



Matthew Lavaughn Farmer

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Education

PhD Literature and Cultural Studies, University of Memphis, May 2026

Dissertation: *AI Influences on Literature, Rhetoric, and Community*

MA in English, summa cum laude, Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, AR, August 2022

BA in Philosophy, Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, AR, May 2022

Research and Teaching Interests

AI in Literature, especially Speculative and Science Fiction/AI-Influenced

Composition/Afrofuturism/20th Century American Literature/Community-engaged

Scholarship/Comic Studies/Liberatory Pedagogy

Research Experience

National Science Foundation: *Write to Read* STEM Writing Program, Arkansas State University, Fall 2021; Spring 2022

- Administered STEM writing assessments at the beginning and end of Biology of the Cell courses as directed by Dr. Kristen Ruccio and Dr. Virginie Rolland.
- Assessed student-created laboratory reports throughout the course and offered detailed recommendations to improve each document.
- I tracked writing improvement and student progress.

Professional Experience/University Service

Facilitator & Mentor, Sunflower County Freedom Project, Freedom Project Network, Summer 2024 & Summer 2025

- During the summer of 2024, I designed and led a college course for high school students in Sunflower County, Mississippi, about ethically using generative AI for writing and research.

- My course during the summer of 2025 focused on comic studies and Afrofuturism. Students read N.K. Jemisin's *Far Sector*, and we discussed the critical issues addressed in the series, including digital surveillance, police brutality, and voter suppression.
- <https://www.sunflowerfreedom.org/>

Facilitator, Collaborative Academic Professionalization (CAP) Program, University of Memphis, English Department, Fall 2024

- Develop and demonstrate effective strategies for instructors to implement generative AI in Composition classrooms.
- Presentation available [here](#).

Instructor, Digital Citizen Workshop Series, *Compose Yourself*, Prompt Engineering 101, University of Memphis, November 12, 2024

- I demonstrated and taught prompt engineering techniques to adult learners.
- Information about the Digital Citizenship Workshop Series is available [here](#).
- Presentation available [here](#).

Instructor, Digital Citizen Workshop Series, *Compose Yourself 2.0*, Using Online Resources, University of Memphis, March 13, 2024

- I assisted adult learners in navigating standard online tools, such as Microsoft Outlook, Word, and Excel, in a safe and effective manner.
- Presentation available [here](#).

Engineering Writing Consultant, The Writing Center, Arkansas State University, January 2021
May 2021

- I assisted students in the process of completing their engineering capstone projects. My primary duties were ensuring students used precise language and conformed to the conventions of scientific writing.

Writing Consultant, The Writing Center, Arkansas State University, August 2020-August 2021

- I assisted a diverse student body in improving their writing skills through individual consulting sessions and writing workshops.
- I helped establish the Graduate Writers' Block within The Writing Center. This program is focused on providing support for graduate students' writing, specifically those creating dissertations and theses.
- I regularly gave promotional presentations about the Writing Center to undergraduate and graduate students, describing the services offered and scheduling procedures.

Editor, The Tributary, Arkansas State University, August 2020-January 2021

- I read student submissions and helped select works for publication.

- I provided feedback to authors for improving selected works by suggesting changes to language or structure.

Fellowships, Awards, and Certifications

Dr. Lawrence and Sarah Wynn Fellowship, University of Memphis, 2025

A monetary award given to a single student within the English department based on submitted materials.

University of Memphis English Department Service Award, University of Memphis, 2024

An award given to honor graduate students who perform outstanding service for the department.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred P Gattas Scholarship Recipient, University of Memphis, 2023

A monetary award given to a single student within the English department based on submitted materials.

Presentations

Scholarly Conferences

“The Making of a Mind: AI Coming-of-Age in *All Systems Red*,” 122nd Annual Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association, San Francisco, CA, November 20-23, 2025 (upcoming)

“Empowering Student Writers: The Role of Generative AI in Marginalized Communities,” 56th Annual Northeastern Modern Language Association Conference, Philadelphia, PA, March 5-9, 2025. Presentation available [here](#).

“Social Revolution in Toni Morrison’s *Tar Baby*,” 82nd Annual College Language Association Convention, Memphis, TN, April 10-13, 2024.

“Shirley Jackson’s *Haunting of Hill House*: A Portrait of Mental Illness,” Popular Culture Association of the South Conference, September 28-30, 2022, New Orleans, LA.

“The Absent Demographic: Increasing the Accessibility of STEM Fields to Multilingual Students,” Create@State 2022, Jonesboro, AR, April 18, 2022.

