

Kevin Floyd

Department of English
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330-672-2676 (English Dept.)

Positions

Associate Professor of English, Kent State University (August 2004 – present).
Assistant Professor of English, Kent State University (August 1998 – August 2004).

Education

Ph.D. in English, University of Iowa, 1998.
B.A. in Literature, *Magna cum Laude*, University of North Texas, 1990.

Areas of Research and Teaching Specialization

Twentieth-Century U.S. Literature and Culture, Marxism, Gender Studies, Queer Studies.

Grants, Awards, and Fellowships

Alexander von Humboldt Transcoop Grant, awarded May 2009 for Sept. 2009 through Aug. 2012;
\$45,000 Humboldt funds, plus \$45,000 matching funds from Kent State University, for collaboration
with Prof. Dr. Stefan Horlacher, Technical University of Dresden.
Fulbright Grant, Technical University of Dresden, Germany, March-July 2009.
Research Appointment, Kent State University Division of Research and Graduate Studies, Spring 2002.
Nomination, Kent State University Arts and Sciences Distinguished Teacher Award, Spring 2001.
Fellowship, Dartmouth Humanities Research Institute, August 1997.
Seashore Dissertation Fellowship, University of Iowa Graduate College, August 1996- May 1997.
University of Iowa Hugh Vollrath Ross Summer Scholarship, 1993.

Book (refereed)

The Reification of Desire: Toward a Queer Marxism. University of Minnesota Press, June 2009.
http://www.upress.umn.edu/Books/F/floyd_reification.html

Articles (refereed)

"Unthinking the Future: Death, Utopia, and Childhood in Edelman and Adorno," *Cultural Logic*,
forthcoming.
"Lukacs and Sexual Humanism." *Rethinking Marxism* 18.3 (2006): 399-405.
"Rethinking Reification: Marcuse, Psychoanalysis, and Gay Liberation." *Social Text* 66 (2001):
103-28.
"Closing the (Heterosexual) Frontier: *Midnight Cowboy* as National Allegory." *Science and Society*
65.1 (2001): 99-130.
"Making History: Marxism, Queer Theory, and Contradiction in the Future of American Studies."
Cultural Critique 40 (1998): 167-201.
"Deconstructing Masochism in Kathy Acker's *Blood and Guts in High School* and Joyce Carol Oates's
You Must Remember This." In Giovanna Covi, ed. *Contemporary Studies on the Feminist Subject*.
Trento, Italy: University of Trento Press, 1997. 57-77.
"Discerning Motive: Another Look at Trollope's Warden." *University of Mississippi Studies in English*
11-12 (1993-95): 88-96.

Reviews (not refereed)

- Rob Latham, *Consuming Youth: Vampires, Cyborgs, and the Culture of Consumption*. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 2002. *Extrapolation* 44 (2003): 252-8.
- Rosemary Hennessy, *Profit and Pleasure: Sexual Identities in Late Capitalism*. New York and London: Routledge, 2000. *LGSN: Newsletter of the MLA Gay and Lesbian Caucus* 28.2 (2001): 7-8.
- Calvin Thomas, *Male Matters: Masculinity, Anxiety, and the Male Body on the Line*. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1996. *MMLA: The Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association* 30 (1997): 149-53.

Presentations (invited)

- "Death, Utopia, and Childhood in Edelman and Adorno." Cultural Studies Colloquium Series, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, November 2009.
- "Masculinity Studies and Transgender Studies." Keynote Presentation, "Constructions of Masculinity" Conference, Technical University of Dresden, Germany, June 2009.
- "Labor, Leisure, and the Redefinition of Manhood in the Early Twentieth-Century United States." Keynote Presentation, Seventh American Studies Seminar (Topic: "Gender and Sexuality in American History and Culture"), Center for USA Studies, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany, May 2009.
- "Politics and Film," co-presentation with Prof. Norman Fischer, KSU Honors College, October 2007.
- Respondent, Panel on "Queering the Critique of United States Imperialism." American Studies Association Conference, Seattle, Washington, November 1998.
- Participant, Roundtable on "Organizing in the Trenches: Graduate Students and the Unionization Movement." American Studies Association Conference, Seattle, Washington, November 1998.
- "Gary Cooper is Dead: *Midnight Cowboy*, the Stonewall Riots, and the End of State Capitalism." The Unit for Criticism and Interpretive Theory, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, April 1996.

