

# Rebecca Whitus Longster

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## Education

*Master of Fine Arts*, Creative Writing July 2007  
Stonecoast MFA Program, **University of Southern Maine**, Portland, ME

*Master of Arts*, Literature May 1993  
Department of English, **Purdue University**, West Lafayette, IN

*Bachelor of Arts*, English & Professional Writing May 1990  
Department of English, **Purdue University**, West Lafayette, IN

*Graduated with distinction.*

## Teaching Experience

**Purdue University**, Dept. of English, West Lafayette, IN

Continuing Lecturer August 1999 - Present

- Teaching introductory and advanced writing in a variety of settings
- Teaching introductory and sophomore level literature
- Selecting appropriate texts, readings, etc. for each course
- Creating, updating, and preparing classroom materials, including Web syllabus, calendar, etc.
- Communicating with students as to their progress and opportunities for further improvement
- Navigated, built, and taught in a MOO (Multi-user domain, Object Oriented)
- Participating in and contributing to departmental activities, including
  - Professional Writing Administration Committee*
  - Professional Development Coordinator, Professional Writing*
  - Mentor for new Professional Writing (English 420/421) Instructors*
  - Advanced Writing Committee*
  - Introductory Writing Committee*

Lecturer/Adjunct Faculty August 1993 – August 1999

- Teaching introductory and advanced writing as above

Graduate Student/Instructor August 1990 - May 1993

- Teaching introductory writing in a traditional classroom setting as above

**Purdue Statewide College of Technology at Lafayette**, Lafayette, IN

Lecturer/Adjunct Faculty Fall 1997 - present

- Teaching introductory and advanced writing at off campus locations (industrial training centers)
- Creating coursework and selecting texts appropriate and useful to non-traditional students
- Facilitating workshop discussions on critical readings and writing

**Ivy Tech State College**, Basic Skills Advancement, Lafayette, IN

Lecturer/Adjunct Faculty August 1996 – August 1998

- Teaching developmental writing, developmental reading, and college success skills

## Courses Taught

### **Purdue University, Dept. of English & Purdue Statewide Technology**

- English 230: Great Narrative Works *Traditional Classroom Instruction*  
Critical reading and examination of several great narrative works of literature, including works as diverse as *The Odyssey*, *Huckleberry Finn*, and *Angela's Ashes*.
- English 231: Introduction to Literature *Traditional Classroom Instruction*  
Critical reading and examination of selections from the four genres of literature, including works by writers from William Shakespeare to Shirley Jackson.
- English 101: English Composition I *Traditional, Computer and Off-Campus Instruction*  
The first half of the basic composition sequence. Emphasizes critical reading, workshop discussion, writing with a purpose, planning, drafting, revising and editing. "x" and "y" sections tailored for non-traditional students in Continuing Education and through *Purdue Statewide College of Technology at Lafayette* division.
- English 102: English Composition II *Traditional, Computer and Off-Campus Instruction*  
The second half of the basic composition sequence. Emphasizes academic writing, critical reading, a variety of research strategies, and workshop discussion. "y" sections tailored toward non-traditional students taking the course through Purdue Statewide.
- English 106: First-Year Composition (4 cr hr) *Off-Campus Instruction*  
Replaces English 101 & 102 Freshman Composition sequence described above. Combines elements of both Composition I & II and includes expository and research writing instruction.
- English 108: Accelerated First-Year Composition (formerly 103) *Traditional Classroom Instruction*  
Replaces English 106 for students showing superior writing ability. Emphasizes academic writing, critical reading, analysis of texts, research, and workshop discussion.
- English 304: Advanced Composition *Traditional and Computer Classroom Instruction*  
Designed for students who wish additional instruction in composition. Emphasizes extensive reading and writing of mature expository, critical, and argumentative prose.
- English 420: Business Writing (ViEW) *Physical and Virtual Classroom Instruction*  
Combines in-class instruction with synchronous (MOO) and asynchronous Web interface instruction in addition to traditional instruction in Business Writing.
- English 420 & 421: Business Writing & Technical Writing *Computer Classroom Instruction*  
Teaches workplace writing in networked environments for business and technical contexts. Emphasizes context analysis, user testing, data analysis/display, project planning, document management, document design, ethics, research, and collaboration.