“Toward Multiple Literacies, Identities, and Cultures in the Composition Classroom: Answering the Call for Linguistic Justice,” 7th Southern Regional Composition Conference, Online, March 31- April 1, 2022.

Invited Presentations

Guest Lecturer in ENG 6713: Preceptorship in Teaching Composition, Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, AR, March 2022

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record

ENGL 2201: Literary Heritage, University of Memphis, Spring 2024, Fall 2024 (Two Sections),

- Students are introduced to significant literary works from various genres, including prose, poetry, and drama. Texts are sourced from a diverse array of authors, including Toni Morrison, James Baldwin, Alice Walker, and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Students are encouraged to critically analyze each work and complete the course by writing a detailed literary comparison.

ENGL 1020 (Honors): Composition & Analysis, University of Memphis, Spring 2025,

- Students enrolled in this course focus on developing argumentative strategies and increasing knowledge and analysis of rhetorical tools and situations. This course emphasizes the importance of community within the writing process and encourages students to create arguments that address issues in Memphis and the surrounding area. These arguments are expressed in multiple forms of media that cross genres. Honors students expand their arguments into solutions that can be readily implemented.

ENGL 1020: Composition & Analysis, University of Memphis, Spring 2023 (Two Sections),
Spring 2024, Spring 2025

- Students enrolled in this course focus on developing argumentative strategies and increasing knowledge and analysis of rhetorical tools and situations. This course emphasizes the importance of community within the writing process and encourages students to create arguments that address issues in Memphis and the surrounding area. These arguments are expressed in multiple forms of media that cross genres.

ENGL 1010: Introduction to Composition, University of Memphis, Fall 2022 (Two Sections),
Fall 2023 (Two Sections)

- This course introduces students to the expectations and conventions of college writing. Students who enroll in this course focus on developing their writing process, identifying their authorial voice, and learning the basics of academic citation practices.

ENG 1010: Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric, Arkansas State University, Spring 2022

- This course is part of the university's first year writing program and serves to acclimate students to the expectations of collegiate writing. Students in this course were introduced to rhetorical tools and focused on developing an effective writing process. Assignments required critical analysis of scholarly materials and detailed composition.

UC 0143: Writing Fundamentals, Arkansas State University, Summer 2022

- This course was required of all international students. Students focused on developing conversational English, necessary for navigating university life. Assignments included editing texts for grammatical errors and producing an essay that engaged with university writing conventions.

Co-Facilitator

ENGL 2201 (Online): Literary Heritage, University of Memphis, Fall 2025 (2 Sections)

- Worked alongside Tammy Jones, Associate Professor of Teaching, Assistant Director of WordSmith Writing Competition
- Students are introduced to significant literary works from various genres, including prose, poetry, and drama. Texts are sourced from a diverse array of authors, including Toni Morrison, James Baldwin, Alice Walker, and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Students are encouraged to critically analyze each work and complete the course by writing a detailed literary comparison.

ENGL 1010 (Online): Introduction to Composition, University of Memphis, Fall 2025 (2 Sections)

- Worked alongside Tammy Jones, Associate Professor of Teaching, Assistant Director of WordSmith Writing Competition
- This course introduces students to the expectations and conventions of college writing. Students who enroll in this course focus on developing their writing process, identifying their authorial voice, and learning the basics of academic citation practices.

ENG 2113: Introduction to Fiction, Arkansas State University, Spring 2021

- Worked alongside Catherine Calloway, PhD
- Students in this course were introduced to short and long forms of fiction from a variety of genres, including speculative fiction, science fiction, and mystery.
- I was responsible for organizing daily materials, directing classroom discussions, and grading exams.

Professional Memberships

College Language Association (CLA)

Northeastern Modern Language Association (NeMLA)

Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association (PAMLA)

References

Committee Members

Donal Harris, Director of Marcus Orr Center for the Humanities, Associate Professor of English, University of Memphis

Email: donal.harris@memphis.edu

William Duffy, Director of Graduate Studies, Associate Professor of English, University of Memphis

Email: weduffy@memphis.edu

Shelby Crosby, Coordinator of African American Literature, Associate Professor, University of Memphis

Email: scrosby1@memphis.edu

Additional References

Katherine Fredlund, Director of First Year Writing, Associate Professor of Writing, Rhetoric, and Communication, University of Memphis

Email:

kfrdlund@memphis.edu

Calen Verbist, Assistant Professor of Teaching, University of Memphis

Email: gcvrbist@memphis.edu

Valerie Simpson, PhD, Sunflower County Freedom Project Site Director, Freedom Project Network

Email: valerie.simpson@freedomprojectnetwork.org