

Claudia Cortese, MFA

106 Midland Ave., Montclair, NJ 07042
(330) 284-1277
ccortese@gm.slc.edu

EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, Sarah Lawrence College

May 2009

Concentration: Poetry

Wrote a Master's Thesis, *First the Story*, comprised of original poetry.

Studied prosody, Italian to English translation, poetry and fiction writing, and literature.

Bachelor of Arts, Kent State University

August 2004

Cumulative GPA: 3.95

Major: English

Minor: Writing

Completed and successfully defended an Honors Thesis, comprised of original poetry, prose, and analysis.

Academic Honors and Certifications

Summa Cum Laude, Kent State University

Departmental Honors, Kent State University

Certified Tutor, College Reading and Learning Association

Sexual Assault Counselor, State of California

EDUCATION-RELATED EXPERIENCE

ACADEMIC TEACHING

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY

First-Year Writing Instructor, English Writing 100

September 2012-Present

Instruct students on how to write, develop, and support a central claim; discuss how to write persuasive, analytical essays; employ differentiated instruction strategies when facilitating activities, group work, discussions, and peer review sessions; help students develop their “toolkits” of rhetorical strategies; encourage students to become comfortable with writing multiple drafts and seeing writing as a process; conduct one-on-one conferences.

First-Year Writing Instructor, English Writing 105

September 2010-Present

Teach revision, critical thinking, and close reading strategies; explore and analyze nonfiction prose; instruct students on how to gather and integrate textual evidence into their claim-based essays; discuss research strategies; review Modern Language Association format for citing sources, as well as review how to avoid plagiarism; facilitate interactive activities, games, debates, and discussions; help students become comfortable with writing multiple drafts and seeing writing as a process; conduct one-on-one conferences.

First-Year Writing Instructor, English Writing 106

September 2009-Present

Teach diverse writers in the three major genres: poetry, fiction, drama; use the genres to help students hone their critical reading, writing, and thinking skills; discuss how to analyze literature through various theoretical lenses; show students how to do research; hold one-on-one conferences and provide students with

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individualized writing instruction; help students view writing as a process that involves extensive revision and drafting.

First Year Writing Instructor, English Writing 100, EOF

June–August 2013

Led a summer writing class to help Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) students prepare for college. My responsibilities included attending bi-weekly meetings to assess student progress; organizing and hosting an EOF-wide poetry reading; writing bi-weekly progress reports on each student; helping students develop college-level reading and writing skills.

Introduction to Poetry Instructor

September 2013–December 2013

Led in-depth analysis of contemporary poetry, focusing on both craft and meaning; facilitated class-wide and small group poetry workshops; engaged students with the reading, writing, and revising process through interactive activities, games, outings, and discussions.

BLOOMFIELD COLLEGE

Art of Poetry Instructor

January 2012–August 2012

In class: Explored poetic forms and how form, meaning, and music intertwine; instructed students on how to read, write, and think about poetry; taught the major poetic movements and developments of the last two centuries.

Out of class: Applied for and received a grant to take the class to hear National Book Award-winning poet Terrance Hayes read at Rutgers University; organized, promoted, and facilitated a public poetry reading at which my Art of Poetry students performed their work.

First-Year Writing Instructor

September 2010–May 2012

Taught students how to structure a formal essay; facilitated class discussions on a variety of topics, including feminism, racism, the history of folk tales and fairy tales, among others; held one-on-one conferences to help students with both basic skills, such as grammar and syntax, and more complex ones, such as how to analyze a text or develop a thesis.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY COLLEGE

English Instructor

January 2010–May 2010

Taught students basic writing, grammar, and organizational skills, including how to write a thesis, organize a paragraph, and write complete, grammatical sentences.

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

Expository Writing Professor

September 2009–December 2009

Led class discussion on a variety of topics, such as globalization, urbanism, and the modern conception of the self; taught students how to write connective, analytical, claim-based essays; facilitated interactive activities and peer review sessions.

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STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT PURCHASE

Teaching Assistant

September 2008-December 2008

Worked as a teaching assistant for an undergraduate literature class on James Joyce's *Ulysses*; graded quizzes, proofread student essays, met with students one-on-one; learned pedagogical strategies for teaching first-year writing in Teaching Good Prose, a class that accompanied the assistantship.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Live Literature Committee, Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ

September 2013-present

Organize poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction readings on campus; schedule the rooms and readers, promote the readings, facilitate the events, coordinate First-Year Writing classes with the readings, distribute materials to professors whose classes attend the events.

Creative Writing Committee, Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ

September 2012-May 2013

Conducted a faculty workshop on how to teach poetry in a First-Year Writing class; gathered and edited pedagogical materials for the Montclair State website; assisted other committee members with their faculty workshops.

