

# David A. Davis

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## Education

*University of North Carolina*, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 2006  
Doctor of Philosophy in English

*University of North Carolina*, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 2001  
Master of Arts in English

*Emory College of Emory University*, Atlanta, Georgia, 1997  
Bachelor of Arts in English, *Summa cum Laude*, and Philosophy

*Oxford College of Emory University*, Oxford, Georgia, 1995  
Associate of Arts

*University College of Oxford University*, Oxford, England, 1996  
Tutorials in Renaissance and Contemporary Drama and Modern British Literature

## Academic Employment

*Assistant Professor of English and Southern Studies*, Mercer University, 2008-present  
*Visiting Assistant Professor of English*, Wake Forest University, 2006-2008

## Fellowships, Awards, Grants, Honors, and Scholarships

Griffith Faculty Development Grant, 2009  
William H. Archie Humanities Research Grant, 2007  
Thomas S. and Caroline H. Royster Society of Fellows, 2006  
Georgia Carroll Kyser Dissertation Fellowship, 2005-2006  
Graduate School of Arts & Sciences Dissertation Fellowship, 2005-2006 (declined)  
Evan Frankel Dissertation Fellowship, 2005-2006 (declined)  
Senior Teaching Fellowship, 2004-2005  
U.S. Department of Education Jacob K. Javits Fellowship, 2000-2004  
University of North Carolina Merit Assistantship, 1999-2000  
James R. Gaskin Award for Teaching Excellence, 2004  
Center for Teaching and Learning Future Faculty Fellowship, 2004  
John W. Hunt Memorial Scholarship to Faulkner & Yoknapatawpha Conference, 2005  
Center for the Study of the American South Summer Research Grant, 2002 & 2005  
W. Bruce Lea Travel Research Grant, 2001, 2003, & 2004  
Albrecht Strauss and Ruth Richardson Travel Grant, 2002, 2003, 2004, & 2005  
*Phi Beta Kappa* Academic Honor Society, 1997  
Exchange Scholarship to Oxford University, 1996  
Oxford College Award for Excellence in English, 1995  
Emory University-Robert W. Woodruff Foundation Scholars Program, 1993-1997

## External Grants

NEH We the People Grant for Institute on Cotton Culture in the U. S. South, 1865-1965,  
with Sarah Gardner and Doug Thompson

## Books

*The Hand on the Hoe: Agricultural Labor and the Literature of the U.S. South.* In progress.

*World War I, Literary Modernism, and the U.S. South.* Under review by Louisiana State University Press.

## Edited Books

Editor. *The Southern Rage to Explain.* Proposal in development.

Editor. *Not Only War: A Story of Two Great Conflicts* by Victor R. Daly. University of Virginia Press, 2010.

Associate Editor. *North Carolina Slave Narratives.* William L. Andrews, General Editor. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003.

## Published and Forthcoming Articles

“The Forgotten Apocalypse: Katherine Anne Porter’s ‘Pale Horse, Pale Rider,’ Traumatic Memory, and the Influenza Pandemic of 1918.” Forthcoming in *Southern Literary Journal*.

“Abjection and White Trash Autobiography” Forthcoming in *The Telltale South: Storytelling, History, and the Postmodern South.* Under contract with Louisiana State University Press.

“*I Am a Fugitive from a Chain Gang!* and the Materiality of Southern Depravity.” Forthcoming in *Mississippi Quarterly*.

“Not Only War is Hell: World War I and African American Lynching Narratives.” Forthcoming in *African American Review*.

“Mechanization, Materialism, and Modernism in William Faulkner’s *Flags in the Dust*.” *Mississippi Quarterly* 59.3-4 (Summer-Fall 2006):415-434.

“The Myth of Hester Prynne.” *Nathaniel Hawthorne Review* 31.1 (Spring 2005): 29-43.

“Introduction to ‘The Experience of Rev. Thomas H. Jones.’” *North Carolina Slave Narratives.* William L. Andrews, General Editor. Chapel Hill: U of North Carolina P, 2003. 189-201.

“Grace After Battle: World War One and the Poetry of John Crowe Ransom.” *The Kentucky Review* 15.2 (Fall 2003): 57-70.

