

Michelle Aitken

Lecturer in English
Updated August 2025

Education

MLA, English

Dec 2020

Auburn University at Montgomery

Master of Liberal Arts, English

Thesis: *A Study of Dark Romanticism: Poe's Influence through "The Fall of the House of Usher"*

BA, English

Dec 2018

Auburn University at Montgomery

Bachelor of Arts, English

Minor: Creative Writing

Professional Experience

Lecturer

Aug 2022 – present

Auburn University at Montgomery, Department of English and Philosophy

- Responsible for instructing students at the undergraduate level in English Composition courses, in-person and online
- Utilize Blackboard and Canvas to disseminate course material, including assignment sheets, video lectures, mentor texts, and peer discussion boards, to students in an accessible manner
- Train on new LMS to switch from Blackboard to Canvas
- Administer, evaluate, and grade assignments and essays, record grades, and provide feedback in a timely manner
- Schedule and maintain regular office hours to meet with students
- Develop teaching materials in accordance with program standards, such as syllabi, visual aids, writing assignments, and supplementary notes
- Provide service to the department, college, and university in needed areas
- Attend department meetings and assist in the development and growth of the English program

Assistant Editor

May 2022 - present

Thirteen Bridges Review

- Utilize copy editing skills to facilitate the publication process
- Read, evaluate, and select works submitted for publication, as well as confer with authors regarding edits in content, style, and/or organization
- Facilitate the selection process for publication contents according to journal's style, editorial style, and publishing requirements
- Work with all genres of publication for journal to help select and publish content
- Develop and implement web content for journal's website

Editorial Assistant
Jan 2018 – May 2022

THAT Literary Review

- Utilize copy editing skills to facilitate the publication process
- Read, evaluate, and select works submitted for publication, as well as confer with authors regarding edits in content, style, and/or organization
- Facilitate the selection process for publication contents according to THAT's style, editorial style, and publishing requirements
- Develop and implement web content for THAT's website

Adjunct Instructor
Jan 2021 – May 2022

Auburn University at Montgomery, Department of English and Philosophy

- Responsible for instructing students at the undergraduate level in English Composition courses, in-person and online
- Utilized Blackboard to disseminate course material, including assignment sheets, video lectures, mentor texts, and peer discussion boards, to students in an accessible manner
- Administered, evaluated, and graded assignments and essays, recorded grades, and provided student feedback in a timely manner
- Scheduled and maintained regular office hours to meet with students
- Developed teaching materials in accordance with program standards, such as syllabi, visual aids, writing assignments, and supplementary notes

Adjunct Instructor
Jan 2021 – Dec 2021

Huntingdon College, Department of Language and Literature

- Responsible for instructing students at the undergraduate level in English Composition and Literature courses
- Administered, evaluated, and graded assignments, tests, and essays, recorded grades, and provided feedback based on university standards
- Utilized Canvas to create an easily accessible digital assignment schedule and to disseminate course material, including assignment sheets, literary passages, exam study guides, and peer discussion boards
- Scheduled and maintained regular office hours to meet with students
- Developed teaching materials, such as syllabi, visual aids, literary exams, writing assignments, thematic lectures, and supplementary notes
- Proctored literary exams in the classroom and online

Various Editorial Positions
Aug 2017 – May 2021

Filibuster, Auburn University at Montgomery

- Co-Editor (Aug 2017 – May 2018, Aug 2019 – May 2020)
 - Orchestrated and attended class meetings to generate interest in the magazine
 - Assisted with selection of works for final publication
 - Proofread and edited galleys
- Editor-in-Chief (Aug 2018 – May 2019)
 - Orchestrated team meetings with the co-editors and graphic designer to discuss details, including design options, layout of published works, and deadlines
 - Visited on-campus classes and attended campus events to garner interest in the magazine

