

Curriculum Vitae

Robert Walter Rudnicki

Robert C. Snyder Endowed Professor in English
Coordinator of Graduate Studies in English
Associate Professor
Department of English
Louisiana Tech University
Ruston, LA 71272
Voicemail: 318.257.2113
Email: rudnicki@latech.edu

Education

1996 Doctor of Philosophy, English, Texas A&M University
1992 Master of Arts, English, Texas A&M University
1991 Bachelor of Arts, English, Centenary College of Louisiana

Employment History

00-09 Louisiana Tech University (Associate Professor of English)
98-00 Alcorn State University (Assistant Professor of English)
96-98 Louisiana State University (Full-Time Visiting Lecturer)
91-96 Texas A&M University (Graduate Student Teacher)

Concentrations and Areas of Expertise

American Literature, Southern, Southwestern, and Louisiana Literature, Science Fiction, Creative Nonfiction, Autobiography, Ethical Criticism, Immigration Narratives, Walker Percy, William Faulkner, Mark Twain, Cormac McCarthy

Scholarly Publications

Monograph

Percyscapes: The Fugue State in Twentieth-Century Southern Fiction. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1999.

Digital Edition of Book

Percyscapes: The Fugue State in Twentieth-Century Southern Fiction. NetLibrary, Inc., 2001. <www.netlibrary.com>

Critical Essays

“Faulkner of Borg: Cold War Era Predictions on Space Travel, Robotic Warfare, and the Cybernetic Body in *A Fable* and Twentieth-Century Science Fiction” Invited guest essayist, 2010 (Vol. 26) special issue of The Faulkner Journal on “Faulkner in Contemporary Fiction.”

“Eulogizing Space: Eudora Welty’s ‘Still Moments’ and Gaston Bachelard’s ‘Dream Geometry’ in Lewis Nordan’s Fiction.” In Lewis Nordan and the Heartbreaking Laughter of Transcendence and Hope. Ed. Barbara Baker. Pebble Hill Books, U of Alabama Press, 2010.

“*Euphues* and the Anatomy of Influence: John Lyly, Harold Bloom, James Olney, and the Construction of John Kennedy Toole’s Ignatius J. Reilly.” Accepted Summer 2007. Forthcoming 2009 in Mississippi Quarterly.

“‘Ineffable Sociabilities’: Criss-Crossing, Game-Playing, and Sight-Seeing with Walker Percy in His Delta.” The Southern Quarterly: A Journal of the Arts in the South. Postscript. 42.4 (2004): 117-126.

“‘I Think I’m Beginning to See’: The Rustle of Lewis Nordan’s Fiction.” The Southern Quarterly: A Journal of the Arts in the South. 41.3 (2003): 50-63. Special Feature: Lewis Nordan.

“Toole’s Proboscis: Some Effluvial Concerns in The Neon Bible.” Mississippi Quarterly 47.2 (1994): 215-31.

Book Reviews

Review-Essay: “A Whole Landscape in an Old Bean: Varieties of Recent Faulkner Criticism.” Mississippi Quarterly 60.3 (2007): 597-604. Special Issue on William Faulkner. Essay includes reviews of the following three monographs:

William Faulkner’s Legacy: “What Shadow, What Stain, What Mark,” by Margaret Donovan Bauer. (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 2005. 255pp. ISBN: 0- 8130-2854-X.)

Faulkner the Storyteller, by Blair Labatt. (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2005. 263pp. ISBN: 0-8173-1437-7.)

Faulkner and His Contemporaries, ed. Joseph R. Urgo and Ann J. Abadie. (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2004. 195 pp. ISBN: 1-57806-697-4.)

Review of Walker Percy Remembered: In the Words of Those Who Knew Him, by David Horace Harwell. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006.

187pp.) Southern Quarterly 45.2 (Winter 2008): 185-187.

Review of Robert Penn Warren's Circus Aesthetic and the Southern Renaissance, by Patricia Bradley. Mississippi Quarterly 58.3 & 4 (Summer-Fall 2005): 821-824.