“‘Make the Lie True’: The Tragic Family in Tennessee William’s *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and William Shakespeare’s *King Lear*.” *Tennessee Williams Annual Review* 2002.

“The Humanism of T.S. Eliot.” *Yeats-Eliot Review* 18.1 (October 2001): 19-31.

“Climbing out of ‘The Briar Patch’: Robert Penn Warren and the Divided Conscience of Segregation.” *The Southern Quarterly* 40.1 (Fall 2001): 109-120.

“T. S. Eliot and Pyre of Youth: The Fugitive Poetry of Robert Penn Warren.” *Southern Literary Journal* 32.9 (Fall 1999): 69-76.

## Book Reviews

Review of *A Slave No More* by David W. Blight and *Harriet Jacobs Family Papers* edited Jean Fagan Yellin. Requested by *North Carolina Literary Review*.

Review of *Plantation Airs: Racial Paternalism and the Transformations of Class in Southern Fiction, 1945–1971* by Brannon Costello. Forthcoming in *Mississippi Quarterly*.

Review of *A Backward Glance: The Southern Renaissance, the Autobiographical Epic, and the Classical Legacy*. Forthcoming in *Thomas Wolfe Review*.

“African American War Literature.” Review of *A Freedom Bought with Blood: African American War Literature from the Civil War to World War II* by Jennifer C. James and *Soldiers of Democracy: The Great War and the Culture of the New Negro* by Mark Whalan. *MELUS* 34.3 (Fall 2009): 234-237.

Review of *A Web of Words: The Great Dialogue of Southern Literature* by Richard Gray. *Journal of Southern History* 75.2 (August 2009): 856-857.

Review of *Faulkner and the Great Depression: Aesthetics, Ideology, and Cultural Politics* by Ted Atkinson. H-Net <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=25044>

“The Poor, Dirty South.” Review essay of *Reading Southern Poverty between the Wars, 1918-1939* edited by Richard Godden and Martin Crawford and *Poverty and Progress in the U.S. South since 1920* edited by Suzanne W. Jones and Mark Newman. *Southern Literary Journal* 41.2 (Spring 2009): 148-150.

“Regional Criticism in the Era of Globalization” Review Essay of *Cosmopolitan Vistas: American Regionalism and Literary Value* by Thomas Lutz, *The Nation’s Region* by Leigh Anne Duck, and *Seeking the Region in American Literature and Culture* by Robert Andrew Jackson. *Modern Fiction Studies* 54.4 (Winter 2008): 844-852.

*The Postsouthern Sense of Place in Contemporary Fiction* by Martyn Bone. *South Atlantic Review* 71.2 (Spring 2006): 138-141.

“Boundaries and Surveyors.” Review essay of *Look Away!: The U.S. South in New World Studies* edited by Jon Smith and Deborah Cohn; *The American South and the Global World* edited by James L. Peacock, Harry L. Watson, and Carrie R. Matthews; and *Globalization and the American South* edited by James C. Cobb and William W. Stueck, Jr. *Southern Cultures* 11.3 (Fall 2005): 104-108.

*Domestic Abolitionism and Juvenile Literature, 1830-1865* by Deborah C. De Rosa. *Mississippi Quarterly* 52.4 (Fall 2004): 681-685.

*Troubled Lovers in History* by Albert Goldbarth. *Carolina Quarterly* 52.1 (Fall 1999): 83-84.

## Reference Publications

“Southern Literary Messenger” and “Louis D. Rubin, Jr.” in *Encyclopedia Virginia*. Charlottesville, Virginia Humanities Foundation, 2008.

“Will N. Harben,” “Etheridge Knight,” “Gustavo Perez Firmat,” and “James Wilcox” in *Southern Writers: A Biographical Dictionary*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2006.

“The Confessions of Nat Turner” in *American History through Literature, 1820-1870*. Detroit: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2006. 268-272.

“Fugitives/Agrarians” in *A Companion to Twentieth-Century American Poetry*. New York: Checkmark Books, 2005. 174-176.

## Conference Presentations

“War Comes to Wolflick: World War I and Elizabeth Madox Robert’s *He Sent Forth a Raven*.” South Atlantic Modern Language Association. Atlanta, Georgia, 2009.

