

Jake F. Upton

30 Mack Hill Road, Amherst, NH 03031
uptonj@bc.edu | (603) 921-2750

EDUCATION

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

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

AWARDS & HONORS

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

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

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

“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

Advanced: French, Ancient Greek, Latin

Intermediate: Khmer (Cambodian)

Basic: Vietnamese