

# Jake F. Upton

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## EDUCATION

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**Connecticut College**, New London, Connecticut 2018–2022  
Bachelor of Arts, *Magna Cum Laude*  
**Majors:** English, Classics  
**GPA:** 3.92/4.0  
**Pathway:** Peace and Conflict Studies  
Athletics: Men's Varsity Rowing and Alpine Ski Team  
**Honors Thesis:** *Genre Fluidity in Black Speculative Fiction as an Exploration of Blackness*  
**Thesis Advisor:** Professor Lina Wilder

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Speculative Fiction · Postcolonialism · Black Studies · Global Anglophone Literature · Genre Theory · Critical Race Theory · Narrative Form

## AWARDS & HONORS

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**English Honors** – Connecticut College 2022  
**Sally Abrahms '75 Prize for Outstanding English Major** 2022  
**Dirk Tom Dieck Held Memorial Award for Classics** 2022  
**Distinction in Classics** 2022  
**Connecticut College Sophomore Funded Research Program** 2020  
**Language Engagement Scholar** 2018–2022  
**Dean's High Honors** (multiple semesters) 2018–2022  
**Three-time NESCAC All-Academic Team** 2019–2022

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Connecticut College**, New London, Connecticut 2021–2022  
*English Honors Thesis*

Advisor: Professor Lina Wilder

- Investigated how genre fluidity in Black speculative fiction serves as a literary mechanism for exploring and presenting multifaceted conceptions of Blackness
- Analyzed works by Octavia Butler, N.K. Jemisin, and Colson Whitehead through frameworks of Afro-futurism and critical race theory
- Examined how authors strategically deploy genre conventions and transgressions to challenge monolithic representations and create new narrative possibilities for Black identity
- Awarded English Honors for thesis defense and final work

**Connecticut College Sophomore Funded Research Program** Summer 2020  
*Rhetoric and Authoritarianism in the COVID-19 Pandemic*

Advisor: Professor Catherine Stock

- Examined the deployment of COVID-19 rhetoric by authoritarian leaders to consolidate power and control public narratives
- Conducted comparative analysis of political discourse across multiple national contexts
- Analyzed intersection of crisis rhetoric, media control, and democratic erosion

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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**Boston College**, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts 2025–present

*MLL Language Specialist, Writing Fellow, and Writing Tutor*

- Provide individualized support to first-year multilanguage learner students to develop English writing proficiency and design targeted interventions addressing specific linguistic challenges
- Conduct one-on-one writing conferences with undergraduate Economics students to guide revision processes and develop critical analysis skills
- Provide disciplinary writing support across humanities, social sciences, and sciences; facilitate development of argumentation, organization, and scholarly voice

**Peace Corps Volunteer**, Kampong Chhnang, Cambodia 2022–2024

*English as a Second Language Teacher*

- Completed 312 hours of formal training in Khmer language, culture, and English education methodology
- Developed and implemented curriculum for primary school students (grades 4–6) focused on speaking skills, creativity, and critical thinking
- Secured USAID grant to establish computer lab and develop digital literacy curriculum
- Served on Service Improvement Committee as liaison between staff and volunteers; provided professional development support to local teaching staff
- Taught voluntary English lessons to Buddhist monks (6 hours weekly)

**Connecticut College**, New London, Connecticut 2020–2022

*Language Tutor*

- Provided remedial and advanced instruction in Ancient Greek grammar and reading comprehension
- Developed individualized study techniques and test preparation strategies

## PRESENTATIONS

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“Genre Fluidity in Black Speculative Fiction as an Exploration of Blackness.” English Department Senior Thesis Presentation, Connecticut College, May 11, 2022.

“The Use of COVID-19 in Political Rhetoric.” Sophomore Funded Research Panel, Connecticut College, October 15, 2020.

## LANGUAGES

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**Advanced:** French, Ancient Greek, Latin

**Intermediate:** Khmer (Cambodian)

**Basic:** Vietnamese