

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 William Douglas Mastin and **Kevin Andrew Spicer**, “Jig on the Border: The World and Time of the Simile” (under review).
- 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 Gerk, “*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 2023- Department Chair of English and Foreign Languages
- 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
- 2018-2022 Budget and Planning—Enrollment Workgroup, College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Representative

2018-2022	Department Chair of English and Foreign Languages
2015-2017	<i>General Education and First-Year Experience:</i> The bulk of my service was devoted to the replacement of the old “Core” Program of General Education with the new “ <i>Bona ventura</i> /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
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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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Dr. Ned Lukacher
Professor Emeritus, Dept. of English
University of Illinois at Chicago
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