Review of Basilisk, by Sim Shattuck. Arkansas Review 36.3 (December 2005): 220.

Review of Ignatius Rising: The Life of John Kennedy Toole, by Rene Pol Nevils and Deborah George Hardy. Arkansas Review 33.1 April 2002.

Review of Still Following Percy, by Lewis A. Lawson. South Central Review 14.2 (1997): 71-73.

Reviews of My Book

Dowie, William. Rev. of Percyscapes: The Fugue State in Twentieth-Century Southern Fiction, by Robert W. Rudnicki. Louisiana Literature Fall 2000: 125-127.

Blair, John. Rev. of Percyscapes: The Fugue State in Twentieth-Century Southern Fiction, by Robert W. Rudnicki. Arkansas Review September 2000:159.

Watson, Jay. Rev. of Percyscapes: The Fugue State in Twentieth-Century Southern Fiction, by Robert W. Rudnicki. Modern Fiction Studies 46.2 (2000): 524-526

Ciuba, Gary M. "Walker's Pharmacy: Medicine and Language in Recent Percy Criticism." Review-Essay of The Last Physician: Walker Percy and the Moral Life of Medicine, edited by Carl Elliott and John Lantos. Durham: Duke University Press, 1999; Percyscapes: The Fugue State in Twentieth-Century Southern Fiction, by Robert W. Rudnicki. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1999; Walker Percy's Voices, by Michael Kobre. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2000. Mississippi Quarterly Summer 2000: 444-452.

Urgo, Joseph. Rev. of Percyscapes: The Fugue State in Twentieth-Century Southern Fiction, by Robert W. Rudnicki. American Literature March 2000: 204-206.

Dupuy, Edward J. Rev. of Percyscapes: The Fugue State in Twentieth-Century Southern Fiction, by Robert W. Rudnicki. Choice 37.4 December 1999.

Biographical Entries in Encyclopedias and Dictionaries

"Thomas Bell." Encyclopedia of Ethnic American Literature. Ed. Emmanuel Nelson. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2005. 5 vols.

"Charles Olson." Encyclopedia of Ethnic American Literature. Ed. Emmanuel Nelson. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2005. 5 vols.

“Stuart Dybek.” Encyclopedia of Ethnic American Literature. Ed. Emmanuel Nelson. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2005. 5 vols.

“John Kennedy Toole.” Encyclopedia of Ethnic American Literature. Ed. Emmanuel Nelson. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2005. 5 vols.

Recent Manuscript

Foundation and the Southern Writer

Abstract: Whether cast by using binaries such as foundationalism and antifoundationalism, or essentialism and anti-essentialism, western philosophy is replete with tensions between positions that are fundamentally relativistic or referential. Because language itself is sometimes thrown into question in this debate, some might reject the very terms used to characterize the two positions. However, such a claim privileges the anti-foundationalist perspective, precluding a dialogue between the two. Assuming that it is in fact possible to define and characterize each position, one might say that foundationalists believe that knowledge is subject to constraints originating outside of human culture whereas anti-foundationalists argue that all human knowledge is the product of contingent historical and institutional contexts. After a brief review of the history and many forms of this debate, imaginative variations of these positions are discussed in a range American literature, positions that writers such as Poe, Twain, and Faulkner found intriguing. Forms of this debate manifested themselves in the religious, political, scientific, academic, architectural, popular, and especially artistic discourses of their times, a debate that influenced these and other writers and continues to shape contemporary experience.

Honorary Guest Lectures and Symposia

Invited Guest Speaker, Auburn University, College of Liberal Arts, January 23, 2009. “Lewis Nordan and the Heartbreaking Laughter of Transcendence and Hope: A Symposium.” Hosted by the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities at the Hotel and Conference Center at Auburn University. Lectures available through iTunes, YouTube, and Pebble Hill Books. Lecture: “Eulogizing Space: Eudora Welty’s ‘Still Moments’ and Gaston Bachelard’s ‘Dream Geometry’ in Lewis Nordan’s Fiction.”

