The English Department is committed to exemplary teaching, research, creative work, and service. Through engaged study of diverse texts and contexts, we foster a love of language, critical research, respect for evidence, thinking at multiple levels and across multiple genres, and strong close reading. In learning to read and write critically and imaginatively, UCCS English majors will express themselves with clarity, agility, and confidence in diverse settings.
Our Department features faculty and courses in a selection of areas of English Studies:

First-Year Rhetoric and Writing
Students research and examine issues through a rhetorical lens, with emphasis on conducting inquiry into course themes, such as immigration, education, mass media, the 60s, humor, video games, and food.

Literature
Students interpret authors and texts; examine institutions, networks, practices and habits, material artifacts, and relationships; read a variety of works carefully and critically; and write cogently and creatively. Courses offered include British and American literature, Poetry for the People, Women Writers, Film and Fiction, Shakespeare, and Detective Fiction.

Rhetoric and Writing
Students examine diverse forms of persuasion across genres, cultures, and historical moments. They explore rhetorical and writing theories and processes while analyzing and producing written, oral, visual, and digital texts. Faculty offer courses in Rhetorical History and Theory and topics in Public Rhetorics, from the family to social media.

Professional and Technical Writing (PTW)
This program is for students who intend to work in the writing, editing, and production of traditional and non-traditional documents for business and industry. Students take classes in technical editing, document design, and usability studies and graduate with a professional portfolio.

Creative Writing
Creative writing is a rigorous immersion in the craft of literature. Students take courses in fiction, poetry, and non-fiction writing to prepare them for careers in writing, editing, publishing, and teaching.

Teacher Education
For those students who wish to teach English/Language Arts, we offer courses in British, American, and Global literatures, the History of the English Language, and Contemporary Approaches to the Teaching of Writing.

Lesley Ginsberg, (Ph.D., Stanford U.) Associate Professor and Department Chair
Lesley has taught American Literature, American Women Writers, American Gothic, Children’s Literature, and other courses since joining UCCS in 1998. Her articles appear in American Literature and other journals. She is co-editor of Romantic Education in Nineteenth-Century American Literature: National and Transatlantic Contexts (Routledge 2015). Lesley is grateful to research, teach, and serve at UCCS with outstanding colleagues; she remains in awe of her hardworking students.

Rose Johnson, Program Assistant
Rose has worked in administrative support for 35 years. She has been employed at UCCS in the English Department since 2005. Rose has been the campus classified staff representative for the Statewide Liaison Council for the past 8 years and has served on other UCCS committees. In 2002, she was a co-editor of a Student Study Guide for BSCS Biology: An Ecological Approach, 9th edition. Outside of work, Rose serves as a Court Appointed Special Advocate and a Peer Coordinator for CASA.

Mary Margaret Alvarado, Senior Instructor
Mary Margaret is the author of Hey Folly (Dos Madres), a book of poems. She earned an MFA in nonfiction from the U. of Iowa. She has published widely, including in The Iowa Review, Beloit Poetry Journal, and Boston Review. She organizes literary events for Mountain Fold Books and goes by her nickname, Mia.

Ann N. Amicucci, Assistant Professor
Ann is the Director of the First-Year Rhetoric and Writing Program. She teaches first-year and upper division courses in writing, writing pedagogy, and rhetoric studies. Her research focuses on students’ digital literacy practices, students’ reading literacies, and faculty values in student writing. Some of her recent work has appeared in Teaching English in the Two-year College and the Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy.

Gina Baldoni-Rus, Instructor
Gina teaches first-year rhetoric and writing courses. She holds a master’s degree from the U. of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and has completed post-graduate doctoral studies in literature and film at the U. of Wisconsin in Madison. Her interests include global literature and foreign languages.

Alexander Blackburn, Professor Emeritus
Alexander founded and edited Writers’ Forum, a literary journal devoted to discovering and publishing writers from the West. For his work as a critic, editor, and novelist (four novels!), he received the Frank Waters Award for Excellence in Literature.

Cheryl Birkelo, Senior Instructor
Cheryl (MA, South Dakota State U.) taught at USAFA before joining the Professional and Technical Writing program. Cheryl teaches hybrid courses, spending part of the year in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where her husband works with ACDIVOCA.org on farming and food security.

