

BRIAN W. SHAFFER
Department of English
Rhodes College
Memphis, TN 38112

EMPLOYMENT

Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for Faculty Development,
Rhodes College, Memphis, TN (2000-)
Professor of English, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN (2002-)
Associate Professor of English, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN
(1996-2002)
Assistant Professor of English, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN
(1990-1996)
Tutor, British Studies at Oxford, Oxford University (Summer
1997 and 2001)
Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Critical Inquiry in the
Liberal Arts, Sponsored by the National Endowment for the
Humanities, College of Arts and Sciences, University of
North Carolina, Greensboro, NC (1989-90)

EDUCATION

The University of Iowa, Ph.D. (1989), English
Dissertation: "Representing Civilization: Texts and
Contexts of Conrad, Joyce, and Lowry" (Director:
Cheryl Herr)
Washington University, A.B., Magna Cum Laude (1983),
Philosophy
Senior Honors Thesis: "The Explicit Aesthetic
Investigations of Joyce's Ulysses" (Director: William H.
Gass)

ACADEMIC HONORS

Charles R. Glover Chair in English Studies, Rhodes (2001-7)
Clarence Day Dean's Award for Outstanding Teaching, Rhodes
(2000)
Clarence Day Dean's Award for Outstanding Research and
Creative Activity, Rhodes (1995)
Four-Year Graduate College and Departmental
Fellowship, University of Iowa (1984-88)
Frederick P. W. McDowell Graduate Scholar Award,
University of Iowa (1986-87 & 1989-90)
Phi Beta Kappa, Washington University (1983)

FELLOWSHIPS

Early Sabbatical, Rhodes College (Spring 1995)
National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar for
College Teachers, "The Emergence and Development of the
English Novel," University of California, Berkeley (Summer
1993)
Faculty Development Endowment Grant, Rhodes College (Summer
1991, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998, 1999)

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar for College Teachers, "Critical Perspectives on the High Modernist Tradition," Cornell University (Summer 1990)

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS:

The Blinding Torch: Modern British Fiction and the Discourse of Civilization, University of Massachusetts Press (1993).
Understanding Kazuo Ishiguro, University of South Carolina Press (1998).
Approaches to Teaching Conrad's "Heart of Darkness" and "The Secret Sharer," co-edited with Hunt Hawkins, Modern Language Association (2002).
Companion to the British and Irish Novel 1945-2000, edited, Blackwell Publishing (2005).
Reading the Novel in English 1950-2000, Blackwell Publishing (2006)
Conversations with Kazuo Ishiguro, co-edited with Cynthia Wong, University Press of Mississippi (2008)

ARTICLES:

"'I don't want to think about things too much': Ishiguro's Short Fiction in Context," Kazuo Ishiguro: Contemporary Critical Perspectives, Sean Matthews and Sebastian Groes, eds., Continuum Publishers (forthcoming 2009).
"Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness," A Companion to Modernist Literature and Culture, pp. 314-23, David Bradshaw and Kevin J. H. Dettmar, eds. Blackwell Publishers (2006).
"The Role of Marlow's Nellie Audience in Heart of Darkness." Approaches to Teaching Conrad's "Heart of Darkness" and "The Secret Sharer," Hunt Hawkins and Brian W. Shaffer, eds., Modern Language Association (2002).
"Swept from the Sea: Trauma and Otherness in Conrad's 'Amy Foster'," Conradiana 32 (2000): 163-76.
"Joseph Conrad's The Nigger of the 'Narcissus'," A Joseph Conrad Companion, Leonard Orr and Ted Billy, eds., Greenwood Press, (1999), 49-64.
"Nationalism at the Bar: Anti-Semitism in Ulysses and Under the Volcano," Joyce/Lowry: Critical Perspectives, Paul Tiessen and Patrick McCarthy, eds. University Press of Kentucky (1997), 84-95.
"'The Commerce of Shady Wares': Politics and Pornography in Conrad's The Secret Agent," ELH 62 (1995): 443-66.
"Civilization in Bloomsbury: Woolf's Mrs. Dalloway and Bell's 'Theory of Civilization'," Journal of Modern Literature 19 (1995): 73-87.