Invited Guest Speaker, Texas A&M University, English Department, November 27-29, 2007. Address: “Stormfield: A Teacher’s Private Casebook on Narratives of Foundation, Edifice, and Ruin.” Awarded Honorarium.

Invited Guest Speaker, 14th Annual Walker Percy Symposium, Covington, LA, November 3-4, 2006. Address: “Twain, Percy, and Katrina: The Ekistics of the Edifice in Ruin.” Awarded Honorarium.

Invited Guest Speaker, The University of Texas at Dallas, April 5-6, 2000. Address: “The Foundationalism/Antifoundationalism Tension in Robert Penn Warren’s All the

King's Men."

Conferences and Professional Meetings

"Unseemly Impostures of Every Kind: Mark Twain on Authenticity and the Hyperreal in *Innocents Abroad*." Mark Twain Circle Meeting. November 2007 SAMLA Convention, Atlanta, GA. Topic: "Mark Twain on War and Peace."

"Castles and Colleges: A Few Remarks on Foundation, with Something to Offend Everyone." Mississippi Philological Association, January 2006, Mississippi State University. Presenter and Session Chair.

"*Euphues* and the Anatomy of Influence: John Lyly's Rhetorical Influence on John Kennedy Toole's Fiction." SCMLA 61st Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA. Topic: "Cultural Confluences." October 28-30, 2004. Special Session: "Louisiana Stories: Louisiana in/as Text."

"Dotting Is, Crossing Ts, Watching Ps and Qs: Criss-Crossing, Game-Playing, and Sight-Seeing with Walker Percy in His Delta." South Central Conference on Christianity and Literature. Topic: "Images of the Sacred: Myth, Folklore, and Symbol." Hosted by Xavier University of Louisiana, New Orleans, January 23-24, 2004.

"Jesus X in Percy's Delta: Diagnostics and the Physician Novelist." Panel: Medicine and Faith in 19th and 20th Century Literature. Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science, 5th Annual Meeting. Duke University Medical Center and UNC-Chapel Hill, February 21-22, 2003.

Attended the annual South Central Conference on Christianity and Literature, Ramada Plaza St. Charles, February 21-23, 2002, where a group of Percy scholars assembled. Conference Topic: Postmodernism. Keynote Speaker: John Desmond, Distinguished Percy scholar.

Attended the 8th Annual Walker Percy Symposium in Covington, LA, September 29, 2001.

"'Better Than Comic Books': Teaching Lewis Nordan's The Sharpshooter Blues in the Literary Tradition of the American South." American Culture Association, American Authors Section. Philadelphia, April 11-14, 2001.

Panelist, American Culture Association, American Authors Section, Philadelphia, April 11-14, 2001.

"'The Maker's Rage': Music and Ramon Fernandez in Wallace Stevens's 'The Idea of Order at Key West,' 'The Man with the Blue Guitar,' and Lewis Nordan's *The Sharpshooter Blues*." Delta Blues Symposium VII: The Music and the Arts of the

Delta. Arkansas State University. Jonesboro, AR. March 29-31, 2001.

“Walker Percy's Platonic Repetition: Foundationalist Hopes and Anti-foundationalist Fears from the Phaedrus to The Moviegoer.” South Central Conference on Christianity and Literature. Louisiana State University. Baton Rouge, LA. February 15-17, 2001.

“‘I Think I'm Beginning to See’: The Mecklin Clan, the Twilight Effect, and the Rustle of Lewis Nordan's Language.” 15th Annual Southern Writers Symposium. Methodist College. Fayetteville, NC. September 21-23, 2000.

“‘The World Is the Language We Cannot Utter’: Cheap Talk in Robert Penn Warren's All the King's Men, Walker Percy's The Moviegoer, and Richard Ford's The Sportswriter.” 10th Annual Warren Circle Meeting. Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, April 14-16, 2000.