Stephen Carter, Assistant Professor
Stephen’s research and teaching focuses on the intersection of modern war and American culture. His current book project, Designs of War: The Martial Imaginaries of American Modernity, examines the central role of military thought in US culture between the Civil War and the present. Dr. Carter teaches courses on critical theory and maintains an interest in 1960s utopian thought, particularly the work of Norman O. Brown.
Susan Clare Finger, Senior Instructor
Susan is the proud mother of two CU Boulder graduates. She received an MA from Florida Atlantic U. and began teaching first-year writing at UCCS in 2000. Susan was an editor for Unified Neighbors (now AnglesList.com) and Today's Boca Woman in Boca Raton, Florida.

Tony Friedhoff, Senior Instructor
Tony has taught at UCCS since 2006. He teaches courses in first-year rhetoric and writing and creative writing. He has an MFA in poetry writing from the U. of Massachusetts. His poems have appeared in Pleiades, Black Warrior Review, and other journals.

Denise Garrett, (MA, CU Denver) Instructor
Denise received her BA in English with Highest Distinction from UCCS. As a student working in the Writing Center, she developed an interest in how students acquire and expand critical thinking and writing skills, leading to her pursuit of an MA in Rhetoric and the Teaching of Writing at CU Denver.

Catherine Grandoff, Instructor
Catherine is a teacher of rhetoric and creative writing. Her research focuses on the intersections of language, gender, and place. Her work has appeared in Prairie Schooner and Influence, Action, Voice: Contemporary South Dakota Women. She is the founder of Colorado Springs Feminists, a local group providing opportunities to women and girls in our area and beyond.

Juliet Green, (MA, U. of California, Irvine) Instructor
Juliet joined the English Department in the Fall of 2014. She has taught at both community college and university levels, specializing in composition and rhetoric for incoming freshman students.

Phillip Heasley, Instructor
Phillip joined UCCS in 2012. He teaches courses in English as a second language, developmental writing, and writing and rhetoric. His interests include second language writers, genre-based pedagogies, assessment, and disciplinary writing. Phillip received master’s degrees from Oklahoma State U. and Northern Arizona U.

Keri Hemenway, Senior Instructor
Keri graduated with an MA in rhetoric and writing from CU Denver in 2005. She teaches core rhetoric and writing courses and has served on the First-Year Rhetoric and Writing Program’s executive committee. Her areas of interest are student engagement and technology in composition.

Baye Herald, (MA, CU Denver) Instructor
Baye teaches business writing and advanced professional and technical writing, with most of her classes presented in an online format. Baye has private industry experience in program management, copywriting, and editing. She also developed modules for teaching writing in the UCCS nursing program with Dr. McMichael.

K. Alex Ilyasova, Associate Professor
Alex is the Director of the Professional and Technical Writing Program at UCCS. Her previous research has included technical writing program administration, including program development and community-outreach, and, more recently, the needs and concerns of non-tenure track teaching faculty.

Kathleen Johnson, Senior Instructor
A UCCS alumna, Kathleen has taught rhetoric and writing and advanced grammar since joining the faculty in 1994. In 2014, she brought the Assembly for the Teaching of English Grammar Conference to UCCS. She cherishes her role as a teacher and is dedicated to her students and their successes.

Stacey Johnson, Instructor
Stacey is beginning her third year as a rhetoric and writing instructor at UCCS. She also teaches for the Intensive English Program and writes creative nonfiction. Ms. Johnson was a Peace Corps volunteer in Zambia, and she works to integrate global perspectives into all of her courses.

Rebecca Laroche, (Ph.D., Yale U.) Professor
Rebecca teaches Shakespeare, early modern women’s writing, and the environmental humanities. She is the author of Medical Authority and Englishwomen’s Herbal Texts. She was guest-curator of “Beyond Home Remedy: Women, Medicine, and Science” at the Folger Shakespeare Library. She is working on a book titled Shakespeare, the Herbal, and the Intimate History of Plants and is co-authoring Shakespeare and Ecofeminist Theory.

