

KEVIN ANDREW SPICER

Department of English and Foreign Languages
University of St. Francis
500 Wilcox Street, Tower Hall S-306, Joliet, IL 60435

EDUCATION

- 2010 Ph.D. English, University of Illinois at Chicago
Dissertation: *Sum Moribundus: Prolegomenal Forays into the History of Despair*
Committee: Ned Lukacher (chair), Gabriel Riera, Thomas Bestul, Ralph Cintron,
Christina Pugh
- 2005 M.A. Literature, Northern Michigan University
- 2003 B.A. Liberal Studies, University of St. Francis

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2018 Associate Professor of English, University of St. Francis
- 2012 Assistant Professor of English, University of St. Francis

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Medieval and Renaissance Literature, Psychoanalysis, Continental Philosophy, Literary Theory, Young Adult Literature, Sci-Fi/Fantasy Literature, Ecocriticism and Environmental Philosophy, Digital Humanities

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2023 MaKenzie Hope Munson and **Kevin Andrew Spicer**, “ ‘Holmes, that’s some Santa Claus shit’: Reading Lydia Millet’s *A Children’s Bible* as an Ecological Crime Fiction Hybrid.” *The Routledge Handbook of Crime Fiction and Ecology*, ed. Nathan Ashman. New York: Routledge, 2023. (Forthcoming in April)
- 2020 Spicer, Kevin Andrew. “The AI Computer as Therapist: Using Lacan to Read AI and (All-Too-Human) Subjectivities in Science Fiction Stories by Bruce Sterling and Naomi Kritzer.” *Fafnir: Nordic Journal of Science Fiction and Fantasy Research* Vol. 7, Iss. 2: 49-62.
- 2019 Spicer, Kevin Andrew. “Revolutionary Tenderness: Ecological Philosophy through Continental and Catholic Lenses,” *AFCU Journal* Vol. 15, No. 1 (2019): 40-47.
- 2019 Spicer, Kevin Andrew and Beth McDermott. “Poeticizing Ecology/Ecologizing Poetry: Reading Emily Bishop’s ‘Poem’ Ecologically.” *Trumpeter: Journal of Ecosophy*, Vol. 33, No. 1 (2017): 48-67.
- 2018 “*L’extermination de tout symbolisme des cieux*: Reading the Lacanian Letter as Inhuman ‘Apparatus’ and its Implications for Ecological Thinking.” In *Lacan and the Nonhuman*, eds. Jonathan Dickstein and Gautam Basu Thakur. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. 101-120.
- 2017 **Spicer, Kevin Andrew** and Beth McDermott “Poeticizing Ecology/Ecologizing Poetry: Reading Emily Bishop’s ‘Poem’ Ecologically.” *Trumpeter: Journal of Ecosophy*, Vol. 33, No. 1 (2017): 48-67. (The full text is available [here](#).)

- 2017 **Spicer, Kevin Andrew** and Elizabeth Savant. "Big History or How to Avoid the Linguistic Turn and Unite the Disciplines." *International Journal of Language and Linguistics*, Vol. 4, No. 2 (June, 2017). 81-88.
- 2012 "Of *Diké* and Death: The Role of Schelling in Adjudicating between Heidegger and Derrida." *Philament: An Online Journal of Arts and Culture* 18 (November, 2012): 48-65.

Book Reviews

- 2022 Virginia Konchan, *Hallelujah Time*. [*Cider House Press: A Journal of Contemporary Poetry*](#), Volume 24, Issue 4 (October).
- 2017 Henry W. Pickford, *Thinking with Tolstoy and Wittgenstein: Expression, Emotion, and Art*. *Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association (JMMLA)*, Vol. 50, No. 1 (Spring, 2017), pp. 138-141.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2019 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar: Religion, Secularism, and the Novel—University of Iowa, July 15-August 2, 2019.
- 2017 USF Excellence in Teaching Award, April 2017
- 2017 SURE Grant Award from University of St. Francis, Summer 2017—in collaboration with Dr. Elizabeth McDermott and USF student, Elizabeth Savant
- 2016 SURE Grant Award from University of St. Francis, Summer 2016—in collaboration with USF student, Elizabeth Savant

MENTORED PROJECTS

- 2022 MaKenzie Hope Munson, Senior Capstone, which included an early draft of our soon-to-be published coauthored paper with Routledge.
- 2017 Elizabeth Savant, "Poetic Pedagogy: Standardization of Art in a Positivist Society." MMLA Conference (Cincinnati, OH), November 9-12, 2017. Project mentored in collaboration with Dr. Elizabeth McDermott.
- 2017 Elizabeth Savant, "Poetic Pedagogy: Standardization of Art in a Positivist Society." SURE Project, 2017. Project mentored in collaboration with Dr. Elizabeth McDermott.
- 2017 Elizabeth Savant, "Big History: Latest Intellectual Fad or Toxic Neoliberalist Ideology?" NCUR Conference, University of Memphis (Memphis, TN), April 6-8, 2017. Mentored.
- 2016 Elizabeth Savant and **Kevin Andrew Spicer**. "Big History as Science or Secular Theology: Bridging Snow's Two Cultures?" SURE Project, 2016.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 "To Speak in the Name of the Void: Using Franciscan *Paupertas* to Guide a Rethinking of the Connection between Poetry and Philosophy," AFCU Conference, University of St. Francis (Joliet, IL), June 5-7, 2018.
- 2016 Elizabeth McDermott and **Kevin Andrew Spicer**, "Using Poetry to Make First-Year Seminars More Effective," ACCA Conference, University of St. Francis (Joliet, IL), November 5, 2016.