Presentations (refereed)

- "Refusing and Desiring Totality." Modern Language Association Convention, San Francisco, December 2008.
- "On Objectification and Totality in Georg Lukacs and Samuel Delany." Inaugural North American Historical Materialism Conference, Toronto, Canada, April 2008.
- "Neoliberalism, Queer Studies, and the Question of Totality." Marxist Literary Group Institute on Culture and Society, Chicago, Illinois, June 2007.
- "Instrumental Reason and the Performance of Masculinity." Marxist Literary Group Institute on Culture and Society, Washington, D.C., June 2006.
- "Simultaneously Marxian and Queer Comments on Jameson, Allegory, and Method." Modern Language Association Convention, Washington, D.C., December 2005.
- "Foucault and Totality." Marxist Literary Group Institute on Culture and Society, Washington, D.C., June 2005.
- "Sexual Epistemology and Sexual Morality in *History and Class Consciousness*." Cultural Studies Association, Boston, Massachusetts, May 2004.
- "What's So Bad About Objectification? Lukacs and Sexual Humanism." Marxist Literary Group Institute on Culture and Society, Davis, California, June 2003.
- "Accumulation and the Performance of Straight Masculinity: Reading Michel Aglietta and Judith Butler Together." Inaugural meeting of the Cultural Studies Association, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, June 2003.
- "Reification and the History of Sexuality: Reading Lukács and Foucault Together." Modern Language Association Convention, New Orleans, Louisiana, December 2001.

Presentations (continued) (refereed)

- "Toward an Erotics of Instrumental Reason." Marxist Literary Group Institute on Culture and Society, Chicago, Illinois, June 2001.
- "Consuming Hemingway: Instrumental Reason, the 'Degradation of Work,' and the Invention of Heterosexual Masculinity." *Rethinking Marxism* Conference on "Marxism 2000," Amherst, Massachusetts, September 2000.
- "Reification and Utopia; or, the Cultural Homoerotic of Late Capitalism." Marxist Literary Group Institute on Culture and Society, Washington, D.C., June 2000.
- "Rethinking Reification: Instruments of Labor and Instruments of Pleasure in Marcuse." Modern Language Association Convention, Chicago, Illinois, December 1999.
- "The Closing of the Heterosexual Frontier." North American Labor History Conference, Detroit, Michigan, October 1999.
- "Marcuse, Psychoanalysis, and the Gay Liberation Movement." Marxist Literary Group Institute on Culture and Society, Chicago, Illinois, June 1999.
- "Class Politics/Antihomophobic Politics: Notes on Negative Citizenship." Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies (CUNY) Conference on "Queer Globalization/Local Homosexualities," New York City, April 1998.
- "Desire, Reification, Dialectic: Class and Antiheterosexist Politics in the Modern United States." Dartmouth Humanities Research Institute Symposium on "The Futures of American Studies," Hanover, New Hampshire, August 1997.
- "Rationalization, Desire, and Disembodiment in *Manhattan Transfer*." International Conference on Narrative, Gainesville, Florida, April 1997.
- "Ends of History in David Wojnarowicz's *Close to the Knives*." Radical Philosophy Association Conference, West Lafayette, Indiana, November 1996.
- "Homoerotic Homophobia: On Calvin Klein's Male Spectacle." MMLA Convention, Minneapolis, Minnesota, November 1993.
- "Sexual and Narrative Aggression in *Tristram Shandy*." Conference of the South Central Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, March, 1993.

Teaching, Kent State University

"Literature in English II" (Fall 2008)

Selected British and American texts, 1800 to present. Authors included Keats, Blake, Shelley, Wilde, Dickinson, Gilman, Hemingway, Beckett, Nabokov.

"Introduction to Queer Studies" (Spring 2000, Spring 2008)

Graduate-level introduction to the concerns and methodologies of that interdisciplinary field once known primarily as "Lesbian and Gay Studies" but increasingly known, since the late eighties, as "Queer Studies." Focus on recent queer studies research from multiple disciplines, especially cultural studies and history.

"Critical Perspectives in LGBT Studies" (Spring 2006, Spring 2008)

Introduction to the ways gender and sexuality have been defined and redefined in the course of, roughly, the last century and a half – primarily but not exclusively in the United States. Scholars studied include Eve Sedgwick, Judith Butler, Cindy Patton, Michael Warner, David Halperin, and Carroll Smith-Rosenberg.

Teaching, Kent State University (continued)

"Freshman Honors Colloquium" (Fall 1998-Spring 1999; Fall 1999-Spring 2000; Fall 2000-Spring 2001; Fall 2004-Spring 2005; Fall 2006-Spring 2007; Fall 2007-Spring 2008)

A year-long course surveying Enlightenment notions of reason and secular progress as well as nineteenth- and twentieth-century critiques of these ideas that developed later, from Romanticism to psychoanalysis. The different versions of the course included works by 8-9 of the following figures: Johann Goethe, G.W.F. Hegel, Karl Marx, Charles Baudelaire, Sigmund Freud, Friedrich Nietzsche, Herman Melville, William Faulkner, Philip K. Dick, Colson Whitehead.