Katherine Mack, Associate Professor
Katherine teaches and studies cultural rhetorics—the ways that arguments circulate and evolve as they move across genres, space, and time. Questions of social justice and difference interest her particularly. Her book From Apartheid to Democracy considers the varied, complex, and enduring effects of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Her current research focuses on how we conceive, practice, and evaluate family, particularly single motherhood. Katherine also teaches the service-learning course Rhetoric and the Making of Colorado Springs.

Cell Malek, Senior Instructor
Cell, a long-time senior instructor in the First-Year Rhetoric and Writing Program and the creative writing minor, has three writing-intensive degrees: a BA degree in English literature and writing (Colorado State U.), an MA in journalism (CU Boulder), and an MFA in creative nonfiction (Goucher College). She has won awards for her creative nonfiction as well as residencies at the Wurtitzer Foundation and other places.

Quentin Martin, (Ph.D., Ohio State U.) Senior Instructor
Quentin has been at UCCS since 2004, teaching classes in rhetoric and writing as well as in literature, with a concentration on American literature in the 19th and 20th centuries. He has published some 15 articles on American literature; the latest was on Bernard Malamud’s novel The Assistant, which appeared in the book Critical Insights: The American Dream.

Jamie May, (MA, Southeastern Louisiana U.) Senior Instructor
Jamie teaches professional and technical writing classes, document design, and grant writing in the Professional & Technical Writing program (PTW). She is pursuing a doctoral degree in technical communication at Texas Tech U. Jamie also manages the social media accounts for the English Department and the PTW Program. Before coming to UCCS in 2007, she taught high school English.

Jennifer McArdle, (MA, Northern Arizona U.) Instructor
Jennifer earned her MA in English from Northern Arizona U. with an emphasis in literacy, technology, and professional writing. Jenn has diverse teaching experience; most notably, she taught rhetoric and academic writing at a university in the United Arab Emirates for three years!

Liz Medendorp, (MA, U. of Massachusetts) Instructor
Liz earned her MA in comparative literature from the U. of Massachusetts. Her research interests in popular culture, fan studies, and cross-media translation influence her student-centered teaching style, as seen in her superhero-themed rhetoric and writing course. She has published in the areas of translation and fan studies. Liz’s work focuses on examining popular culture and new media studies through the lens of academic scholarship and theory.

Omar Montoya, (MA, New Mexico State U.) Instructor
Omar has taught Developmental English since joining UCCS in 2013. He has published several scholarly book chapters, with a focus on multilingual writers, and has presented at many academic conferences. He enjoys teaching and serving students of diversity at UCCS.
William Myers, (MA, CU Denver) Senior Instructor
Bill began teaching at UCCS in 2002. Bill is the author of several nonfiction pieces, as well as poetry and fiction, including the novels *Welcome to Blackwater* (2014) and *The Blackwater Sequel*. Bill is a Colorado native.

Thomas Napierkowski, Professor
Tom’s area of specialization is medieval English literature, with particular emphasis on the 15th century and Geoffrey Chaucer. His research includes work on an edition of spurious *Canterbury Tales* and a study of authorial presence in the *Canterbury Tales*. In January 2011, Tom was appointed to a five-year term on the Fulbright Specialist Roster, and in 2012 he completed a Fulbright Specialist appointment in Romania.

Michelle Neely, Assistant Professor Attendant Rank
Michelle directs the Writing Across the Curriculum and Writing Portfolio Assessment Programs. Her most recent publication explores the relationships between students’ beliefs about knowledge and their argumentative writing strategies. Students in her research methods course have presented at the Colorado Springs Undergraduate Research Forum (CSURF) each of the past five years.

Award-Winning Faculty

K. Alex Ilyasova
Outstanding Teacher Award, 2013
College of Letters, Arts & Sciences

Rebecca Laroche
Campus Faculty Research Award, 2011-12
UCCS

Ceil Malek
Outstanding Instructor Award, 2006
College of Letters, Arts & Sciences

Tom Napierkowski
CU Faculty Council Distinguished Service Award, 2013
Knight’s Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland, 2014
Special Chancellor’s Award, 2015

Joan Klingel Ray
CU President’s Teaching Scholar, 1993-4

Christine Robinson
Outstanding Instructor Award, 2015
College of Letters, Arts & Sciences

