



Iris M. Lancaster-Lawson, PhD
Associate Professor

Texas Southern University
Department of English
3100 Cleburne
Houston, Texas 77003
Iris.Lancaster@tsu.edu

Education

Texas A&M-University-Commerce

Doctoral Comprehensive Exams: April 2004

Dissertation Defense: June 2009

Graduation: December 19, 2009

Dissertation Title: “Janie’s Visionary Rhetoric: A Stylistic Approach to Voice and Vision in Zora Neale Hurston’s *Their Eyes Were Watching God*”

Texas Southern University-Houston, Texas

M.A. English, 2001

Thesis: “From Fragmentation to Wholeness: A Phenomenological and Psychological Analysis of Ann Petry’s *The Street*”

Texas Southern University-Houston, Texas

B.A. English, 1999

Administrative Accomplishments

Graduate Certificate—English

Billy Joe Turner Interdisciplinary Writing Symposium

LIT Reads—An English Book Club

Teaching Experience:

Associate Professor, Texas Southern University, Spring 2018 to present

English 132: Freshman Composition (Freshman Composition Coordinator)

English 235: American Literature (Web Enhanced/Blackboard)

English 502: Cornerstone Seminar

English 529: Studies in Literary Biography

English 837: Thesis in Progress

English 440: African American Literature

English 501: Graduate Writing Course

Asst. Professor, Texas Southern University, Fall 2012 to Spring 2018
 English 131: Freshman Honors English (Web Enhanced/Blackboard)
 English 132: Freshman English (Web Enhanced/Blackboard)
 English 230: World Literature (Web Enhanced/Blackboard)
 English 338: Advanced Composition (Web Enhanced/Blackboard)
 English 339: Women's Literature
 English 305: Greek Mythology

Visiting Instructor, Texas Southern University, Fall 2007 to present
 English 131: Freshman Honors English (Web Enhanced/Blackboard)
 English 132: Freshman English (Web Enhanced/Blackboard)
 English 230: World Literature (Web Enhanced/Blackboard)

Adjunct Professor, Southern New Hampshire University, 2015-present
 English 122: Freshman Composition I
 English 123: Freshman Composition II

E-Tutor, Smarthinking, Fall 2007 to Spring 2008
 OWL (Online Writing Lab)

Adjunct English Instructor, Houston Community College, Fall 2004 to Spring 2018
 English 1301: Composition I (Web Enhanced/Blackboard)
 English 2311: Technical Writing (Web Enhanced/Blackboard/Excel/Publisher)

Adjunct English Instructor, San Jacinto Community College, Spring 2006 to Fall 2007
 English 1301: Composition I (Web Enhanced/My CompLab)
 English 1303: Honors Composition (Dual Credit High School English Course)

Assistant Instructor, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Fall 2001-Spring 2004
 English 101: College Reading and Writing
 English 102: Written Argument and Research
 English 102: (**Mayo Section**): Written Argument and Research-Honors
 Peer Tutor: Texas A&M University-Commerce, Fall 2003-Spring 2004
 Writing Skills Tutor in Communications Skills Center

Assistant Instructor, Texas Southern University, Fall 2000-Spring 2001
 English 130: Developmental College Reading and Writing

Grants/Fellowships:

Faculty Fellow for the Barbara Jordan Institute for Policy Analysis, 2021-present

Co-Recipient of the QEP Grant (\$10,000), Texas Southern University, 2021

Thomas Freeman Fellow, Honors College, Texas Southern University 2018-2019

“Preparing Global Leaders by Enhancing Student Engagement with World Literature and Culture,” UNCF/Mellon Faculty Teaching and Learning Institute, Claflin University, June 2015.

NEH Fellowship, Grambling University, Summer May 26th-June 14th 2014

COLEIT: Online Research Grant (\$5000), Texas Southern University, Fall 2010

Graduate Research Assistantship (\$4000), Texas A&M-Commerce, Summer 2008

Co-Recipient of the *Achieve the Dream* Research Grant (\$500), Texas Southern University, Spring 2008

Publications:

“Tupac: Incidents in the Life of Slave Ridah”: An Analysis of Tupac Shakur’s Modern-Day Slave Narratives, (Spring 2023)

Queen Sugar. Book Review. *CLA: College Language Association*, 60.3. (2018)
<https://muse.jhu.edu/article/777429>

“Nanny, Signifying Empowerment: The Evolution of the Dispirited Black Woman in Zora Neale Hurston’s *Their Eyes Were Watching God*” (Accepted for publication in *Cultural Intertexts - Academic Journal of Literary Studies*, Fall 2017) (24 pages)
[http://files.cultural-intertexts.com/200000078-8117682163/Volume%207%20\(2017\).pdf](http://files.cultural-intertexts.com/200000078-8117682163/Volume%207%20(2017).pdf)

“Ayodele,” *The Quint: An Interdisciplinary Quarterly from the North*, 9.1 (Fall 2016): 195-201.

“The Rose that Grew from Concrete” *THE GRIOT: The Journal of African American Studies*, 34.1 (Spring 2015): 61-66.

