orleans, LA, Apr. 1, 2015.

"Still Defying the Odds." Invited lecture. Collin College. Nov. 6, 2014.

"Taking It Personally: Memoir and the Rhetoric of Outrage." Thomas R. Watson Conference, Louisville, KY, Oct. 17, 2014.

"Drawing Borders: Gendered Spatial and Rhetorical Borders in Selected Graphic Memoirs." Rhetoric Society Association, San Antonio, TX, May 26, 2014.

"'A Number in Search of a Model': Access and the \$10K Degree in Texas." CCCC, Indianapolis, IN, March 21, 2014.

"Drawn in Place." Feminisms and Rhetorics Conference, Palo Alto, CA, Sept. 29, 2013.

"Narrative Currency: Class, Agency, and Memoir." Thomas R. Watson Conference, Louisville, KY, Oct. 18, 2012.

"Placing Death: Geographic Rhetoric and Memoirs of Loss." SCMLA, San Antonio, TX, Nov. 8, 2012.

"Worked Over and Working for Change: The Struggle for/of Agency Among Disenfranchised English Users." Thomas R. Watson Conference, Louisville, KY, Oct. 14, 2010.

"Can You Hear Me Now?: Retooling Graduate Programs to Listen to and learn from Two-Year Colleges." CCCC, Louisville, KY. March 20, 2010.

"I Was Blind but Now I Read: Salvation Tropes in Students' Literacy Memoirs." CCCC, San

Francisco, CA, March 12, 2009.

“Rendering Ourselves Relevant.” NCTE, San Antonio, TX, November 21, 2008.

“Joining the National Conversation on Writing: An Interactive Workshop.” NCTE, San Antonio, TX, November 21, 2008.

“Affordances and Affordability: Convergence on the Cheap.” With Shannon Carter. The New Work of Composing: The Seventh Biennial Thomas R. Watson Conference in Rhetoric and Composition. University of Louisville, Louisville, KY, October 16, 2008.

“Researching Realities: An Argument for Ethnography.” CCCC, New Orleans, LA, April 5, 2008.

“Converging Literacies: A Writing Program’s Process to Move Beyond the Written Artifact.” With Shannon Carter. Texas Council of Teachers of English Language Arts. Houston, TX, January 26, 2008.

“Teaching 21st Century Literacies in 20th Century Classrooms.” Invited presentation. With Shannon Carter. Lamar University, Beaumont, TX, January 25, 2008.

“Out of Necessity: Realities, Ideals, and Our Student Population.” With Shannon Carter. Passages: Transitions in English Composition. Plano, TX, August 22, 2007.

“Assumed Identities: Reflecting on Literacy Acquisition.” CCCC, New York, NY, March 22, 2007.

“Situating Literacy.” Keynote address. Continuing the Conversation: Best Practices in Teaching, Kingsville, TX, December 2, 2006.

“Narratives on the Bias: Literacies, Lived, Written and Owned.” Thomas R. Watson Conference on Rhetoric and Composition, Louisville, KY, October 5, 2006.

“Composing Citizens: Reading *Reading Lolita in Tehran* in Rural East Texas.” SCMLA, Houston, TX, October 28, 2005.

“Selling Literacy: Oprah’s Models for Student Success.” CCCC, San Francisco, CA, March 18, 2005.

“Reading with Oprah: Mass Media, Literate Traditions, and Adult Education.” NCTE, Indianapolis, IN, November 20, 2004.

“Metaphors We Write By: Students’ and Teachers’ Narratives of Higher Literacy.” CCCC, San Antonio, TX, March 27, 2004.

“When Tests ‘Evolve,’ Everyone is Affected.” NCTE, San Francisco, CA, November 21, 2003.

“Tapping Desire: What Working-Class Women’s Literacy Narratives Can Teach Us about Teaching.” CCCC, New York, NY, March 22, 2003.

“Composing Literacy: Literacy Narratives and Identity.” The Thomas R. Watson Conference on Rhetoric and Composition, Louisville, KY, October 12, 2002.

“Dealing with and Working Against State-Mandated Testing in Texas.” Workshop presentation. CCCC, Denver, CO, March 14, 2001.

“Small Scenes, Big Ideas.” Presentation at Film in Writing Special Interest Group. CCCC, Denver, CO, March 16, 2001.