“Place and Personhood in Zelda Fitzgerald’s *Save Me the Waltz*.” Southern Women Writers Conference. Rome, Georgia, 2009.

“Abjection and White Trash Autobiography.” Southern Studies Symposium. Starkville, Mississippi, 2009.

“The Problem of Southern Modernism.” Modernist Studies Association. Nashville, Tennessee, 2008.

“Civil Rights through Carnage: World War I and African American Lynching Narratives.” Civil Rights and the Body in the American South. Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 2008.

“Prohibition, *Sanctuary*, and Transgressive Space.” Society for the Study of Southern Literature. Williamsburg, Virginia, 2008.

“Not Only War is Hell: World War I and the New Negro Renaissance.” American Studies Association. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2007.

“The Southern Culture Industry.” Southern Historical Association. Richmond, Virginia, 2007.

“Zelda Fitzgerald’s *Save Me the Waltz* and the Fiction of Southern Womanhood.” Northeast Modern Language Association. Baltimore, Maryland, 2007.

“The Modernist Death of Donald Mahon.” Modern Language Association. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2006.

“‘El-dorado to the North’: Thomas Wolfe, World War I, and the Southern Economy.” Thomas Wolfe Society Annual Meeting. Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 2006.

“‘We Have Forgotten the Dead’: Memory and Trauma in Katherine Anne Porter’s ‘Pale Horse, Pale Rider.’” Twentieth Century Conference. Columbia, South Carolina, 2006.

“‘Races and Nations are Skunks’: Claude McKay, Cultural Hybridity, and World War I Black Nationalism.” Global American South Conference. Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 2006.

“Mules and Machines: Labor and Technology in Faulkner’s *Flags in the Dust*.” Society for the Study of Southern Literature. Birmingham, Alabama, 2006.

“The Interpellation of Percy Munn.” Modern Language Association. Washington DC, 2005.

“Close Ranks: W. E. B. Du Bois and the Problem of the Black Soldier.” Center for the Study of the American South. Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 2005.

“Colored Soldiers: World War I and African American Modernism.” The Gathering: A Symposium on African American Literature. Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 2005.

“Southern Soldiers, American Nationalism, and Foreign Wars.” Global American South Conference. Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 2005.

“A *Fable* of the Cold War.” Modern Language Association. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2004.

“‘To Till the Earth’: Fundamentalism, Agriculture, and Industrialism in the Post-World War I South.” South Atlantic Modern Language Association. Roanoke, Virginia, 2004.

“William Faulkner’s *Soldiers’ Pay*, World War I, and the Legacy of the Lost Cause.” South Central Modern Language Association. New Orleans, Louisiana, 2004.

“The (T)rope of Fire in Richard Wright’s *Uncle Tom’s Children*.” Society for the Study of Southern Literature. Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 2004.

“The Ministry of Rev. Thomas H. Jones.” South Atlantic Modern Language Association. Atlanta, Georgia, 2003.

“Shackles and Stripes: The Cinematic Representation of the Southern Chain Gang.” American Literature Association. Cambridge, Massachusetts, 2003.

“‘Obey Thy Master’: Slavery and Religious Paternalism in William Wells Brown’s *Clotel; or, The President’s Daughter*.” Center for the Study of the American South. Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 2003.

“Rita Dove and the Irrational History of Slavery.” George Moses Horton Society. Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 2002.

“*Invisible (Southern) Man*.” Society for the Study of Southern Literature. Lafayette, Louisiana, 2002.

“I Am a Fugitive from a Chain Gang Movie.” Popular Culture Association in the South. Jacksonville, Florida, 2001.

“‘Only the Words’: Race and Dialect in Faulkner’s *Intruder in the Dust*.” Southern Writers, Southern Writing. Oxford, Mississippi, 2000.

### Conference Sessions Organized

“Foodways and Southern Literature.” Proposed special session at Society for the Study of Southern Literature. New Orleans, Louisiana, 2010.

“Southern Comfort: The Use and Abuse of Alcohol in Southern Literature.” Special session at Society for the Study of Southern Literature. Williamsburg, Virginia, 2008.