“General in his Labyrinth.” *The Facts on File: Companion to the World Novel 1900 to the Present* Volume 1. Ed. Michael Sollars and Arbolina Jennings. New York: Infobase, 2008. 295-296.

“Unmasking the Black Female Cultural Hero: A Jungian Analysis of Min’s Journey from Invisibility to Identity in Ann Petry’s *The Street*, *A Critical Response to Ann Petry*. Ed. Hazel Arnett Ervin. Westport, Conn: Praeger, 2005. 373-380.

“Making it All Matter: The Cultures of Literature, Composition, and Classical Rhetoric” in *First Year Writing Instruction*.” *Louisiana English Journal* 9 (2004): 212-219.

“Computing Knowledge.” *Comp News*. Texas A&M-Commerce Publication. 1.2 (2003): 5-6.

Edited Works:

Contemporary Fiction

Wright, Freedom. *The One for Me*. Ed. Iris Lancaster. 2014. Kindle Direct Publishing, 2014. https://www.amazon.com/One-Me-Freedom-Wright-ebook/dp/B00IKO5LQQ/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=the+one+for+me+freedom+wright&qid=1615499666&s=books&sr=1-2

Work in Progress:

Fresh Start: A Digital Grammar Textbook, Co-Author, and Co-Editor, (Upcoming Fall 2023)

Professional Development:

2022 Annual HBCU/MSI Research Summit” -- Virginia Tech, November 2022

“Digital Storytelling Training,” June 2022

“Teaching Online for Faculty and FAC 201 – Advance Student Engagement

“Techniques,” UNCF Professional Development Training for Faculty, 2021

“Online Inclusivity: Inspiring Learning for ALL Students.” 2021, Team Up and Cengage Learning

“The Empowered Educator: Elevating Instruction.” Team Up and Cengage Learning, October 2017

“Online Teaching and Blackboard Learn 9.1,” Center for Online Education and Instructional Technology, December 2016

“Engaging Professional Development: Best Practices,” Team Up and Cengage Learning, February 2016

Texas A&M Assessment Conference, College Station, February 2015

“Empowering Student Writers through Invention Strategies in Comp. I and Comp. II”—Team Up and Cengage Learning, October 2014

“Helping Students Read your Mind: A Genre-Based Approach to Writing in the Disciplines”—Team Up/Cengage Learning, November 2014

Conference Papers:

“m.A.A.D Faith: A Study of Community, Environment and Faith in the works of Kendrick Lamar,” Southwest Conference on Christianity and Literature, Northeastern State University, 2021

“Beyond the Street Called Protest: A Comparative Study of Ann Petry’s *The Street* and Richard Wright’s *Native Son*,” College Language Association (CLA), Chicago, Ill, 2018

“Living the Dream, Facing Reality” A Look into Martha Southgate’s *The Fall of Rome*, National Council of Black Studies (NCBS), Houston, Texas 2017.

“Creating Community Builders through Urban Swing Dance.” NAAAS. (Accepted/Could not attend)

“Tupac Shakur: The Rose that Grew from a Legacy of Hope.” National Council of Black Studies, Los Angeles, Ca 2015.

“Rolling Through Rome on Dubs: A Look at Survival in Martha Southgate’s *The Fall of Rome*.” National Council of Black Studies, Miami, Fl, 2014.

“The Rapper and the Rose: The Protest Poetry of Tupac Shakur.” College Language Association, Brooklyn, New York, 2010.

“A Lesson While Living: The Timeless Lesson Learned in Ernest Gaines’ *A Lesson Before Dying*” S.C.A.S.S.I. Conference, Baton Rouge, 2010.

“Nanny, a Signifying and Sermonizing Voice: The Evolution and Revolution of the Dispirited Black Female.” Women/War/Revolution/Violence Conference, Texas Southern University, 2009.

“*In the Zone* with the Urban Student: Collaborative Learning inside the Engaged Contact Zone.” 13th National HBCU Faculty Development Symposium, Houston, Texas 2007.

“The Quest for Self-Knowledge and Identity in Robert Penn Warren’s Early Unpublished Poetry.” Lamda Iota Tau Honors Initiation Luncheon, Houston, Texas 2006.

“Reinventing the Multicultural Literature Classroom, the Warren Way.” English Graduates for Academic Development 13th Development Symposium, Commerce, Texas, September 2004.

“Seeing the Shape, Making the Jungian Form: Constructing Min’s Journey to Womanhood in Ann Petry’s *The Street*” College Language Association (CLA), April 2004.

“In the Shot: Capturing the *Passing* of Sara Jane Johnson Using Mise En Scène in Douglas Sirk’s *Imitation of Life* (1959).” Southwest Texas/Popular Culture & American Culture Associations, April 2004.

“Unmasking a Cultural Heroine: A Jungian Analysis of Min’s Journey from Invisibility to Identity in Ann Petry’s *The Street*.” Conference of College Teachers of English (CCTE), Beaumont, Texas, March 2004.

“Bending the Tree, Building the Woman: A Lacanian Analysis of Janie Crawford in Zora Neale Hurston’s *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.” English Graduates for Academic Development 13th Development Symposium, Commerce, Texas, July 2003.