### **Ivy Tech State College, Basic Skills Advancement**

*(Traditional Classroom Instruction)*

BSA 024: (Developmental) Writing I

BSA 025: (Developmental) Writing II

BSA 032: (Developmental) Reading II

BSA 022: College Success Skills

## Publications

- “The Harlequin in the Weasley Twins: jesters in the court of Prince Harry (and J.K. Rowling).” *Scholarly Studies in Harry Potter: Applying Academic Methods to a Popular Text*. Cynthia Whitney Hallett, ed. Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen Press, 2005.
- “Review of *Reciprocities in the Nonfiction Novel* by John Russell.” *Modern Fiction Studies*. Johns Hopkins UP for the department of English, Purdue University. Fall 2002.
- “Review of *A Rhetoric of Electronic Communities* by Tharon Howard.” *The Journal of Business and Technical Communications*. Sage. Thousand Oaks. July 2000.
- Reading Stephen King*. Web site. Created August, 1999. Updated November 2000.  
<http://icdweb.cc.purdue.edu/~rebeccal/readingSK/info.html>.
- “The ISP “Welcome” Email Case.” *English 420 Business Writing*. Fall 1998.
- “Parallelism.” *English 420 Business Writing Course Pack: Maymester • Summer • Fall 1995*. Spring 1995.
- “The Job Search Process.” with Gary B. Garcia, Edwin R. Nagelhout. *English 420 Business Writing Course Pack*. Fall 1994.
- “The Isle of Venus: Erotica and the Recumbent Woman in Book IV of Spenser’s *Faerie Queene*.” *The Journal of Erotica*. Ashbee Press. Spring 1993.
- “Food for flocks: Entice birds with seed, shelter.” *Lafayette Journal & Courier*. 18 Apr. 1992.
- “It’s a jungle down there: New carpeting: What to look for and what to avoid.” *Lafayette Journal & Courier*. 15 Feb. 1992.
- “High rollers gearing up for benefit Casino Night.” *Lafayette Journal & Courier*. 30 Jan. 1992.
- “Lafayette sales (of religious reading material) remain healthy.” *Lafayette Journal & Courier*. 23 Jan. 1992.
- “Beyond the Door.” *Into Print, the newsletter for Professional Writing majors*. Fall 1991.
- “Elizabeth Sanders: Your Job Search Friend.” *Into Print, the Newsletter for Professional Writing Majors*. Fall 1991.
- “The Professional Writing Major: What to do, When to do it, and Why.” With G. Zublake, *Into Print, the Newsletter for Professional Writing Majors*. Fall 1991.

## Presentations

- “Navigating the Academic (or not) Job Search: getting on board instead of in over your head.”  
University of Southern Maine Stonecoast MFA. Freeport, ME. January, 2008.
- “Where the sand is words: On Isolation, Everyday Life, and the Madwoman in the Upstairs  
Bedroom.” University of Southern Maine Stonecoast MFA. Freeport, ME. July, 2007.
- “The Harlequins in the Weasley Twins: jesters in the court of Prince Harry and J.K.  
Rowling.” National Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association  
Conference. New Orleans, LA. Spring, 2003.
- “The Common Man’s *Odyssey: Oh, Brother, Where Art Thou*, brings freshness (and a wider  
audience) to Homer’s Epic.” SW/TX Popular Culture Association/American Culture  
Association (PCA/ACA) Conference. Albuquerque, NM. Spring, 2002.
- “Jane! Stop this crazy thing!’ *Using bots (in the MOO), or not.*” with Jeanelle Barrett, Gail  
Porter. Professional Writing Program Technology and Pedagogy Showcase. Purdue  
University. West Lafayette, IN. Spring 2000
- “Basic MOO Manipulation.” English Graduate Workshop. West Lafayette, IN. Spring 2000
- “The ISP “Welcome” Email Case.” Professional Writing Program Technological Showcase.  
West Lafayette, IN. Spring 2000
- “Gendered Communication Styles.” with Anne Burke Erickson. Association of Business  
Communication Midwest Conference. Chicago, IL. Fall 1996
- “The Isle of Venus: Erotica and the Recumbent Woman in Book IV of Spenser’s *Faerie  
Queene.*” CAES Conference. Ball State University. Muncie, IN. Fall 1991

## Activities/Affiliations

- Writers Of Genre Fiction in Indiana, support organization for writers of popular fiction in  
Indiana. 2006. **Founding Member**
- Wabash Artists Alliance (WAA) 2004. Member. ~ 2005 **Writer/editor** of WAA Newsletter.
- Reading Stephen King Reading Group, dedicated to serious reading and discussion of the literature  
of Stephen King. Purdue University. West Lafayette, IN. 1999-2002. **Founding member.**
- Reading Stephen King: Issues of Censorship, Student Choice, and the Place of Popular Literature  
in the Canon Conference. University of Maine at Orono. Fall 1996. **Attendee.**
- Indiana Council on Cooperative Education Spring Conference '95. Nashville, IN. Spring 1995.  
**Chair** (and member).

## Other Professional Experience

### ***The Art Institute Online, Philadelphia, PA***

#### **Online Instructor**

October 2003 – July 2006

- Delivered writing instruction to students online in accelerated format (6 weeks)
- Conducted classes in introductory literature online in accelerated format (6 weeks)
- Initiated and participated in asynchronous "classroom" discussions
- Counseled and conferred with students regarding assignments, etc. via email, telephone, etc.
- Graded and returned papers and other assignments
- Recorded grades and comments and returned to students via email and/or grade book

#### Courses Taught

Freshman Composition I & II  
Introduction to American Literature  
Introduction to World Literature

### ***DeVry Online, Oak Brook, IL***

#### **Online Instructor**

April 2003 – October 2004

- Delivered writing instruction to students online in accelerated format (8 weeks)
- Developed/created final exams
- Initiated and participated in asynchronous "classroom" discussions
- Counseled and conferred with students regarding assignments, etc. via email, telephone, etc.
- Graded and returned papers and other assignments
- Recorded grades in online gradebook

#### Courses Taught

Freshman Composition I & II  
Business Communications  
Advanced Composition

### ***Purdue University, School of Liberal Arts, West Lafayette, IN***

#### **Cooperative Education Specialist, Liberal Arts**

March 1994 - June 1996

- Created, developed, and administered a cooperative education program for Liberal Arts
- Identified and developed employers for the program
- Created and dispersed publicity for the program
- Counseled and conferred with program constituents
- Planned, developed, advertised, and administered annual **Liberal Arts Career & Internship Fair and Graduate School Consortium** events.

**Online portfolio of writing and teaching materials available:** [web.ics.purdue.edu/~rebeccal](http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~rebeccal)