

Sarah E. Yancey
Maryville College
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EDUCATION

<i>University of Tennessee, Knoxville</i>	2025
Doctor of Philosophy in Literature, Criticism, and Textual Studies- Medieval	
Dissertation: "The Medievalish McCarthy: The Afterlives of Medieval Texts in Appalachian Literature"	
Graduate Certificate in Digital Humanities	
Master of Arts in Literature, Criticism, and Textual Studies- Medieval	2020
<i>University of South Carolina, Aiken</i>	2016
Bachelor of Arts in English - Creative Writing Minor	
<i>Summa cum Laude</i>	

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

English 295: Writing in the Workplace	Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2024, ** Fall 2023**
Students found their own "business" and write supporting documents for its initial year, including several emails, a business and marketing plan, rollout plan for a collaborative event with another business, a viable resume, and a cover letter.	
English 102: English Composition II	
Inquiry into Sports Stories	Summer 2026
Students conduct qualitative and archival research to examine the ways that stories are told in sports, through commentator-created narratives, overarching "plots," and even personal experiences.	
Inquiry into Monsters	Spring 2026
Students conduct qualitative and archival research to investigate cultural, social, and historical presentations of the monstrous, from <i>Beowulf's</i> Grendel to Appalachia's Mothman and Bigfoot.	
Inquiry into the Good Death	Fall 2025, Summer 2023, * Spring 2023, Summer 2022, * Spring 2022
Students conduct qualitative, archival, and secondary source research to examine cultural, historical, and literary representations of a "good" death and how they change throughout the years.	
Inquiry into Heroes	Summer 2025, * Summer 2024*
Students conduct qualitative, archival, and secondary source research to discover how culture views real and fictional "heroes," what behaviors are deemed admirable, and what happens when they do not hold true to society's expectations.	
Inquiry into the Apocalypse	Summer 2021, Spring 2021, Spring 2020
Students conduct qualitative, archival, and secondary source research to study myths and beliefs commonly associated with the apocalypse, including religious texts and pop culture portrayals.	
English 255: Public Writing and Advocacy	Spring 2025
Students select a "cause" and create public writing elements to forward its message, including an open letter, a social media campaign, and a public argument employing creative visual elements.	
English 150: Appalachia Now	Fall 2024
Students engage with oral narratives, poems, short stories, excerpts from Crystal Wilkinson's <i>Praisesong for the Kitchen Ghosts</i>, and Ron Rash's <i>One Food in Eden</i> to learn about the history and people of Appalachia, with several creative response assignments and a final multimodal project.	

English 101: English Composition I

Rhetoric Through Graffiti

Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2020, Fall 2019

- Students learned the basics of rhetoric and composition through the lens of graffiti art, writing analyses of others' textual arguments, composing a persuasive paper, and culminating in a multimodal argument remediating their paper as "graffiti."

First Year Studies: Pre-Professional Students

Fall 2022

**Asynchronous Online*

**Teaching Assistant*

TUTORING EXPERIENCE

Thornton Athletics Student Life Center- Writing Lab

Writing Lab Tutor- assigned

Fall 2025-Summer 2026

Writing Lab Tutor- drop in

Fall 2018- Fall 2021

Veterans Success Center

Orientation Leader

Fall 2025

Tutor Trainer

Fall 2024-Spring 2025

Embedded Veteran Student Tutor

Spring 2022-Spring 2024

Volunteer English Tutor

Fall 2021

Judith Anderson Herbert Writing Center

Experienced Graduate Tutor

Fall 2019

Graduate Tutor

Fall 2018- Spring 2019

Embedded Tutor Pilot Program

English 101: English Composition

Spring 2019

Graduate Teaching Assistant

English 102: Inquiry into New Media

Spring 2019

English 101: English Composition

Fall 2018

PUBLICATIONS

"Review of Michael Lynn Crews' *Books Are Made Out of Books: A Guide to Cormac McCarthy's Literary Influences*, 2nd edition." *The Cormac McCarthy Journal* 23, no. 2 (2025): 182-185.