- Communicated with authors to acquire signed release of their work for publication
- Finalized published works and layout of the magazine
- Assisted in organization of Poetica event and Final Release Party
- Editorial Consultant (Aug 2020 – May 2021)
 - Assisted with training new staff on the operations of the magazine
 - Orchestrated meetings to discuss and work on finer details, including campus presence, layout structure, and editing practices
 - Worked closely with the editor-in-chief and faculty sponsor to help transition the magazine toward having more of an online presence

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Aug 2019 – Dec 2020

Auburn University at Montgomery, Department of English and Philosophy

- Responsible for instructing students at the undergraduate level in English Composition courses, in-person and online
- Administered, evaluated, and graded assignments and essays, recorded grades, and provided feedback according to program standards
- Scheduled and maintained regular office hours to meet with students

Conference Presentations

May 2025

“Learner Centered Teaching: Getting Back to the Students”

Out of the Box Teaching Conference

May 2024

“Low-Stakes Argumentation: Building Bridges to Better Academic Arguments”

Out of the Box Teaching Conference

Feb 2022

“World Building and Social Reform: Writing a Way to a Better Future.”

Association of College English Teachers of Alabama

Feb 2021

“Gothic Sympathies”

Association of College English Teachers of Alabama

Publications

- **“Writing a Way to a Better Future” – Excerpt from *Iridesca***

Playwriting -- Association of College English Teachers of Alabama 2022 newsletter

- **Sympathy for the Dead in “The Fall of the House of Usher”**

Essay -- Association of College English Teachers of Alabama 2021 newsletter

- **Tribute to Dr. Gerard**

Nonfiction – THAT Literary Review website 2022

- **In Memoriam of Dr. Gerard**

Nonfiction – Filibuster 2021

- **Amnesia**

- **Red Roses; Options; The Power**

Short Fiction – Filibuster 2019

- **Castle on the Hill; Neverland; Oblivion; Building Blocks; Pillow Thoughts**

Photography – Filibuster 2019

- **Life Bowl; In too deep; Consumption**

Poetry – Filibuster 2018-2019

Research, Fellowship, and Conference Experience

**Volunteer,
Moderator, Judge
2025**

Auburn University at Montgomery, Southern Studies Conference

- Facilitated and moderated two separate panels
- Generated conversation among attendees to help develop meaningful connections
- Evaluated student presentations to assist in presenting awards for excellent contributions
- Assisted with breakdown of conference each day

**HHMI Fellow
2024**

Auburn University at Montgomery, HHMI

- Selected to work on developing major course redesign in a cohort of like-minded individuals from various departments across AUM
- Worked closely with other Fellows to hold each other accountable in our writing and redesigning efforts
- Attended regular meetings to discuss valuable concepts to aid in personal and professional growth
- Presented at grant events to help coordinate with new potential fellows
- Presented components of research and work at grant conference for fellowship

**Graduate Research
Assistant
2019**

Auburn University at Montgomery, History Department

- Assisted Dr. Burger in searching databases for location coordinates for research purposes
- Input information into Excel spreadsheets for documentation
- Cross-referenced information to ensure accuracy

**Graduate Assistant
2019**

Auburn University at Montgomery, Southern Studies Conference

- Facilitated the sign-in process for presenters and visitors to the conference under Dr. Slipp's guidance
- Organized and set up conference rooms and supplied presenters with pertinent information regarding panels and the university

Honors, Certifications, & Trainings

**FDI Accessibility - Canvas
2025**

Warhawk Scholarship (2014-2018)

Guin Nance Scholarship (2017, 2018)

“A Night Out” Scholarship (2017)

FDI Accessibility - MS Word

2025

FDI Accessibility - MS PowerPoint

2025

FDI Accessibility Multimedia

2025

FDI Multimedia and Kaltura

2024

Canvas LMS Training

2024

FDI Online Instructor Certification

2020, 2022

Phi Kappa Phi member

2017-2020

Graduate Focus Scholarship (2018)

Filibuster Scholarship (2018)