"Negotiating Self and Culture: Narcissism, Competing Discourses, and Ideological Becoming in 'Penelope'," Molly Blooms: A Polylogue on "Penelope and Cultural Studies," Richard Pearce, ed., University of Wisconsin Press (1994), 139-151.

"Domestic Ironies: Housekeeping as Mankeeping in Conrad's The Secret Agent," Keeping the Victorian House, Vanessa Dickerson, ed., Garland Press (1994), 139-51.

"'Rebarbarizing Civilization': Conrad's African Fiction and Spencerian Sociology," PMLA 108 (1993), 45-58. Commissioned for reprinting in A Practical Guide to Literary Theory and Criticism, Ed. M. Keith Booker, Longman (1996), 366-385.

"Joyce and Freud: Discontent and Its Civilizations," Joyce in Context, Timothy P. Martin and Vincent J. Cheng, eds., Cambridge University Press (1992), 73-88. Commissioned for revision and reprinting as "Teaching Freud through 'Nausicaa'," Pedagogy, Praxis, Ulysses: Using Joyce's Text to Transform the Classroom, Robert Newman, ed., University of Michigan Press (1996), 121-31.

"'Progress and Civilization and all the Virtues': Teaching Heart of Darkness via 'An Outpost of Progress'," Conradiana 24 (1992), 219-31.

"'Civilization' Under Western Eyes: Lowry's Under the Volcano as a Reading of Conrad's Heart of Darkness," Conradiana 22 (1990), 143-156.

"Kindred by Choice: Joyce's Exiles and Goethe's Elective Affinities," James Joyce Quarterly 26 (1989), 199-212.

"'To Manage Private and Domestic Quarrels': Shakespeare's Othello and the Genre of Elizabethan Domestic Tragedy," Iowa State Journal of Research 62 (1988), 443-457.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Radio interview on Booker Prize Winners, "What's the Word," an MLA-sponsored radio program (originally broadcast in November of 2003; available on the MLA website).

"An Interview with Kazuo Ishiguro," Contemporary Literature 42 (2001), 1-14.

"General Introduction" to Lectures D'Une Oeuvre: "The Remains of the Day" by Kazuo Ishiguro, Francois Gallix, ed. Paris: Editions du Temps (1999), 5-11.

Review Article, "James Joyce and the Problem of Otherness," Modern Philology 95 (1997): 218-30.

"A Response to Jonathan Hart on Postcolonial Theory," Arachne 1 (1994), 94-99.

Guest Editor of a special issue of Conradiana 24:3 (1992), "Heart of Darkness in the Classroom." Includes essays by Eloise Knapp Hay, Vincent Pecora, Daniel Schwarz, Hunt Hawkins, and Brian Shaffer.

"An Interview with Elie Wiesel," Contemporary Literature 28 (1987), 287-300, with Robert Franciosi. Reprinted in Elie Wiesel: Conversations. Ed. Robert Franciosi. University of Mississippi Press, 2002. pp. 118-129.

REVIEWS:

- Review of James Joyce's "Painful Case", by Coilin Owens, Philological Quarterly, 85 (2006), 399-403.
- Review of Cambridge Companion to E. M. Forster, ed. by David Bradshaw, English Literature in Transition, 51 (2008), 333-6.
- Review of Cambridge Introduction to Joseph Conrad, by John Peters, and Cambridge Introduction to James Joyce, by Eric Bulson, English Literature in Transition, 51 (2008), 105-9.
- Review of "Ulysses" in Critical Perspective, ed. by Michael Patrick Gillespie and A. Nicholas Fagnoli, English Literature in Transition, 50 (2006), 232-35.
- Review of Suspicious Readings of Joyce's "Dubliners," by Margot Norris, English Literature in Transition, 47 (2004), 357-60.
- Review of Rereading Conrad, by Daniel R. Schwarz, Studies in the Novel, 34 (2002), 239-40.
- Review of Essays on Conrad, by Ian Watt, English Literature in Transition, 45 (2002), 104-106.
- Review of Joyce's Comic Portrait, by Roy Gottfried, English Literature in Transition, 44 (2001): 391-94.
- Review of The Years of Bloom: James Joyce in Trieste, 1904-1920, by John McCourt, English Literature in Transition, 44 (2001): 523-25.
- Review of Envisioning Africa: Racism and Imperialism in Conrad's "Heart of Darkness," by Peter Edgerly Firchow, Criticism, 42 (2000): 276-78.
- Review of When We Were Orphans, by Kazuo Ishiguro, World Literature Today, 74 (2000): 595-96.
- Review of The Cast of Characters: A Reading of "Ulysses", by Paul Schwaber, English Literature in Transition, 44 (2000): 110-13.
- Review of James Joyce's Judaic Other, by Marilyn Reizbaum, English Literature in Transition, 43 (2000): 239-42.
- Review of Joyce's Book of Memory: The Mnemotechnic of "Ulysses", by John S. Rickard, English Literature in Transition, 42 (1999): 475-77.
- Review of Conrad in Perspective: Essays on Art and Fidelity, by Zdzislaw Najder, and James Joyce and Trieste, by Peter Hartshorn, English Literature in Transition, 41 (1998): 484-88.

Review of The Cambridge Companion to Joseph Conrad, ed. by J. H. Stape, English Literature in Transition, 41 (1998): 220-23.

Review of James Joyce and the Question of History, by James Fairhall, English Literature in Transition, 39 (1996), 95-98.

Review of Joyce in America: Cultural Politics and the Trials of "Ulysses," by Jeffrey Segall, Arachne 3 (1996): 123-26.

Review of Transgressions of Reading: Narrative Engagements as Exile and Return, by Robert Newman, South Central Review 13,4 (1996): 86-7.

Review of "The Dead": James Joyce: Case Studies in Contemporary Criticism, ed. by Daniel Schwarz, Studies in Short Fiction, 32 (1995): 502-504.

Review of Forests of Symbols: World, Text, and Self in Malcolm Lowry's Fictions, by Patrick A. McCarthy, Modern Fiction Studies, 41 (1995), 361-63.

Review of Constructions of 'The Jew' in English Literature and Society: Racial Representations, 1875-1945, by Bryan Cheyette, English Literature in Transition, 38 (1995), 397-400.

Review of Conrad's Fiction as Critical Discourse, by Richard Ambrosini, Conradiana 27 (1995), 152-54.

Review of Joseph Conrad: Betrayal and Identity, by Robert Hampson, Studies in the Novel, 26 (1994), 442-44.

Review of The Modernist Short Story: A Study of Theory and Practice, by Dominic Head, Studies in Short Fiction, 31 (1994), 134-36.

Review of Joseph Conrad: Text and Context, by Brian Spittles, Joseph Conrad Today, 18/3-4 (1994), 4.

Review of Joseph Conrad and the Modern Temper, by Daphna Erdinast-Vulcan, Modern Fiction Studies, 38 (1993), 957-8.

Review of Joyce and Wagner: A Study of Influence, by Timothy Martin, English Literature in Transition, 36 (1993), 391-3.

Review of Waking Giants: The Presence of the Past in Modernism, by Herbert N. Schneidau, James Joyce Literary Supplement, 7.2 (1993), 27.

Review of Modernist Fiction: An Introduction, by Randall Stevenson, D.H. Lawrence Review, 24 (1992), 190-91.

Review of The Cambridge Companion to James Joyce, edited by Derek Attridge, English Literature in Transition, 34 (1991), 492-95.

Review of Erotic Faith: Being in Love from Jane Austen to D. H. Lawrence, by Robert Polhemus, D. H. Lawrence Review, 23 (1991), 258-60.

Review of Joseph Conrad: Interviews and Recollections, edited by Martin Ray, English Literature in Transition, 34 (1991), 323-26.

Review of Joseph Conrad's Reading: An Annotated Bibliography, by David W. Tutein, Joseph Conrad Today, 16/3-4 (1991), 6.