"Literary Criticism" (Fall 2001, Spring 2003, Fall 2003, Fall 2004, Spring 2006, Spring 2007, Fall 2007)

Introduction to the history and protocols of literary criticism in the U.S., and especially to the way this discipline has developed over the last thirty to forty years. Organized around a range of published critical approaches to Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury*.

"Introduction to Marxist Literary and Cultural Studies" (Spring 1999, Spring 2004, Spring 2006, Spring 2010)

Graduate-level introduction to the central debates in the tradition of twentieth-century "Western" or "cultural" Marxism, tracing its lines of influence on contemporary British and U.S. literary and cultural studies. Figures studied included Karl Marx, Georg Lukács, Theodor Adorno, Walter Benjamin, Louis Althusser, Fredric Jameson, Stuart Hall, Gayle Rubin, and Raymond Williams.

"U.S. Literature, 1945 to the Present" (Fall 1999, Fall 2002, Fall 2003, Fall 2004, Spring 2007)

Survey of fiction, poetry, and drama balancing well-known, widely taught writers (e.g. Vladimir Nabokov, Edward Albee, Allen Ginsberg, Don DeLillo) with writers less frequently studied (e.g. Samuel Delany, Gloria Naylor, Amiri Baraka).

"English Studies" (Fall 2001, Spring 2003, Fall 2003, Spring 2004, Spring 2005, Fall 2006, Fall 2008, Fall 2009, Spring 2010)

Writing-intensive "gateway" introduction to the English major, emphasizing methods of reading, writing, and research in the discipline. Includes introduction to a range of approaches to interpretation and criticism.

"Introduction to Research and Pedagogy in Critical Reading" (Fall 2001, Fall 2002)

Introduction for beginning Master's degree students to contemporary methods of literary and cultural criticism in particular, and to the professional discipline of English in general.

"Literature and Other Disciplines" (Spring 2001)

Subtitle: "Antiestablishment Literature and Film in the U.S." Contrasts two different forms of antiestablishment cultural production from the fifties, sixties, and seventies: the "Beat" aesthetic of figures like Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, and John Cassavetes; and a more overtly political aesthetic fueled by the Vietnam controversy and exemplified by black nationalist writers like Amiri Baraka and Ishmael Reed, as well as by Hollywood's interrogation of the myth of the American frontier in films like *Easy Rider* and *Bonnie and Clyde*.

"Major Modern Writers: British and U.S." (Fall 1998, Spring 1999)

Survey of some of the major canonical writers in the tradition of British and U.S. modernism and postmodernism, including Woolf, Faulkner, Hughes, Ellison, Beckett, and Winterson.

Advising, Kent State University

Dissertation Direction

Geoff Moses (in progress)

Dissertation Committees

Paul Neel (in progress)

KrisAnn Norby-Jahner (in progress)

Brenda Duge (in progress)

Ronald Davis (in progress)

Walter Corbella (in progress)

Sara Kosiba, "A Successful Revolt? The Redefinition of Midwestern Literary Culture in the 1920s and 1930s" (defended 2007)

Ed Dauterich, "Struggling with Violence: The Ideology/Utopia Dialectic at Work in the Writing of Richard Wright, Ralph Ellison, Zora Neale Hurston and Ann Petry" (defended 2005)

Linda Girard, "I Am Telling: The Discourse of Race and Incest in Faulkner and Morrison" (defended 2003)

Lynn Zimmerman, "Disarming Militia Discourse: Reading *The Turner Diaries*" (defended 2003)

Ph.D. Qualifying Examinations Administered

Seth Johnson (in progress)

Jason Ellis (in progress)

Masaya Takeuchi, Masculinity Studies (February 2009)

Geoff Moses, Post-1945 U.S. Literature (December 2008)

Heidi Stoffer, Post-1945 U.S. Literature (December 2008)

Paul Neel, Marxist Theory (Summer 2008)

Elizabeth Wagoner, Post-1945 U.S. Literature (Fall 2007)

Eric Molnar, Twentieth Century U.S. Literature (Spring 2007)

KrisAnn Norby-Jahner, Post-1945 U.S. Literature (Spring 2007)

Walter Corbella, Marxist Theory (Spring 2006)

Ron Davis, Marxist Theory (Fall 2005)

Sara Kosiba, Marxist Theory (Fall 2004)

Brenda Duge, Post-1945 U.S. Literature (Summer 2004)

Independent Investigations (Graduate)

Jonathan Halsall, "Queer Studies" (Spring 2007)

Rebecca Thorndike, "Queer Studies" (Spring 2004)

Brenda Duge, "Postmodern U.S. Literature" (Fall 2002)

Independent Investigations (Undergraduate)

Simone West, "Masculinity Studies" (Fall 2009)

Nicholas DeSabatino, "LGBT Literature" (Fall 2008)