“Understanding the Revision Process in Terms of Register: A Useful Approach to Teaching Freshman Composition.” Conference on Teaching Language and Literature at Alcorn State University, MS, April 2, 2000.

Director, 2nd Annual Conference on Teaching Language and Literature at Alcorn State University, April 2, 2000.

Director, 1st Annual Conference on Teaching Language and Literature at Alcorn State University, April 29, 1999.

Public Service Lectures and External Consulting Work

Grant Speaker, Zachary High School, Zachary, Louisiana: three-hour presentation to high school teachers on the subject of preparing grades 9-12 writers for college composition, January 2007.

Guest Speaker on Early American Literature, Teach America Grant, on behalf of Dr. Elaine Thompson, Professor of History, Louisiana Tech U. June 15, 2006.

Review of Herman Melville, Moby-Dick, 2006 critical edition from Longman Publishers (hired for internal review, April 2005)

“Louisiana Characters: Biographies of the Bayou State.” Discussion Leader.

Sponsored by the Readings in Literature and Culture (RELIC) division of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities in conjunction with the Louisiana Library Association. Hosted by The Joe Webb Memorial Library, Haynesville, LA, six weekly sessions, Thursdays 6:30-8:30, January 17th-March 10th, 2005.

Lectures: "Introduction: The Biographical Approach to History"; "The Builder: Baroness de Pontalba"; "The Pirate: Jean Lafitte"; "The Writer: Kate Chopin"; "The Musician: Louis Armstrong"; "The Politician: Huey P. Long"

Grant Speaker, Zachary High School, Zachary, Louisiana: three-hour presentation to high school teachers on the subject of preparing grades 9-12 writers for college composition, January 2003.

Review of author headnotes of Voices of the American South, 2004 anthology from Longman Publishers (hired for internal review, November 2002)

Review of first draft table of contents of Voices of the American South, 2004 anthology
From Longman Publishers (hired for internal review, September 2002)

"Encounter in Louisiana: Confluence and Conflict in Literary Currents." Discussion Leader.

Sponsored by the Readings in Literature and Culture (RELIC) division of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities in conjunction with the Louisiana Library Association. Hosted by the Claiborne Parish Library, six weekly sessions, Mondays 6:00-8:00, March 11th-April 15th, 2002.

Lectures: "Negotiating the Growing Diaspora: Early Writings of Iberville, Abadie, and Claiborne"; "George Washington Cable and the Regional Motive: Social Reform, Southern Humor, and Creole Patois"; "Ernest Gaines and the Gathering of Voices: Cajun, Planter, and African-American Perspectives"; "Robert Olen Butler and the Weave of Two Worlds: Vietnamese Immigration, Fable, and Cultural Juxtaposition"; "Tim Gautreaux and the Roux of Country Folkways: Rural Lives, Small Towns, and Working-Class Characters"; "Moir Crone and the Dilemmas of Fin de Siecle Louisiana: Artists, Socialites, and Cities."

"Literary Lagniappe: Louisiana Writers and Their Worlds." Discussion Leader.

Sponsored by the Readings in Literature and Culture (RELIC) division of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities in conjunction with the Louisiana Library Association. Hosted by the Lincoln Parish Library, six weekly sessions, Mondays 7:00-9:00, September 24th-October 29th, 2001.

Lectures: "One Place, Many Voices: The Early Cultural Milieu"; "Howling Wilderness, Vale of Plenty: Rendering the Environment"; "Endurance and Conflict: Race, Class and Gender in the Deep South"; "Humor and Loss: National Interest in the Regional Motive"; "Repetitions and Rotations: The Search for Meaning Amid Modern Culture"; "Dreams of Arcady: Where Are We Going, and Where Have We Been?"

Grants Funded

“Expeditions in Louisiana Literature: From Travel Narrative to the Novel.”

\$59,422 grant awarded by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities for a 2003 Summer Institute for Advanced Teacher Study on the Louisiana Purchase, Louisiana travel writing, and the development of the novel in the state: M-Th, 9:00-12:00, June 2-26, 2003. This faculty development seminar attracted 20 junior and senior high school teachers from eight parishes, including some who traveled from as far as Saint Landry Parish to attend.