Review of Crossing the Shadow-Line: The Literature of Estrangement, by Martin Bock, English Literature in Transition, 34 (1991), 237-40.

Review of A Rhetorical Analysis of "Under the Volcano," by Dana Grove, Modern Fiction Studies, 36 (1990), 244-45.

Review of Joyce, Bakhtin, and Popular Literature: Chronicles of Disorder, by R. B. Kershner, James Joyce Literary Supplement, 4.1 (1990), 25-26.

Review of The Letters of Malcolm Lowry and Gerald Noxon, edited by Paul Tiessen, Modern Fiction Studies, 35 (1989), 811-12.

Review of The Culture of Criticism and the Criticism of Culture, by Giles Gunn, Iowa Review 19 (1989), 171-74.

Review of Speech Genres and Other Late Essays, by M. M. Bakhtin, Substance 57 (1988), 58-60.

Review of James Joyce's "Ulysses": The Wider Perspective, edited by Robert D. Newman and Weldon Thornton, Philological Quarterly 67 (1988), 396-399.

Review of Literary Meaning from Phenomenology to Deconstruction, by William Ray, and Reception Theory: A Critical Introduction, by Robert C. Holub, Substance 54 (1987), 90-94.

Review of Malcolm Lowry, by Ronald Binns, Philological Quarterly 66 (1987), 547-550.

Review of Criticism in the University, edited by Gerald Graff and Reginald Gibbons, and The Post-Modern Aura: The Act of Fiction in an Age of Inflation, by Charles Newman, Iowa Review 17 (1987), 155-162.

Review of The Fiction of William Gass: The Consolation of Language, by Arthur M. Saltzman, Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association 19 (1986), 49-52.

Review of Habitations of the Word, by William H. Gass, Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association 18 (1985), 29-34.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

"Swept from the Sea: Trauma and Otherness in Conrad's 'Amy Foster'," Modern Language Association Convention, Chicago, December 27, 1999.

Chair of "Homeless International: Kazuo Ishiguro and Tropes of Travel," Modern Language Association Convention, Chicago, December 29, 1999.

"Memory and Trauma in Kazuo Ishiguro's An Artist of the Floating World," Midwest Modern Language Association Convention, St. Louis, November 7, 1998.

Chair of "Teaching Conrad's 'The Secret Sharer'," Modern Language Association Convention, Toronto, December 29, 1997.

Chair of "Engaging Ishiguro," Midwest Modern Language Association Convention, Chicago, November 7, 1997.

"Clothing and Unclothing Repression in Ishiguro's The Remains of the Day," Modern Language Association Convention, Chicago, December 29, 1995.

Chair of "At Home in His Fictions: Joseph Conrad and the Domestic Sphere," Modern Language Association Convention, Chicago, December 28, 1995.

Chair of "Joseph Conrad, E. M. Forster, and the Idea of England," South Atlantic Modern Language Association Convention, Atlanta, November 3, 1995.

"Domestic Ironies: Housekeeping as Mankeeping in Conrad's The Secret Agent," Midwest Modern Language Association Convention, Chicago, November 12, 1994.

"Revolution and Pornography in The Secret Agent," Modern Language Association Convention, New York, December 29, 1992.

Chair of "Representing the Feminine: Lawrence and Joyce," Twentieth-Century Literature Association Conference, Louisville, February 29, 1992.

"Molly and Popular Language: Competing Discourses and Ideological Becoming in 'Penelope'," Joyce and Popular Culture Conference, Miami, February 1, 1992.

"'Rebarbarizing Civilization': Conrad's Heart of Darkness and Spencerian Sociology," Midwest Modern Language Association Convention, Chicago, November 15, 1991.

"A Painful Case: Narcissism in Joyce and Lowry," National James Joyce Conference, Vancouver, June 12, 1991.

"Censorship and Civilization in Bloomsbury: Woolf's Mrs. Dalloway and Bell's On British Freedom," Twentieth-Century Literature Association Conference, Louisville, February 22, 1991.