Benjamin Syn
Best Conversation with a Presenter, 2015
Mountain Lion Research Day

Susan Taylor
Outstanding Teacher Award, 2001
UCCS Outstanding Teacher Award, 2009

Celebrating the Department’s 50th birthday!
Kirsten Bartholomew Ortega, Associate Professor

Kirsten teaches courses in contemporary poetry studies and American literature. In courses like Poetry for the People and African Literature, she asks students to think about the ways literature helps us explore contemporary diversity issues. She loves to help students find their voices through poetry, so she supports the campus poetry club, the FreeX, and the *riverrun* literary and arts journal (the latter with Dr. Ilyasova). Her research analyzes topics related to contemporary poetry studies. She is currently working on a manuscript called *Feminism and Flânerie*.

Jennifer Panko, (MA, Minnesota State U.) Instructor

Jennifer has taught professional and technical writing at UCCS since August 2014. She received her MA in English Studies at Minnesota State U. Her major field was technical communications.

Ken Pellow, Professor

Ken has taught at UCCS since 1969, four years after the campus opened. He teaches Contemporary Fiction, Modern British Lit, Critical Theory and Writing, and Film and Fiction. Dr. Pellow goes out of his way to be eclectic. It pleases him that he has placed recent articles in *Contemporary Literature, Humor: The International Journal of Humor Research*, and *Renascence: Essays on Values in Literature*. He perceives his position in the UCCS English Department as his “dream job.”

Rebecca Posusta, Senior Instructor

Becky has been a member of the English Department’s faculty since 2008. She teaches a variety of introductory courses in literature and British literature as well as a course on Jane Austen. In 2014, her article on physical, social, and psychological space in Austen’s novel *Persuasion* was published in *Critical Surveys*. She is currently serving her second term as Regional Coordinator for the Pikes Peak Region of Jane Austen Society of North America.

Leslie Rapparlie, Instructor

Leslie's short stories have appeared in *The Manhattanville Review*, *The Stoneslide Corrective*, *The Evening Street Review*, *Flash Fiction Funny*, *Picayune*, and *South Philly Fiction*. She co-authored four texts on adventure sports. Leslie received her MS in Experiential Education from Minnesota State U. Mankato and her MFA in fiction from Rutgers U.

Joan Klingel Ray, (Ph.D., Brown U.) Professor Emerita

Joan is an NYC native and earned her Ph.D. at Brown U. She was younger than most of her students when she arrived at UCCS in 1978 at age 27! She is a CU President’s Teaching Scholar, and she retired in 2012 after an illustrious career as a first-rate Jane Austen scholar. She remains on the Board of Trustees of Chawton House Library, located on the estate that once belonged to Austen’s brother Edward Austen Knight.

Christine L. Robinson, Instructor

Christine is a rhetoric and writing instructor and an animal studies scholar. Christine’s work, *Posthumanist (Auto)ethnography: Toward the Ethical Representation of Other Animals*, was awarded distinction by Colorado State U. and is referenced internationally. Largely shaped by a posthumanist lens, she explores rhetoric as a form of energy. She has an affinity for vintage jewelry, Airstream trailers, and Matt Damon.

Kacey Ross, Instructor

Kacey enjoys challenging students to read critically and develop a rhetorical lens through which to view the world. She is currently the Interim Director of the UCCS Center for Excellence in Writing. Kacey’s research interests include rhetorical theory, transferability, and the rhetorical work of classroom documents. When she’s not busy reading, writing, and grading, Kacey enjoys hiking, gardening, and playing cards.

Nate Siebert, Instructor

Nate earned a BA in philosophy and an MA in geography, both from UCCS, and now teaches first-year writing. He also teaches geopolitics for the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies. His current research projects fall within critical urban geography, eco-composition, and critical and anti-authoritarian pedagogy.

Benjamin Syn, (MA, CU Denver) Instructor

Benjamin received his master’s degree from CU Denver. He has presented his research on pop culture, especially concerning the Walt Disney Company, at various conferences, including the Rocky Mountain Communication Associates annual conference and Mountain Lion Research Day. At that conference in 2015, he won the People’s Choice Award for Best Conversation with a Presenter.

