

**OWEN CANTRELL** 964 HALL PLACE NW ATLANTA, GA 30318  
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## **POSITIONS HELD**

Assistant Professor, Perimeter College at Georgia State University (August 2017-present)

Coordinator, Georgia State University Prison Education Project (August 2019-present)

Site Director, Phillips State Prison, Common Good Atlanta (January 2019-January 2020)

Associate Director of the Phillips State Prison Writing Studio, Common Good Atlanta (January 2017-August 2019)

## **EDUCATION**

Doctor of Philosophy, American Literature, 1828-1900; Critical Theory  
Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA (May 2011-December 2015)

Master of Arts, Literary Studies  
Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA (August 2009-May 2011)

Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy  
Miami University, Oxford, OH (August 2003-May 2007)

## **TEACHING**

### **Teaching Experience**

Assistant Professor, Perimeter College at Georgia State University, August 2017-present

### Selected Courses Taught:

- Composition I: *Of Three Minds (Reactive, Empirical, Enlightened)*
- Honors Composition I: *The Power of Truthiness: Thinking and Writing Empirically in a Post-Fact World*
- Composition II: *"You've Felt it Your Entire Life" or How to Do Your Own Research: Conspiracism & Paranoia*
- Honors Composition II: *"We Understand Then, Do We Not?": Narrative and Empathy in Fictional Form(s)*
- American Literature: *Documents of Civilization and Barbarism: American Literature, 1620-present*
- World Literature: *"Not Untrue, But Incomplete" In Search of World Literature*
- Perspectives: *Imaginary Resolutions to Real Contradictions: American Popular Culture, 1828-present*
- Honors Perspectives: *Just Because You're Paranoid Doesn't Mean They're Not After You: Pop Culture and Paranoia*
- Honors Perspectives: *Make Nostalgia Great Again: Cultural Politics of Nostalgia, 1980-present*
- Perspectives: *Project Lab: Georgia State University Prison Education Project*
- Perspectives: *Theories of Justice and Global Approaches to Incarceration*

Writing Tutor and Teacher, Phillips State Prison, Buford, GA, October 2011-present

### Courses Taught:

- World Literature: *"Not Untrue, But Incomplete" In Search of World Literature*
- Composition II: *"We Understand Then, Do We Not?": Narrative and Empathy in Fictional Form(s)*

## **Selected Pedagogical Presentations**

“Enriching Student Learning in Honors,” Honors Faculty Development Workshop, Honors College, Perimeter College (July 14, 2021)

“Social Justice in the Composition Classroom,” Lower Division Studies, Georgia State University (April 16, 2021)

“A Framework for Social Justice and Civic Engagement in the Classroom,” Teaching for Social Justice and Democracy Speaker Series, CETLOE, Georgia State University (March 12, 2021)

“Teaching Honors Classes Online,” Honors College, Perimeter College (December 2, 2020)

“Teaching News Literacy: A Faculty Panel Discussion,” With Mary Ann Cullen, Tamra Ortgies-Young, Kari Miller, and Amy Stalker, Faculty Development Day, Georgia State University, Clarkston (October 19, 2018)

“Teaching That Which Is Not Your Own: Cultural Competency and Instruction,” Faculty Development Day, Georgia State University, Clarkston (October 19, 2018)

“Troubleshooting Videos in the English 1102 Classroom,” Faculty Development Day, Perimeter College at Georgia State University (February 23, 2018)

## **SCHOLARSHIP**

### **Research Interests**

Nineteenth-century American literature

Critical theory

American pop culture

Prison studies

History of American capitalism

Midwestern regionalism

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Journal Articles**

“Abraham Lincoln’s Republic of Rules: The Logic of Labor, the Labor of Logic,” *Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association*, volume 42, issue 2, 2021, pp. 26-46

“‘Here’s the church, here’s the steeple’: Existing Politics of Honors Education,” *Journal of the National Collegiate Honors Council*, volume 22, issue 11, 2021, pp. 21-26.

“It’s Not Polite to Talk About Yourself: Regional Identity and Erasure in the Midwest from F. Scott Fitzgerald to *Mad Men*.” *MidAmerica*, volume 41, 2014, pp. 39-61.

### **Book Chapters**

“Fragility and Empathy in the Literature Classroom,” *The Affects of Pedagogy in Literary Studies*, eds. Christopher Lloyd and Hilary Emmett, Routledge, 2023 (forthcoming)

“‘Poverty Porn’: CBS’s *The Briefcase* and the Deserving Poor in Reality Television,” *Representing the Other Half: Essays on Poverty in American Popular Culture*, edited by Wylie Lenz, McFarland Press, pp. 228-246, 2020.

“Ya Got Trouble’: River City, Main Street U.S.A., and Nostalgia in the Imagined Midwest,” *The Midwestern Moment: Pieces of the Heartland: Representing Early Twentieth-Century Midwestern Places*, edited by Andy Oler, Hastings College Press, pp. 53-68, 2018.

“To Stand Shoulder to Shoulder and Heart to Heart’: Politics, Authenticity, Community, and Folk Music in the Recent Work of Bruce Springsteen,” *Bruce Springsteen and Popular Music: Rhetoric, Memorial, and Contemporary Culture*, edited by William I. Wolff, Routledge, pp. 147-161, 2017.

### **Poems**

“How to Watch a Flower Decay,” *The Reach of Song 2020: Georgia Poetry Society*, Ed. Michael Diebert, Georgia Poetry Society, pp. 44-45, 2020.