"Child of Grendel, *Child of God*: Cormac McCarthy's Appalachian Retelling of *Beowulf*." *Medieval Perspectives* 36 (2022): 109-123.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS/PANELS

"Thin Places': Locating Medievalish Faerie in Appalachian Fiction." Southeastern Medieval Association. University of Cincinnati, OH. 7 November 2025.

"Suttree's Literary World: StoryMapping Knoxville for a Digital Audience." University of Tennessee Digital Humanities Showcase. University of Tennessee, TN. 5 May 2025.

"Where Grindel Lurks': Southern Medievalism in Cormac McCarthy's Tennessee Novels." Medieval on My Mind: The Past, Present, and Future of Medieval Manuscripts in the Deep South. University of Georgia, GA. 5 April 2025.

"Solitary Travelers in *Outer Dark*: Medieval Transformation in the Appalachian Wild." Southeastern Medieval Association. Augusta University, GA. 10 October 2024. (Conference canceled due to Hurricane Helene).

"Adventures in the Archives: Uncovering Cormac McCarthy's Medieval Legacy." The Cormac McCarthy Society. Knoxville, TN. 5 October 2024.

"Shot through the Herte, and Chaucer's to Blame, *Troilus and Criseyde* Gives Courtly Love a Bad Name: A Digital Approach to Medieval Textual Analysis." Southeastern Medieval Association. Samford University and University of Alabama at Birmingham, AL. 12 November 2022.

“Digital Humanities in Medieval Studies.” Marco Graduate Colloquium. University of Tennessee, TN. 11 April 2022.
Presentation via Zoom.

“Let the Bodies Hit the Floor: Delayed Grief and Instruments of Revenge in *The Spanish Tragedy* and *The Revenger’s Tragedy*.” NEXUS Interdisciplinary Conference. University of Tennessee, TN. 6 March 2022.

“The Appalachian Grendel: Medieval Analogs in Cormac McCarthy’s *Child of God*.” Southeastern Medieval Association. Wofford College, SC. 12 November 2021.

“Unlocking Beowulf’s Word-Hoard: The Hero’s Grip on Narrative.” Southeastern Medieval Association. University of North Carolina Greensboro, NC. 15 November 2019.

“Deor: Beyond the Elegy.” Southeastern Medieval Association. College of Charleston, SC. 17 November 2017, as Sarah Chatelain.

WORKSHOPS & DEVELOPMENT

Basics of Assessment, Feedback, and Response

Presenter. Session of English department’s orientation for incoming graduate students on 11 August 2025.

Stokely Conference on Teaching Writing

Facilitator. All-day workshop for Knox County middle school teachers- led session titled “Connecting Students with Multimodal Archives” on 28 May 2025.

Common Classroom Concerns and Teaching Persona

Presenter. Session of English Department’s orientation for incoming graduate students on 12 August 2024 and 11 August 2023.

Work-Life Balance for Graduate Students

Presenter. Session of Graduate Students of English (GSE) talk for incoming graduate students with focus on financial aspects on 19 August 2022.

GSE Orientation Day

Organizer and Presenter. Five session graduate student orientation on Zoom, including “Handling Racism in the Classroom,” Graduate Student Work-Life Balance for Graduate Students,” “Crafting a Teaching Persona” and “Getting Involved in the English Department” on 4 August 2021.

INTERVIEWS AND PUBLIC PANELS

Invited Panel Member

Presenter on two panels at Sevierville’s Appalachian WordFest, along with Dr. William Hardwig and Dr. Wesley Morgan: “Cormac McCarthy’s Appalachian Roots and Early Works” and “Blood Meridian Panel.” 1 March 2025.

Interview: UTK College of Arts & Sciences

Interviewed for [article](#) on the 2024 Cormac McCarthy Society Conference, in Knoxville, TN, 2024.

Interview: Getting Medieval Podcast

Interviewed for second episode, “Getting Legendary with Tracy Deonn’s *Legendborn*.” February 2024.