Organizer and Moderator, "Teaching Conrad's Heart of Darkness: Authorial Text, Cultural Context, Pedagogical Subtext," Modern Language Association Convention, Chicago, December 28, 1990.

"Civilization as Rhetoric in Conrad's Heart of Darkness," Twentieth-Century Literature Association Conference, Louisville, February 22, 1990.

"Civilization as Game in Conrad's The Secret Agent," Midwest Modern Language Association Convention, Minneapolis, November 4, 1989.

"Discontent and Its Civilization: Rereading Joyce's 'Paralyzed' Dubliner," National James Joyce Conference, Philadelphia, June 14, 1989.

"Civilization Under Western Eyes: Lowry's Under the Volcano and Conrad's Heart of Darkness," Midwest Modern Language Association Convention, St. Louis, November 3, 1988.

Organizer and Moderator, "James Joyce and Mikhail Bakhtin: The Dialogic Imagination," Midwest Modern Language Association Convention, Columbus, November 12, 1987.

"Problems of Art and Self-Fashioning in Ulysses: Stephen's Anxiety in 'Telemachus'," National James Joyce Conference, Milwaukee, June 12, 1987.

"'To Manage Private and Domestic Quarrels': Shakespeare's Othello and the Genre of Elizabethan Domestic Tragedy," Iowa State Shakespeare Symposium, Ames, April 25, 1987.

"Kindred by Choice: Joyce's Exiles and Goethe's Elective Affinities," Midwest Modern Language Association Convention, Chicago, November 6, 1986.

TEACHING

The courses listed below were taught either at Rhodes College, British Studies at Oxford, the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, or the University of Iowa (as indicated).

Contemporary Anglophone Novel (Rhodes, Spring 2003)

A study of novels in English between 1950 and 2000 from Britain and Ireland, Canada, Nigeria, South Africa, and the Caribbean.

Great Expectations: The British Coming of Age Novel from Bronte to Rhys (British Studies, Summer 2001; Rhodes, Spring 2001 and 2007, Fall 2002 and 2004)

A study of the ways in which selected British novels between 1850 and 1950 engage in a "dialogue" with their times, with each other, and with established models of narrating lives.

Class and Society in the Modern English Novel (British Studies, Summer 1997)

A study of the ways in which nineteenth and twentieth-century English novels explore various social, economic, and political "crises" of their eras.

The Irish Literary Renaissance (British Studies, Summer 1997)

A Survey of major twentieth-century Irish authors against the backdrop of political and historical developments.

Twentieth-Century British Literature (Rhodes, Spring 1991 and 2000, Fall 1992, 1996, 2001, 2003, 2005)

Intensive, upper level course surveying the literary texts and cultural contexts of Conrad, Lawrence, Joyce, Woolf, Forster, Hardy, Yeats, Eliot, Shaw, and Beckett.

The State of the State: Representations of Britain and Ireland in the Works of Conrad, Forster, and Joyce (British Studies, Summer 2001)

A study of the ways in which major works of three authors represent and critique English society, the British Empire, and/or Ireland as an emerging state.

Senior Seminar: Critical Theory and Literary Meaning (Rhodes, Fall 1994 and 2008, and Spring 2004 and 2005)

Intensive course for senior English majors that explores developments in contemporary critical theory and their impact on the teaching and study of literature. Seminar format.

Junior Seminar: James Joyce and Literary Modernism (Rhodes, Fall 1995, Spring 1999, Fall 2003 and 2006)

Intensive reading and writing course for Junior majors that explores the key works of James Joyce against the background of literary modernism and the Irish literary revival.

Junior Seminar: Joseph Conrad, E. M. Forster, and the Idea of England (Rhodes, Fall 1993, Spring 1998)

Intensive reading and writing course for Junior majors that explores the works of Conrad and Forster through the lens of various theoretical and critical models. Seminar format.