Sourcebook Committee, Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ

January 2013-May 2013

Gathered pedagogical materials for the Montclair State website; edited existing pedagogical materials already on the website; managed submissions for the website; created a document for the MSU website that provides detailed lesson plans and handouts for a poetry unit in First-Year Writing.

COMMUNITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Creative Writing Teacher, Marte Valle High School, New York, NY

January-May 2008

Taught ninth graders creative writing and helped organize a public performance of their work.

Poetry Teacher, Holden Elementary, Kent, OH

January-May 2004

Taught third graders several times a week; conducted interactive poetry exercises and games; read poetry aloud together and helped students to write poems in class; organized a public performance of their work.

Poetry Teacher, Maplewood High School, Ravenna, OH

January-May 2004

Taught eleventh graders once a week; reviewed elements of poetry craft and revision strategies; facilitated both small group and class-wide workshopping sessions; organized a public performance of their work.

Sex Educator, Northeast Ohio

October 2000-January 2003

Co-created and -conducted a sexual assault prevention workshop entitled *Consent is Sexy: Sex, Rape, and Relationships*; presented it at Kent State University, Hiram College, and at community spaces throughout Northeast Ohio; successfully advocated for workshop's inclusion in Freshman Orientation at Kent State University, as well as for the workshop's inclusion in the Inter-Greek Council's orientation events.

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TUTORING EXPERIENCE

Writing Tutor to Graduate Students

Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, NY

September 2007-May 2009

Instructed graduate students at Sarah Lawrence College in essay writing; taught them organization, proofreading, and research skills, as well as more general writing strategies.

English and History Tutor, The Tutoring Center, San Ramon, CA

September 2004-March 2007

Tutored students of all ages in reading, creative and technical writing, literary analysis, and history; taught standardized test strategies for SAT I and II & ACT; created the history department at the Center and organized the history curriculum.

Supplemental Instructor for Introduction to Sociology

The Academic Success Center, Kent State University, Kent, OH

August 2001-January 2004

Conducted individual and group tutoring sessions for Introduction to Sociology; led exam reviews; created study guides and practice tests; regularly met with the professors to receive feedback.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Assistant Director of the Supplemental Instruction Program, Kent State University

January-May 2004

Kept records for the program; conducted staff meetings; formally observed tutoring sessions and wrote evaluations.

PUBLICATIONS AND SCHOLARSHIP

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS (POETRY)

Swarm, August 2014, "Tinnitus"

Mississippi Review, Summer 2014, "[The never-garden of her never-hands]"

Weave Magazine, Spring 2014, "Girlhood I," "Girlhood II," "Girlhood III"

Revolution House, Spring 2014, "How to say this pretty—" and "Lucy knows words," "Lucy loves their dead edges"

Sixth Finch, Fall 2013, "What robots mean to me"

Rhino Poetry, Spring 2013, "Lucy tells the boy to suck"

Whiskey Island, Spring 2013, "Elegy at the All-Night Drugstore" and "Strawberry Boone's Holy"

Blackbird, Spring 2013, "Claudia—," "Dear Lucy," "Lucy wraps salmon"

Kenyon Review Online, Spring 2013, "Hurricane Irene Fingers My Hair"

River Styx, Spring 2013 "Between Rooms"

Devil's Lake, December 2012 "Epithalamium"

Italian Americana, Summer 2012, "First Kiss"

Baltimore Review, Summer 2012, "Slippery Banjo" and "The field curdles"

Cream City Review, May 2012, "More Bubbles Where She Came From"

Hayden's Ferry Review, May 2012, "This Much Holds True"

Front Porch Journal, May 2012, "Dear dirt stain & rain-freckled Snow," "Without Hansel," "End, without

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Iron Shoes”

Meridian Magazine, May 2012, “Lucy lives in a box”
Nashville Review, April 2012, “Epithalamium” and “La Tarantata”
Diagram Magazine, April 2012, “The birds inside her are dying” and “Mrs. Johnstone”
RATTLE, Winter 2012, “Her Mother Makes Her Long Dresses of Lace”
Calyx: A Journal of Literature by Women, July 2011, “She Wants,” “Cut a Hole & Pull You Through,”
“White Noise”
Gargoyle Magazine, Summer 2011, “Places to Hide”
PANK Magazine, August 2011, “Fistful of Tulips,” “Fucking,” “The Worst Part”
Crazyhorse, Fall 2010, “Catherine of Siena” and “Rusalka”
Bellevue Literary Review, Fall 2009, “Brazil, 1968”
Kent State University Press, Spring 2004, “Did She Make a Sound?” (published in a broadside published)

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS (NONFICTION)

Iowa Review, Winter 2014, “Grief Dolls and Death Dolls: A Review of Allison Benis White’s *Small Porcelain Head* (Four Way Books, 2013),” book review
Devil’s Lake, July 2013, “Corey Zeller’s *Man VS. Sky* (YesYes Books, 2013),” book review
Mid-American Review, Fall 2013, “The Red Essay,” personal essay