Interview: Torchbearer Magazine

Interviewed for article on Cormac McCarthy’s work and time at the University of Tennessee. It can be found in the Fall 2023 issue and was also published [online](#) on 12 December 2023.

Interview: Getting Medieval Podcast

Interviewed for pilot medieval podcast episode, “You too can be a Medievalismist.” November 2023.

AWARDS

External

Wittliff Collections Travel Award, Wittliff Collections at Texas State University - 2024
Chip Arnold Research Award, The Cormac McCarthy Society - 2024

University of Tennessee

Owens-Keenan Dissertation Fellowship - 2024-2025
Joseph Trahern Dissertation Fellowship - 2024-2025
Thomas Wheeler Traveling Fellowship - 2024
Owens-Keenan Dissertation Fellowship - 2023-2024
John C. Hodges Excellence in Teaching Award - 2023
Norman Sanders Dissertation Fellowship - 2023-2024
Tennessee Excellence Award - 2023-2024
Bain & Irene Stuart Fellowship - 2022
Tennessee Excellence Award - 2021-2023
Graduate Fellowship - 2020-2021
John C. Hodges Fellowship for New Graduate Students - 2018-2019, 2020-2021
John B. Emperor Fellowship - 2018-2019

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Proofreader

Vikings, Knights, Elves, and Ogres: Essays in Honor of Shaun F.D. Hughes. Edited by Eric R. Carlson, Dorsey Armstrong, and Arielle C. McKee. (Berlin, Boston: Medieval Institute Publications, 2025).

STEER- Supporting Teaching Excellence through Education and Reflection

Co-facilitator with fellow GTA to form, acquire funding, and implement a peer teaching professionalization group for graduate students, 2024-2025.

Canvas Revision for English 101 & 102

Worked with another GTA to create new Canvas templates for online asynchronous sections of English 101 & 102. January-April 2024.

Online Teaching for Graduate Students Seminar

Workshop on online course design and pedagogy, part of the UTK Developing Future Faculty Series, February-March 2023.

Military Cultural Competency "Green Zone" Training

Attendee. Workshop on effectively accommodating veteran and non-traditional students in pedagogy and advisement, sponsored by the UTK Veterans Success Center, Sept. 2021.

Best Practices in Teaching

Attendee. Workshop on inter-disciplinary teaching methods, sponsored by the John C. Hodges Library, Jan.-March 2021.

Best Practices in Publishing

Attendee. Workshop on inter-disciplinary publication methods, sponsored by the John C. Hodges Library, Jan.-March 2019.

Research Assistant

Research assistant for Dr. Kathleen Kalpin Smith's book titled, *Gender, Speech, and Audience Reception in Early Modern England*, published in 2017.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Early Medieval Texts
Medieval Horror
Cormac McCarthy Studies
Digital Humanities

Medievalism/Adaptation
Composition Studies
Writing in the Workplace
Appalachian/Southern Literature

TEACHING INTERESTS

Early British Literature	Medievalism/Adaptation
<i>Beowulf</i>	Medieval Romance
Medieval Horror	Cormac McCarthy
Early Modern Revenge Tragedies	Writing in the Workplace

SERVICE

Co-organizer, Cormac McCarthy Society Conference
8-10 October 2026 in Knoxville, TN

Mentor for Master's Graduate Teaching Assistants
Spring 2026- Inquiry into Monsters
Spring 2023- Inquiry into the Good Death
Fall 2022- Rhetoric Through Graffiti
Spring 2022- Inquiry into the Good Death
Fall 2021- Rhetoric Through Graffiti
Spring 2021- Inquiry into the Apocalypse
Fall 2020- Rhetoric Through Graffiti

MARCO Institute Steering Committee
Graduate Student Representative, 2024-2025

Graduate Students in English Organization
Chair, 2021-2022
Vice-Chair, 2020-2021
MA Representative, 2019-2020

Grist Reader
Fiction submissions, 2023 and 2021
Fiction & Non-Fiction submissions, 2019
Non-Fiction submissions, 2018