“Bucking the Trends: Working Creatively Within and Against State Mandates.” CCCC, Minneapolis, MN, April 15, 2000.

“Hollywood’s ‘Successful’ Teachers: *Dangerous Minds* and *The Substitute*.” Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Association, Albuquerque, NM, Feb. 12, 2000.

"Present Continuous: Re-Imagining the Placement Process." NCTE, Denver, CO, Nov. 21, 1999.

"Teachers with Weapons: Hollywood's Solutions for Public Education." SCMLA, Memphis, TN, Oct. 28, 1999.

"Student/Participant/Observer: Bringing Voice and Value to Research." *Rewriting Literacies: Changing Communities, Shifting Discourses in the Twenty-First Century.* College Station, TX, Oct. 22, 1999.

"Getting the State Out of the Process of Placement." Council of Writing Program Administrators Annual Summer Conference, West Lafayette, IN, July 16, 1999.

"Re-Imagining Placement Evaluation for the Composition Class." SCMLA, New Orleans, LA, Nov. 14, 1998.

"When Push Comes to Shove: Teacher Training, Feminist Theory, and Institutional Constraints." Conference on College Composition and Communication, Chicago, IL, Apr. 1, 1998.

"Sufficiency, Not Deficiency: Re-Seeing College Writing in the 21st Century." SCMLA, Dallas, Texas. Oct. 31, 1997

"Taking Liberties with Language: Basic Writing and Issues of Difference." SCMLA, San Antonio, Texas. November 1, 1996.

"The Textbook in Context: Teacher Training and the Practice of Theory." Conference on College Composition and Communication, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. March 27, 1996.

"Mastering Representation: Rhetorical Constructions of the Life of Frederick Douglass." Conference on College Teachers of English, Waco, TX, March 4, 1995.

"And They Wrote Happily Ever After: Reading Basic Writing Textbooks with and against the Grain." Conference of College Composition and Communication, Washington, DC, March 4, 1995.

"Happy Endings: Narratives of Literacy in Basic Writing Textbooks." South Central Modern Language Association, New Orleans, LA. November 11, 1994.

"Where Do I Stand?: New Teachers in the 'Problem-Posing' Classroom." The Penn State Conference on Rhetoric and Composition, State College, PA. July 15, 1994.

"Inhabiting Authority: Training New Teachers of Composition." Conference on College Composition and Communication, Nashville, TN. March 18, 1994.

"Limitation and Liberation: Metaphors of Freedom in the Education of Freed Slaves." *The Oppressors and the Oppressed: Establishing a Dialogue Among the Texts in a Multicultural Context*, Waco, TX. February 12, 1994.

"Making a New England of the South': Northern Efforts to Colonize the Postbellum South." Modern Language Association, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. December 30, 1993.

"Teaching Freedom: Metaphors of Liberation in the Education of Freed Slaves." Modern Language Association (MLA), New York City, NY. December 1992.

"Writing the Self: Biographical and Autobiographical Representations of Frederick Douglass." Modern Language Association (MLA), New York City, NY. December 1992.

"Speaking for Others: The Problematic Nature of Liberatory Gestures in the Classroom." College Composition and Communication Conference (CCCC), Cincinnati, OH. March 19, 1992.

"Dangerous Lessons: The Roles of Literacy in Emancipation and Reconstruction." Modern Language Association (MLA), San Francisco, CA. December 28, 1991.

"Uniformity and Difference: Historical Traces of Remediation." College Composition and Communication Conference (CCCC), Chicago, IL. March 21, 1990.

"The Writing Center as Finishing School: Helping Students Comprehend the World of Academia." Midwest Writing Center Association Conference, Overland Park, KS. October 25, 1986.

"Directed Journals and Reading Improvement in the Basic Writing Classroom." Indiana Teachers of Writing Conference, Indianapolis, IN. September 27, 1985.

"Reading-Directed Journals: Helping Basic Writers Analyze." College Composition and Communication Conference (CCCC), Minneapolis, MN. March 21, 1985.

"Honing Analytical Skills in the Basic Writer," with Linda Calendrillo. National Association of Developmental Educators Conference, St. Louis, MO. March 8, 1985.