Susan Taylor, (Ph.D., Brown U.) Professor

Susan joined the UCCS faculty in 1994 and has taught British Literature, Critical Theory, the Brontës, and Women Writers. Her research and teaching intersect closely: she has published scholarly articles about nineteenth-century literary and visual culture and edited *The Brontës: A Documentary Volume*, a compendium of source materials about the Brontës as part of the *Dictionary of Literary Biography* series. Susan finds that UCCS students and colleagues continually inspire her teaching, research, and service.

Richard Thomas, (MA, CU Boulder) Instructor

Between Richard’s time skiing and hiking, he received his MA from CU Boulder with a focus in 19th-century ethnic literature. His rather ecletic research interests include compositional theory and pedagogy, identity production and agency, contemporary ethics, and emerging technologies. Richard began “flipping” his English 1310 class and now has students watch instructional videos at home and participate in more discussions and activities in class.

Meghan Tifft, Senior Instructor

Meghan teaches creative writing and first-year rhetoric and writing. She earned her MFA in creative writing with a fiction emphasis from the U. of Arizona, and she has been teaching at UCCS since 2005. Her writing has appeared in *The Atlantic and Fourteen Hills*, and her recent novel, *The Long Fire*, is published by Unknown Press.

Sarah Treschel, Senior Instructor

Sarah is celebrating a decade of teaching at UCCS. Sarah teaches English 1410, topically focused on happiness and success, and intermediate fiction writing. When she isn’t teaching, Sarah enjoys writing creative nonfiction essays that explore the human experience.

Justin Tucker, Instructor

Justin is a self-proclaimed writer, nerd, and instructor here at UCCS. He works a bit too hard to introduce his students to the topics of rhetoric, technology, media, and identity in almost all his classes. If you are ever (un)lucky enough to sit in one of his classes, expect bad jokes, popular culture references, and deep, Socratic questions of the world we currently live in and how we understand it.

Tom Wahl, Senior Instructor

Tom earned his master’s degree at U. of Nevada Las Vegas. Tom has lived and traveled across the US, Japan, and Europe, working and teaching in professional communication. Tom has contributed a weekly column to the Military Officers’ Association of America, and his family’s 18-month RV journey around the country was featured in *USA Today*. His wife is a member of the nursing faculty at UCCS.

Andrea Wenker, (MA, Colorado State U.) Senior Instructor

Andrea has been teaching First-Year Rhetoric and Writing courses at UCCS since 2008. Her focus has been on topics of language, power, and difference and on issues surrounding the food industry. She is energized and inspired by her work with colleagues and deeply rewarded by the process of helping students expand their thinking about language, writing, and themselves as writers.
About Our ALUMNI

The Patricia A. Gray Scholarship

After a successful 26-year career in the United States Air Force, Patricia A. Gray enrolled as a freshman at the age of 54 and became an English major. She graduated with honors in 1986. She was active in many organizations, including the Air Force Sergeants Association, the Disabled American Veterans, and the Retired Sergeants Major and Chiefs Association. After her death on July 27, 2009, she left a bequest for the English Department.

The Department created a scholarship in her honor. Returning English majors of non-traditional age who maintain a strong GPA are eligible. In spring of 2014, we were pleased to honor two current students, Ms. Tegan Brehm and Ms. Nicole Winter, with Patricia A. Gray scholarships. In Spring 2015, the scholarship was earned by Ms. Jeanice Jones.

Alumni in our Faculty

We have several faculty who, after earning their master’s degrees elsewhere, have returned to teach first-year rhetoric and writing, professional and technical writing, and other courses in the major. We are thrilled to recognize the following:

Denise Garrett (BA ’08)
Kathleen Johnson (BA ’90)
Chelsea Lawson (BA ’03)
June Loterbauer (BA ’97)
Kacey Ross (BA ’09)
Kevin Van Winkle (BA ’02)
Andrea Wenker (BA ’06)

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First-Year Rhetoric & Writing Literature Rhetoric & Writing Professional & Technical Writing Creative Writing Teacher Education

College of Letters, Arts & Sciences | Department of English

Phone: (719) 255-4018 | Location: Columbine 1025
Department Chair: Dr. Lesley Ginsberg | Phone: (719) 255-4004 | lginsber@uccs.edu
Administrative Contact: Rose Johnson | Phone: (719) 255-4018 | rjohnso8@uccs.edu