“Academic Discourse/Essayist Literature: Tools of Bondage or Tools for Bonding?” Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC), New York City, March 2003.

“The Effective Teacher on Paper: Evaluating Written Commenting Practices.” Annual Symposium in Rhetoric of the Federation of North Texas Area Universities, Commerce, Texas, February 2002.

“From Fragmentation to Wholeness: A Phenomenological and Psychological Analysis of Ann Petry’s *The Street*.” J. Marie McCleary Symposium, Houston, Texas, April 2001.

Thesis Committees:

Thornton, Candice. *Miss/Ms/Mrs.-Interpreted: Re-examining Gendered Language in Archetypal Figures and Patterns of Morrison and Walker*” (Fall 2020-Spring 2021)

Taylor, Nicole, “The Creative Mind and its Unconscious Motivations: A Psychological Analysis of Works by Poe, Dickinson, and Woolf” (Spring 2019), Honors’ Thesis

Porter, Kierra, “Analyzing Foucault’s Theories of Power and Ethics in Relation to the Authentic Black Female Self in Works by Toni Morrison and Alice Walker” (Spring 2018-Spring 2019)

Curry, Stephanie, “Much Smaller Than His Shadow: A Gothic Analysis of Black Masculine Figures in Ann Petry’s *The Street*, *The Narrows*, and *Miss Muriel and Other Stories*” (Fall 2016 to present)

Alsultani, Fadhil, “Class, Gender, and the Formation of Social Identity in Gerorge Bernard Shaw’s *Mrs. Warren’s Profession*, *Major Barbara*, and *Pygmalion* (2014)

Ford, James, *A Study in the Moral and Psychological Development of Selected Twentieth Century African and African-American Male Protagonists—A Psychoanalytic Approach* (2014)

Speaking Engagements/Presentations

Keynote Speaker, “Forming Women’s Circles: Innovative Teaching, Research, and Service during the Pandemic,” Women’s Caucus Breakfast at the 78th annual meeting of the South Central Modern Language Association (SCMLA) to be held in Houston, October 2021

Guest Speaker, Honors Graduate Luncheon and Recognition Ceremony, Spring 2021

Grammar Workshops (Co-Presented) College of Education, Fall 2019

Grammar Workshops (Co-Presenter), Thurgood Marshall Law School, Fall 2009 to Spring 2010

Commencement Speaker, Texas A&M University-Commerce, December 2010.

Conference Panel Participation/Round Table Discussions

“State of Black Women Roundtable,” State of Black Women, Houston, March 2019
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YkVRU3a_PG3Bj517JVfxPa9Wp1px7GQw/view?usp=sharing

Panel Chair: “Africa: Continental Experiences” National Council of Black Studies, Los Angeles, Calif, March 2015.

Panel Chair: “The Hope Literacy Project: Tutoring in Texas Prisons.” North Texas Writing Centers Association, Commerce, Texas, April 2003.

Awards:

Honors Award...Golden Key Honor’s Society
 Honor’s Award...Lamda Iota Tau, Spring 2006
 Teacher of the Year, Upward Bound Math/Science, Summer 2005
 St. Martin’s Award for Outstanding Doctoral Student Award in English, Spring 2004
 Paul Wells Barrus Graduate Scholarship, Spring 2003
 St. Martin’s Award for Outstanding Doctoral Student in English, Spring 2003
 Adelle Rogers Clark Memorial Scholarship, Spring 2002

Research Interests:

Composition Studies
 Hip Hop and Literature of the South
 Literature of the Harlem Renaissance
 Twentieth Century American Literature
 Nineteenth Century American Literature
 Film Studies
 Multicultural/Multi-Ethnic Literature

Professional Membership:

Golden Key Honor Society
 Lamda Iota Tau-Delta Alpha Chapter
 National Council of Black Studies
 College Language Association

Service

Community Service:

Houston Area Urban League Guild (Corresponding Secretary-Executive Board) 2022
 (2 year term)

Houston Area Urban League Guild (Youth Coordinator) 2019-2021
The Art of Kemistry Dance Kids (Free) Program 2016-present

University Service:

Graduate Council, Fall 2020 to present
University Academic Council, Spring 2020 to present
Gen Ed Committee, Fall 2014 to present
Faculty Senate, Fall 2016 to Fall 2020
Facilities Committee, Spring 2017 to present
University Homecoming Committee, 2017

Departmental Service:

Freshman Composition Director, Spring 2018-present
General Education Committee, Fall 2014-present
Co-Coordinator of Freshman Composition, Fall 2012 to Spring 2014
Assessment Committee, 2013 to present
QEP, 2011-present
Library Committee, Fall 2010-present
1st Year Writing Committee, Spring 2009-present
UIL Ready Writing Judge, Spring 2004
Graduate Student Meeting Coordinator, Fall 2003-Spring 2004
University Day Representative for Department of Literature and Languages, Spring 2002-Fall 2003
American Literature Faculty Search Committee Member, Spring 2003
Interim Dean Search Committee, Fall 2002
Faculty Executive Committee, Fall 2002
Student Development Committee, Fall 2003
UIL Ready Writing Judge, Spring 2003