- 2016 “Leading Ecologically: A Franciscan Object-Oriented Ontological (OOO) Call for an Ecology of Tenderness,” AFCU Conference, Marian University (Indianapolis, IN), June 9-11, 2016.
- 2016 Elizabeth McDermott and **Kevin Andrew Spicer**, “Poeticizing Ecology/Ecologizing Poetry: Reading Elizabeth Bishop’s ‘Poem’ Ecologically,” at University of Arizona Conference in Environmental Humanities (Tucson, AZ), April 1-2, 2016.
- 2015 “Of World-Making: Science, Language, Art in Lev Grossman’s *The Magicians*,” at Midwest Modern Language Association (Columbus, OH), November 12th, 2015.
- 2015 “Spool, Thread, or Snake: The Rhetoric of the Textual Self in Thomas Middleton’s *The Revengers Tragedy*,” at Medieval and Renaissance Forum (Keene, NH), April 24-25, 2015.
- 2015 “Mismatched Pairs: Of Shoes and Sex in Plato and Dekker,” at Northern Plains Conference on Early British Literature, NPCEBL (Mayville, ND), April 10-11, 2015, pp. 111-124. [Link](#).
- 2014 “Bonaventure’s *reductio* and the Singularity of the Other in Levinas and Derrida,” at MAMA (Kansas City, MO), February 27, 2014.
- 2013 “Distorted Echoes and Rash Promises: Chaucer and the *Contretemps-traps* of the Name,” at ACLA (Toronto, ON), April 5, 2013.
- 2012 “Debts and the Oath: Bacigalupi’s *Shipbreaker* and Agamben’s Archaeology of the Oath,” at Midwest Modern Language Association (Cincinnati, OH), November 9, 2012.
- 2011 “ ‘Medieval Badiou,’ or A Weird Configuration: Ockham, Mathematical Logic, and a Single Sentence from *Being and Event*,” at International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI), May 13, 2011.

CONFERENCE PANELS ORGANIZED

- 2013 “Art and Artifice in Young Adult Literature,” at M/MLA Association Conference (Milwaukee, WI), November 9-11, 2013.

INVITED TALKS

- 2018 “The Ethics of Sustainability,” talk for USF Philosophy Club, April 13, 2018
- 2016 “Thresholds 8 and 9: Modernity and the Future,” talk canvassing “Thresholds 8 and 9” in “The Big History” narrative, USF Foundations Summer Institute [Link](#)
- 2014 “On Preparing to see Shakespeare’s *King Lear*,” short talk to Core I students *re* Chicago Shakespeare Theater Presentation of *King Lear*, October 15, 2014
- 2012 Lecture and Discussion of Shakespeare’s *Measure for Measure*, for Dr. John Bowers’s ENGL 372 Shakespeare, November 17, 2012
- 2012 Introduction and discussion of *Duck Soup*, for USF Comedy Film Festival, October 22, 2012
- 2012 Lecture and Discussion on the work of Machiavelli, for Dr. Debra Workman’s HIST 347 Early Modern Europe, October 8, 2012
- 2012 “Expectations for Reading at the College Level: How to Notice What You See,” for Lincoln-Way East Community High School, September 13, 2012

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2019 South Bend Digital Humanities Research Institute, St. Mary’s College and University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN, May 14-17, 2019

- 2017 Teaching the Christian Intellectual Tradition: Virgil and the Modern Christian Imagination, Samford University, Birmingham, AL, July 9-14, 2017
- 2015 Big History Summer Institute, Dominican University, San Rafael, CA, June 15-19, 2015
- 2014 The Teaching Professor Conference, Boston, MA, May 30-June 1, 2014
- 2012 UCI New Faculty Institute, Carroll University, 31 July-2 August, 2012
- 2012 Responding to Writing: Encouraging revision and Strengthening Skills. Northwestern College, 10 February 2012
- 2010 Classroom Management and Collaborative Engagement Workshop, Prairie State College, 7 August 2010

COURSES TAUGHT

University of St. Francis, Joliet, IL (2010-Present)

Undergraduate Major Courses in Literature:

Psychoanalysis, Politics, Culture

Dystopian Literature

Dante's *Divine Comedy*

Shakespeare

Chaucer

From the Epic to the Novel

Young Adult Literature

British Literature 1450-1660

British Literature to 1450

British Literature to 1700

English Language: History and Grammars

General Education Courses in Literature, Humanities, and Writing:

Introduction to Literature: Weird Fiction

Introduction to Literature: Tolkien

Introduction to Literature: Green Literature

Introduction to Literature: Science-Fiction/Fantasy Lit

Introduction to Literature: Introduction to Film and Film Theory

Foundations I

Foundations II ("Welcome to the Anthropocene," "Religion and Reason," "#MeToo in the Age of Trump", "Clean Up Your Room")

College Writing I

Core II—Marx, Darwin, Freud

Core III—Foundations of Western Thought

Undergraduate Courses in Philosophy:

Western Political Philosophy: Sovereign Monsters

Derrida and the Death Penalty

Duns Scotus Honors Courses:

STEAM in a STEM World

The Mirror or the Screen: Pop Culture in Contemporary Cinema

Courses Taught at Other Institutions:

Composition I

Rhetoric II

Academic Writing I: Writing in Academic and Public Contexts

Academic Writing II: Writing for Inquiry and Research

English Literature I: Beginnings to 1660 (Teaching Assistant)

Major Plays of Shakespeare (Teaching Assistant)

B.A. Theses Supervised

2020 Matthew Oyer, "A Dialectic and Psychoanalytic Literature Comparison" (on Conrad and Achebe

2020 John (Jack) Shields, "The Shakespeare Effect," Spring 2020 (co-supervised with Dr. Elizabeth McDermott)

2017 Zachary Hyman, "Naming Vendler's Third Quatrain in Shakespeare's Sonnet 60: 'Do You Have the Time?' " Spring 2017.

2014 Emalita Bantista, "Capitalism in the Classroom: An Analysis of the Influences Education has on the Economy," Fall 2014.

2014 Samantha Cranston, "On Peter Jackson's Adaptation of J. R. R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* Trilogy," Spring 2014.2013 Olivia Gerke, "*The Hunger Games*: Feeding the Formulation of Abstract Thought in Adolescents," Spring, 2013.

2012 Samantha Zitnik, "Learning to Like the Wife of Bath," Spring 2012.

2012 Caitlin Loizon, "Chaucer's Invisible Pilgrim," Spring 2012.

SERVICE**Service to the University:**

Fall 2021-Jan. 2022 Vice Chairperson of the Academic Assembly

Fall 2019-Present Duns Scotus Honors Society Faculty Advisory Board Member

Spring, 2019 Post-Tenure Review Committee member for Paul Erschen, Associate Professor of Art and Design

Spring, 2019 Post-Tenure Review Committee member for Dr. Lisa Hedrick, Professor of Biochemistry

2018-Present Budget and Planning—Enrollment Workgroup, College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Representative

2018-Present Department Chair of English and Foreign Languages

2015-2017 *General Education and First-Year Experience:* The bulk of my service was devoted to the replacement of the old "Core" Program of General Education with the new "*Bona ventura*/Foundations Program"

2015-Present	<i>Bona ventura</i> /Foundations II Teaching Group
2014-2016	First-Year Experience Task Force
2015-2016	Director of Core II Program
2012-2015	Director of Core III Program

Committee Service:

Spring 2020	Admissions Committee (filling-in for Dr. Karen Duys)
Spring 2019	University Assessment Committee (filling-in for a CAS representative)
2015-Present	University Writing Assessment Group
2012-2013	General Education Committee
2013-Present	Reading Task Force
2012-2017	Employee Awards and Recognition Committee

Mentoring:

Fall 2020	External Mentor to Katie Chamberlain, Natural Sciences Department
Fall 2019	External Mentor to Melinda Hammond, Psychology Department

Service to Students

2016-Present	Faculty Leader for Psi-Pi (ΨΠ), USF's chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, 2016-Present.
2016	Academic advisor to Foundations I students, Fall semester
2012-Present	Academic advisor to undergraduate English majors

Service to the Profession

2017-2019	Editorial Board Member for <i>The AFCU Journal: A Franciscan Perspective on Higher Education</i>
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PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Modern Language Association (MLA), Midwest Modern Language Association (M/MLA), American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA), Sigma Tau Delta—English Honors Society (ΣΤΔ)

LANGUAGES

German (reading knowledge)
French (reading knowledge)

SKILLS

Python, Data Analytics, HTML/CSS, Javascript, Golang, SQL

REFERENCES

Dr. Beth Roth
Provost, VPAA
University of St. Francis
broth@stfrancis.edu

Dr. Elizabeth Davies
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Chicago State University
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Dr. Karen Duys
Professor, Dept. of English (retired May, 2021)
University of St. Francis
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Dr. Vin Katilius-Boydston
Professor Emeritus, USF Dept. of English
mkatilius@stfrancis.edu

Dr. John Bowers,
Professor Emeritus, USF Dept. of English
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1 August 2022