“World War I and African American Identity.” Special session at American Studies Association. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2007.

“Faulkner, Regionalism, and Modernism.” William Faulkner Society session at Modern Language Association. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 2006

“W. J. Cash and the Idea of Progress.” Special session at South Atlantic Modern Language Association. Charlotte, North Carolina, 2006.

“Tracts against Capitalism: The Southern Agrarians and Economic Critique.” Special session at Modern Language Association. Washington DC, 2005.

### Invited Lectures and Workshops

“I Learned Everything I Need to Know at the Georgia Belle.” Taylor County Genealogical and Historical Society. Butler, Georgia, 2009.

“Zelda Fitzgerald: The Last Belle.” Historic Macon Lecture Series. Macon, Georgia, 2009.

“Memory Theory and Literary Research.” Invited Seminar Leader for Mellon Dissertation Workshop. Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 2006.

“William Faulkner, Material Culture, and Cultural Materialism.” Invited Seminar Leader for Interdisciplinary Faculty Workshop Series on Southern Studies. University of North Carolina. Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 2006.

“What, to a Slave, is Black History Month?” Invited Lecture at Charlotte Museum of History. Charlotte, North Carolina, 2005.

“Slaves and Free Blacks in North Carolina Literature.” Invited lecture at the University of North Carolina. Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 2004.

“Recovering North Carolina Slave Narrators.” Invited lecture at Weymouth Center for the Humanities. Southern Pines, North Carolina, 2004.

“Resistance and Religion in North Carolina Slave Narratives.” Invited lecture at North Carolina Museum of History. Raleigh, North Carolina, 2004.

### Journal Editing Experience

Managing Editor, *Southern Literary Journal*, 2003-2006

Internet Editor, *Carolina Quarterly*, 2000-2006

### Courses Taught

#### *Mercer University*

FYS 101: Identity and Ambiguity (two sections)

FYS 102: Civil Rights Memory

ENGL/SST 236: Southern Foodways

ENGL 265: Survey of American Literature

ENGL 301: Literary Research and Interpretation

ENGL 357: Literature of the U.S. South to 1900

ENGL 358: The Dirty South

***Wake Forest University***

ENGL 111: Place and Identity Development (six sections)

ENGL 150: Casualties of War (three sections)

ENGL 170: Survey of American Literature (three sections)

***University of North Carolina***

ENGL 11: Argumentative and Analytical Writing (three sections)

ENGL 12: Writing across the Curriculum (four sections)

ENGL 12P: Writing about Ethics (four sections)

ENGL 24: Major American Authors (one section)

ENGL 28: Contemporary American Literature (one section)

**Academic Service**

FYS Pedagogy and Assessment Work Group, Mercer University, 2009

Coordinating Group Leader, University of North Carolina, 2002-2003 and 2004-2005

Literature Teaching Mentor, University of North Carolina, 2004-2005

Summer Reading Program Discussion Leader, University of North Carolina, 2002-2005

Studio for Information Technology in English Studies Intern, UNC, 1999-2001

Kellogg Writing Center Fellow, Emory University, 1996-1997

**Admission Experience**

Admission and Financial Aid Advisor, Oxford College of Emory University, 1997-1999

**University Service**

CLA Dean Search Committee, 2009-2010

Admission and Scholarships Committee, 2009-

Lamar Lecture Selection Committee, 2009-

Undergraduate Research Symposium Judge, 2009

Humanities Representative to Council on Undergraduate Research Workshops, 2009

University Speakers' Bureau, University of North Carolina, 2005-2006

Graduate Funding Consultant, University of North Carolina, 2001-2006

Graduate Mentor, University of North Carolina, 2002-2006

Curriculum Review Committee, Emory University, 1996-1997

**Professional Service**

Nominated to Executive Council of the Society for the Study of Southern Literature

Referee for *African American Review* and *Southern Cultures*

William Faulkner Society Webmaster

**Professional Memberships**

Modern Language Association

American Literature Association

American Studies Association

Modernist Studies Association

South Atlantic Modern Language Association

South Central Modern Language Association

Southern American Studies Association

Society for the Study of Southern Literature

William Faulkner Society

Southern Foodways Alliance