ANTHOLOGY PUBLICATION

“She Wants to Be All Horse,” *Best New Poets 2011*, Samovar Press
“The girl plants knives in the manure,” *The Best of Adroit Journal: 2010-2013*

LITERARY AWARDS

First Place Winner, Stan and Tom Wick Poetry Scholarship, Kent State University
Third Place Winner, Literature Contest, *Baltimore Review*
Finalist, *Mississippi Review* Poetry Prize
Finalist, St. Lawrence Award, Black Lawrence Press
Finalist, Crab Orchard Series in Poetry Open Competition Book Award, Southern Illinois University Press
Semifinalist, Crab Orchard Series in Poetry First Book Award, Southern Illinois University Press
Semifinalist, Lexi Rudnitsky First Book Award, Persea Books
Semifinalist, The Brittingham and Pollak Prize, University of Wisconsin Press
Nomination for a Pushcart Prize, *Devil’s Lake Review*
Nomination for a Pushcart Prize, *Adroit Journal*
Nomination for a Pushcart Prize, *Rhino Poetry*
Editor’s Prize, Honorable Mention, *Rhino Poetry*
Founders Prize, Finalist, *Rhino Poetry*

UNDER SUBMISSION

Cut a Hole and Pull You Through, full-length poetry manuscript

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Girlhood's Arsons, chapbook poetry manuscript

Disappearing Acts, a long story/novella

"Peach Fuzz and Empire: a Review of Lightsey Darst's *Dance* (Coffee House Press, 2013)," book review

"The Forest Essay," Personal Essay

Various individual poems

MAGAZINE AND EDITING EXPERIENCE

Staff Book Review Writer, 32 Poems Magazine

August 2013-Present

Write extensive book reviews of contemporary books of poetry and work with the prose editor to refine and revise my reviews.

Senior Poetry Editor, Lumina Magazine, Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, NY *July 2008-March 2009*

Solicited submissions and promoted the magazine; organized and distributed the submissions to two teams of readers; made final editorial decisions on which poems to publish; organized a launch party for the issue.

Assistant Editor, Lumina Magazine, Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, NY *Sept. 2007-July 2008*

Read and screened submissions to the magazine; met with other readers and editors throughout the year; assisted senior editors in making final editorial decisions.

EVENTS AND READINGS

SELECTED EVENTS I HAVE ORGANIZED (full list available upon request)

- Bloomfield College Student Poetry Reading with Featured Poet Traci Brimhall, April 2012
- Bloomfield College Student Poetry Reading, October 2011
- From Here to the Corner Reading Series, Poetry Edition, featuring poets Brenda Shaughnessy and Laura Jaramillo, February 2010
- From Here to the Corner Reading Series, Nonfiction Edition, featuring oral histories by Penny Arcade, Gerry Albarelli, and Boris Tsesarsky, January 2010
- Coming Out Week Poetry Reading, featuring various LGBT student poets, October 2004

SELECTED PUBLIC READINGS (full list available upon request)

- Poetry Reading with Joy Ladin, Trace Peterson, and Grey Vild, The Bureau of General Services—Queer Division, New York City, 9 February 2014
- Live Literature, Montclair State University, 7 March 2014
- Living Writers Series, William Paterson University, 11 March 2014

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- New York City Poetry Festival reading for *The Adroit Journal*, Governor's Island, 27 July 2013
 - Live Literature, Montclair State University, 20 October 2013
 - Association of Writing Programs conference offsite reading with *Devil's Lake* and Black Lawrence Press, 7 March 2013
 - Live Literature, Montclair State University, 5 April 2012
 - *Best New Poets 2011 Anthology* Reading, Words Bookstore, Maplewood, NJ, 15 March 2012
 - Bloomfield College Poetry Reading, 1 November 2011
 - *Calyx Journal* Reading with Janlori Goldman & Elana Bell, Blustockings Bookstore, New York City, 24 August 2011
 - Cornelia Street Café with Marie Ponsot, New York City, 27 January 2010
 - Sarah Lawrence College Poetry Festival reading with Linda Gregg, Bronxville, NY, 24 April 2009
 - Earshot Reading with Sandra Beasley, Brooklyn, NY, 2009 February 2009
 - MFA Student Reading, Cornelia Street Café, New York City, 27 October 2008,

REFERENCES

1) Christopher Salerno, MA and MFA

Assistant Professor of English, William Paterson University

Phone: (919) 889-9449

Email: salernoc3@wpunj.edu

2) Joy Ladin, PhD

David and Ruth Gottesman Professor of English, Yeshiva University
Director, The Writing Center at Stern College for Women

Phone: (413) 687-7652

Email: joyladin@gmail.com

3) Paul Puccio, PhD

Associate Professor of English, Bloomfield College

Phone: 973.748.9000 (Ext. 1404)

Email: paul_puccio@bloomfield.edu