### **Book Reviews**

Review of “*Going There: Black Visual Satire*” by Richard J. Powell,” *Studies in American Humor*, volume 8, issue 1, 2022, pp. 208-211

Review of “*Sitcommentary: Television Comedies that Changed America*” by Mark A. Robinson,” *Studies in American Humor*, volume 7, issue 1, 2021, pp. 249-251

Review of *Surveyors of Customs: American Literature as Cultural Analysis* by Joel Pfister, *South Atlantic Review*, volume 84, issue 4, 2019, pp. 148-150.

Review of *Echoes of Emerson: Rethinking Realism in Twain, James, Wharton, and Cather* by Diana Hope Polley, *South Atlantic Review*, volume 84, issue 1, 2019, pp. 178-180

### **Selected Conference Presentations**

“What Can the Prison Classroom Teach Colleges and Universities?” Grantmakers in Education Virtual Conference (October 20, 2021)

“Fragilities: Empathy in the Literature and Composition Classroom,” American Comparative Literature Association Virtual Panel (March 21, 2020)

“Sentimental Oppression: Social Totality in Melville's Diptych Tales,” Pacific American Modern Language Association, San Diego, CA (November 17, 2019)

“Ghosts: The White Body in Black Surrealism,” Southern American Studies Association, Atlanta, GA (March 15, 2019)

“How Did *These* Get Made: Towards a Theory of Comedy Podcast Consumption,” Humor in America, American Humor Studies Association and The Mark Twain Circle, Chicago, IL (July 13, 2018)

“The ‘Truthiness’ of It: Questioning the Validity of Our Own Minds,” Northeastern Modern Language Association, Pittsburgh, PA (April 13, 2018)

“The Writing Center as Prison, The Prison as Writing Center: Discipline and Punishment,” Southeastern Modern Language Association, Atlanta, GA (November 4, 2017)

“Empathy and Community Engagement in the Composition Classroom,” Two Year College Association of Georgia, Clarkston, GA (October 13, 2017)

## **Interviews**

Interviewed in film *The Liberal Arts in the Age of Mass Incarceration: Common Good Atlanta*, Fall 2021

## **SERVICE**

### **College**

Faculty Senator, Perimeter College (English), Georgia State University, 2019-present

Cultural Diversity Committee, 2019-present

Chair, Disability Subcommittee, 2021-2022

Curriculum Committee, 2020-2021

Faculty Affairs Committee, 2019-2020, 2021-2022

Committee Member, English Executive Committee, 2019-present

Committee Member, Literature Committee, 2019-present

Committee Member, Grade Appeals, English B, Perimeter College, 2018-present

Co-Chair, Perspectives Committee, English, 2019-2020

Committee Member, Georgia State University Prison Education Program, 2017- 2019

Representative, Alpharetta Campus, American Literature Committee, Perimeter College, 2017-2019

Committee Member, Search Committee, Lecturer Position, English B, 2018- 2019

Committee Member, Helen Friese Village Writer's Group Scholarship Committee, Perimeter College, Spring 2018

Committee Member, English By Laws Committee, Perimeter College, 2018-2019

### **Discipline & Organizational**

Reader (Fiction & Nonfiction), *Chattahoochee Review*, 2019-2020

Reader, Southern Literary Festival 2020

Host Committee, Common Good Atlanta, Spring 2018

### **Community**

Volunteer, Clyde's Kitchen (April 2; April 7; April 9, 2020)

Volunteer, The Arc Georgia (January 21, 2019)

Volunteer, Meals on Wheels (November 22, 2018)

Volunteer, Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio (December 21, 2018)

Volunteer Researcher, American Civil Liberties Union (January 2017-June 2018)

Volunteer, Easter Dinner, Hosea Feed the Hungry (April 16, 2017; April 1, 2018)

### **Selected Professional Development & Associations**

Board Member, Georgia Coalition for Higher Education in Prisons (January 2022-present)

Member, Georgia Coalition for Higher Education in Prisons (August 2019-present)

Member, American Comparative Literature Association (December 2019-present)

Member, Pacific American Modern Language Association (July 2019-present)

Member, American Humor Studies Association (March 2018-present)

Member, American Studies Association (January 2017-present)

Member, Modern Language Association (June 2011-present)

Member, South Atlantic Modern Language Association (August 2010-present)

Participant, Reform Alliance Luncheon (September 27, 2019)

### **Awards**

Recognized for Outstanding Achievement in Research, Perimeter College, Georgia State University, 2021-2022

Outstanding Honors Faculty, Honors College at Perimeter College, Georgia State University, 2020-2021

Outstanding Junior Faculty, Perimeter College, Georgia State University, 2020-2021

Teaching for Social Justice and Democracy Award, Georgia State University, 2020-2021

### **Grants**

Grantee (Georgia State University Prison Education Project), Laughing Gull Foundation (March 2022)

- Capacity Building Grant: one-time \$10,000 grant to support Leadership Coaching for newly hired Program Director (March 2022)
- Grant Extension: one-time \$70,000 grant extension to support programmatic needs for GSUPEP (July 2021)
- Three-Year Grant: three-year grant at \$70,000 per year to support programmatic needs for GSUPEP (November 2018-November 2020)

Grantee (Georgia State University Prison Education Project), American Family Institute for Corporate and Social Impact (October 2021)

- Two-year grant for \$100,000 per year to hire a Program Director for GSUPEP

Grantee (Georgia State University Prison Education Project), Experimental Sites Initiative, Second Chance Pell Grants, Department of Education (April 2019)

- Estimated ~\$125,000 per year funding available in Pell Grant eligibility for incarcerated students