University Courses Taught

Louisiana Tech University

Graduate Seminar: Mark Twain; Graduate Seminar: Louisiana Literature; Graduate Seminar: Existential Themes in Poe, Twain, & Faulkner; Honors Program: Foundations of American Civilization; Southern Literature; Special Topics: William Faulkner; Science Fiction; Introduction to American Literature; American Literature 1865 to Present; American Fiction of the Nineteenth Century; American Fiction of the Twentieth Century; The American Mind; American Poetry; Advanced Technical Writing; Bid, Proposal and Grant Writing; Technical Presentations; Technical Writing; Freshman Composition; Three Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities Library Seminars (RELIC); LEH Summer Institute for Advanced Teacher Study (for teachers 7th-12th grades)

Alcorn State University

Freshman Composition, American Literature, Mississippi Literature, Contemporary American Literature, the British Novel, Romanticism, the Short Story

Louisiana State University

Expository Writing, Persuasive Writing, Sophomore Literature Introductions

Texas A&M University

Freshman Composition, Introduction to Literature, Writing for Business

Sample Institutional Service and Recognition

Developed 400-500 new course rotation schedule (2009)
Undergraduate scholarship award committee (2008)
Graduate Assistant selection committee (2008)
Graduate advising for 20-30 current and prospective MA English students (2008)
Coordinator of Graduate Studies in English 2008-present

Chair, Subcommittee for 400-Level American Course Additions to Catalog 2008
Chair, Subcommittee for Graduate Exam Questions in American Literature 2008
English Department Hiring Committee in American Literature Spring 2007
Literature and Language Unit Head Hiring Committee Fall 2006
English Department Hiring Committee in American Literature Spring 2006
English Department Program Review Committee 2003
Robert C. Snyder Endowed Professorship in English 2004-Present
University Senate 2001-2004
University Senate, Executive Committee Liberal Arts Representative 2002-2004
Graduate Faculty 2000-2003, 2003-2006, 2006-Present
Honors Faculty 2000-2003, 2003-2006, 2006-Present
Behavioral Standards Committee 2000-Present
M.A. Thesis Committee Director 2006
M.A. Thesis Committee Director 2003
M.A. Graduate Exit Exam American Literature Reading List Committee 2007
Honors Thesis Committee 2002
400-Level American Literature Course Planning Committee 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007
English 100 Planning Committee 2001-2002
Redesigned Department Web Pages Fall 2006
English Major Advising (quarterly)
English 100 Tutor/Tutorial Advising 2001-2003
New Junior Faculty Tenure-Track Faculty Advising 2002-2003 (Professor Lowe)
New Junior Faculty Tenure-Track Faculty Advising 2005-2006 (Professor Martin)
New Junior Faculty Tenure-Track Faculty Advising 2007-2008 (Professor Vanderlaan)
Undergraduate and Graduate Student Letters of Recommendation (annual)
M. A. graduate exit exam questions (annual)
Graduate Faculty meetings (quarterly)
Louisiana Tech/ULM joint graduate student conferences (annual)
Honors Faculty Meetings 2001-2003
High School Rally essay judge 2001, 2004, 2006
English 101/102 Competition Essay judging (annual)
Local chapter sponsor of Sigma Tau Delta National English Honor Society 2001-2005
Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society Planning and Management 2001-2005
Campus Faculty Development Workshops (annual)
Summer Freshman Orientation Honors Program briefings for parents 2002, 2005
Personal web pages and Blackboard support for all courses 2000-present
Student trip to Oxford, Mississippi as part of special topics course on Faulkner 2002
Student trip to "The Glory of Baroque Dresden" exhibit in Jackson, Honors 204 2004
Awarded Certificate of Recognition for "Superior Instruction of Freshman Students" by
Alpha Lambda Delta Freshman Honor Society at Louisiana State University 1997