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Direction

Stephanie Wheeler (2007-8)

Eric Swanson (2007-08)

Kevin Mackey (2007-08)

Christine Alfredson (2004-05)

Adam Burkey (2003-04)

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Committees

Zak Jacobs (2005-2006)

Sarah Hackett (2004-2005)

Hannah Aldergate (2004-2005)

Colleen Myers (2004-2005)

Advising, Kent State University (continued)

Undergraduate Writing Portfolio Direction

Heidi Cassell (Fall 2007)

Frederick "Bo" Bishop (Spring 2005)

Undergraduate Writing Portfolio Committees

Heather Bobnar (Spring 2008)

Steven Schilling (Spring 2007)

Laura Pierce (Spring 2006)

Jason Kelley (Spring 2005)

Kelsey Higginbotham (Spring 2005)

Steve Panovich (Spring 2004)

Ross Pace (Fall 2000)

Teaching, University of Iowa (selected courses)

"Topics in Women's Studies: Modern U.S. Literature and the First Sexual Revolution" (Spring 1998)

Situates a range of turn-of-the-century texts -- by Wharton, Chopin, Hemingway, Hammett, Larsen, and Gilman -- in relation to the contemporaneous, dramatically changing gender and sexual norms with which they are centrally concerned.

"Literature and Sexualities" (Fall 1995, Spring 1996)

Historically contextualized study of the broadly social and intimately personal offices of sexual identity. A range of genres, including fiction, poetry, drama, film, and the essay.

"American Lives" (Fall 1994)

Subtitle: "U.S. Cold War Cultures." Survey of the social, cultural, and political landscape of the U.S., 1945-1970. A range of cold war discourses, including fiction, poetry, memoir, social criticism, and film.

Departmental and University Citizenship, Kent State University

Undergraduate Studies Committee, 2007-2010.

Negotiations Committee, AAUP Kent Chapter, 2007-08.

Faculty Advisory Committee, Department of English, 2000-2001, 2006-2007.

Grievance Committee, Department of English, 2000-2001, 2006-2007.

Reappointment, Tenure, and Promotion Committee, Department of English, 2006-2007.

English Department Colloquium Coordinator, 2004-2007.

Judge, Zavara Writing Portfolio Award, Department of English, 2007.

Literature and Pedagogy Discussion Group, Department of English, 2006.

Research and Graduate Studies Committee, Internal Review of Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, 2006.

Action Committee, AAUP Kent Chapter, 2005.

Shakespeare Search Committee, Department of English, 2004-2005.

Curriculum Committee, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Studies Minor, 2001-2005.

Graduate Studies Committee, Department of English, 2002-2006.

Library Committee, Department of English, 2001-2008.

English Department Chair Search Committee, 2004.

Doctoral Program Committee in Literature, Department of English, 2002-2004.

Planning Committee, Third Annual May 4, 1970 Symposium on Democracy, 2001-2002.

Departmental Representative, 60th English Institute, Harvard University, December 2001.

Planning Committee, Second Annual May 4, 1970 Symposium on Democracy, 2000-2001.

Departmental and University Citizenship, Kent State University (continued)

Placement Coordinator, Department of English, 2000-2001.
Undergraduate Studies Committee, Department of English, 1999-2001.
English Department Representative, Honor's Day Celebration, Spring 2000.
AAUP Council Representative, Department of English, 1999-2000.
"Work of Culture" Planning Committee, Department of English, 1999-2000.
Colloquium Committee, Department of English, 1998-2000.
Postcolonial Literature and Theory Search Committee, Department of English, Spring 1999.
Affiliate: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Studies Minor.
Women's Studies Associate.

Other Academic and University Service

Judge, Marxist Literary Group Michael Sprinker Award for Graduate Scholarship, 2009-2010.
Manuscript Reviewer for *State University of New York Press*, *Minnesota Review*, *Henry James Review*,
Postmodern Culture, and *Journal for the Psychoanalysis of Culture and Society*.
Chair and Advisory Committee, permanent "Gender Studies" panel, Midwest Modern Language
Association, 1994-97.
Steering Committee, Sixth North American Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Studies Conference, Iowa City,
Iowa, 1992-94.

Professional Affiliations

Modern Language Association
American Studies Association
Cultural Studies Association
Marxist Literary Group

References

Rosemary Hennessy, Professor of English and Director of the Center for the Study of Women, Gender
and Sexuality, Rice University
Neil Larsen, Professor of Comparative Literature and Critical Theory and Co-Director of the Program
in Critical Theory, University of California, Davis
Kathryne Lindberg, Professor of English and Africana Studies, Wayne State University
Eric O. Clarke, Associate Professor of English, University of Pittsburgh
Fred Moten, Associate Professor of English, Duke University

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