Survey of British Literature: Romantic to Modern (North Carolina, Fall 1989, Spring 1990, and Rhodes, Spring 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1996, Fall 1998, and Fall 2000)

Sophomore-Senior British literature survey covering Romantic, Victorian and Modern poetry, the Gothic Romance, Realistic, and Modernist novel, and Modern drama. Designed for English majors.

Growing Up Modern: The Twentieth-Century "Bildungsroman" (Rhodes, Spring 1992, 1993, 1994, and 1997, and Fall 1999)

Survey of modern novels of development, including works by Conrad, Joyce, Lawrence, Ellison, Chopin, Fitzgerald, and Grass, with an eye toward formalist, historical, psychological, and gender concerns.

The Problematic Narrator in Modern Fiction (Rhodes, Spring 1996, Fall 1998, Fall 2000, and Spring 2002, 2006, and 2008)

Upper-level course that focuses upon "problematic narrators"--unreliable, repressed, disguised, or multiple narrators--in a variety of modern British and American works of prose fiction.

Twentieth-Century Drama (Rhodes, Fall 1991)

Intensive, upper level course surveying modern British, American, and Continental drama, particularly the traditions of Realistic theatre, the theatre of social action, and Existentialist theatre.

The Search for Values (Rhodes, Spring 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001)

Sophomore level literature-oriented interdisciplinary Liberal Studies course that focuses on Western writings from Rousseau and Goethe to contemporary works of philosophy and fiction.

Freshman Seminar: Darwin and the Modern British Novel (North Carolina, Spring 1990)

Interdisciplinary, writing-intensive seminar focusing upon Darwinian ideas as they are anticipated, represented, and/or critiqued in novels by Defoe, Mary Shelley, Conrad, and Golding.

Freshman Seminar: "Antigone" and the Problem of Authority (North Carolina, Fall 1989)

Same format as above. Focuses on Sophocles' play as a source text for the problem of authority as it appears in works by Shakespeare, Melville, Kate Chopin, Anouilh, and Peter Shaffer.

Narrative Literature (Iowa, Fall 1986 and 1988)

Sophomore-Senior world literature course that examines prose fiction as both narrative and cultural phenomenon in broad historical perspective.

Interpretation of Literature (Iowa, Fall 1985, Spring 1986, Spring 1987 [Honors], Spring 1989, and Rhodes, Fall 1990)

Introductory course for non-majors that explores English and American works of the major genres.

Advanced Expository Writing (Rhodes, Fall 1992)

Advanced writing class devoted to the mastery of persuasive writing of various lengths.

Writing (Rhodes, Fall 1990, 1991, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1999, and 2007)

Freshman expository composition class devoted to the mastery of clear, engaging, and persuasive writing.

SERVICE (selective listing)

Reader of manuscripts for various academic journals and presses: PMLA (1996-2006), Style (1996), ELT (1999), College English (1998), South Atlantic Review (1999), Studies in the Novel (2000, 2003-2004), Contemporary Literature (2000, 2005), SUNY Press (1993), University of Missouri Press (2000), University of South Carolina Press (2001), Blackwell Publishers (2003-7), Oxford University Press (2004), McGill-Queen's University Press (2007).

Executive Council, the Joseph Conrad Society of America (1993-98; 2002-2005)
Editorial Board, Conradiana: A Journal of Joseph Conrad Studies (1996-)
Editorial Board, Arachne, an interdisciplinary Canadian journal of language and literature (1992-)
Phi Beta Kappa Executive Committee, Rhodes (1992)
Faculty Development Committee, Rhodes (1991-94, 1995-98)
Information and Technology Committee, Rhodes (2000-03)
Investment Committee, Rhodes Board of Trustees (2000-04)
English Department Library Liaison, Rhodes (1991-)
English Department Curriculum Committee, Rhodes (1990-91)
Free-lance copy-writing for The University of Chicago Press and Nelson-Hall Publishers, Chicago (1983-84)
Teaching in the Meeman Center Lore of Literature Course (1992, 1995-2003, 2005-7) and the Institute for Executive Leadership Course (1996-2007)
Sponsor of College Senior Honors Projects (1995, 2000, 2008); Second Reader (1992, 2001, 2002)