

Philathia R. Bolton

Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences
University of Akron
Akron, OH 44325-1906

Email: pbolton@uakron.edu

EDUCATION

- Purdue University (2004 - 2012) West Lafayette, IN
Ph.D. in American Studies
Primary Area: 20th c. African American literature
Secondary Areas: 20th c. American literature, black women writers,
Civil Rights Movement, critical race studies
- Purdue University (2002 - 2004) West Lafayette, IN
M.A. in American Studies
Concentration: 20th c. African American literature
- Spelman College (1998 - 2002) Atlanta, GA
B.A. in English, *summa cum laude*
Phi Beta Kappa, Epsilon of Georgia

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- Assistant Professor, University of Akron, 2013-present
(Joint-appointment with the Pan-African Studies Program and affiliated with the
Women Studies Program)
- Limited-term Lecturer, Purdue University, Summer 2012 –Fall 2012
Graduate Instructor, Purdue University, 2002 –2011

PUBLICATIONS

- Teaching with Tension: Race, Resistance, and Reality in the Classroom*. Edited with Cassander L. Smith and Lee Bebout. Chicago: Northwestern UP, 2019. Hardcover, paper, and electronic.
- “The Potential of a Moment: Race Literacy and Black American Literature.” In *Teaching with Tension: Race, Resistance, and Reality in the Classroom*. Chicago: Northwestern UP, 2019. Hardcover, paper, and electronic.
- “Audience, Gender, and the Construction of Antebellum Slave Narratives.” Philathia Bolton and Venetria Patton, *A Companion to American Literature: The Blackwell Companions to Literature and Culture*, Eds. Susan Belasco, Theresa Strouth Gaul, Linck Johnson, and Michael Soto. (forthcoming, 2019)
- "*The Repeating Body: Slavery's Visual Resonance in the Contemporary* by Kimberly Juanita Brown (review)." *College Literature*, vol. 44 no. 1, 2017, pp. 120-123. *Project MUSE*, [doi:10.1353/lit.2017.0005](https://doi.org/10.1353/lit.2017.0005)
- “Mama Day.” *The Literary Encyclopedia* (2014): n. pag. Web. 21 Aug. 2014.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- “When ‘the Dream is the Truth’: Narrative Agency in Zora Neale Hurston’s
Their Eyes Were Watching God.”
- Confronting Death among the Living: Black Women Writers on the Problem of the American Dream*.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Literature Courses Taught:

University of Akron

English 3300: 281	Fiction Appreciation
English 3300: 300	Critical Reading and Writing
English 3300: 350	Black American Literature
English 3300: 360	Old Testament as Literature
English 3300: 361	New Testament as Literature
English 3300: 364	Women Writers
English 3300: 389	Special Topics: The Afro-American Novel
English 3300: 389	Special Topics: Ethnic Women in Literature
English 3300: 489	Seminar in English: Harlem Renaissance
English 3300: 489/589	Toni Morrison Seminar
English 3300: 689	Wright/Ellison/Baldwin

Purdue University

English 23800	Introduction to Fiction
English 23200	Coming of Age in America, Learning Community Course
English 2500	Great American Books
English 257	Literature of Black America
English 358	Black Drama

Composition Courses Taught:

University of Akron

English 3300: 111	English Composition
English 3300: 112	English Composition

Purdue University

English 106	Academic Writing and Research
English 106R	Learning Community Biology Module

Curriculum and Instruction Courses Taught:

Purdue University

EDCI 285	Multiculturalism and Education
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Upward Bound Classic:

English Language Arts (10 th and 11 th grades)
Writing Intensive Course (11 th and 12 th grades)

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“When ‘the Dream is the Truth’: Narrative Agency in Zora Neale Hurston’s *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.” 78th Annual Convention. College Language Association. Chicago, IL, April 2018

“Apprehending Race in the African American Studies Classroom.” 77th Annual Convention. College Language Association. Columbia, MO, April 2017

“Standing in the Veil: Class, Colorism, and Audience in James Weldon Johnson’s *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man* and Toni Morrison’s ‘Recitatif.’” 22nd Annual Academic Conference for UNC-Chapel Hill’s Moore Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program. Theme: The Politics of Colorism: A Global Context. Scholar panel. Chapel Hill, NC, April 2016

“Fight or Flight?: Migrating Black Identities and the Passing Trope.” Panel: Transracial Identity: Changing Definitions of Blackness in the 17th Century, The Harlem Renaissance Era, and the New Millennium. College Language Association. Houston, TX, April 2016

“Ethnic Identity and (Dis)locating Histories: The Black American Literary Experience.” Panel: Teaching with Tension: Post-racial Rhetoric, Resistance, and Reality in the Classroom (co-organizer). Main Annual Meeting. American Studies Association. Toronto, Canada, October 2015

“Toni Morrison Contestations: A Multicultural, Global Perspective on Writer and Identity.” Reception Study Society 6th Biannual Conference, Fort Wayne, IN, September 2015

“Discussing Findings from Young Black Male Story Circles at UA. Black Male Summit. The University of Akron, Akron, OH. April 2015

“And Drunk on the Wine of the World We Forget ‘Thee’: The American Dream as Social Death in Paule Marshall’s *Praisesong for the Widow*.” Association for the Study of African American Life and History 95th Annual Convention, Raleigh, NC, September 2010

“Speaking Truth to Power: Ella Baker’s and Fannie Lou Hamer’s Challenge to the Black/White Binary.” 4th Annual New Perspectives on African American History and Culture Conference, UNC-Chapel Hill, NC, February 2010

“What’s *Race* Got to Do with It? Subverting the Very Concept in Mark Twain’s *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.” College Language Association 69th Annual Convention, Cambridge, MD, March 2009

“My Story is Your Story: Gayl Jones’s *Corregidora* and the Civil Rights Movement.” National Women’s Studies Association 28th Annual Conference, St. Charles, IL, June 2007

“Crossing Over: Appropriation and Acculturation in Gloria Naylor’s *Mama Day*.” African Heritage Studies Association 38th Annual Conference, Cornell University, Ithaca, October 2005

“Racism and Counter-Storytelling in Ann Petry’s *The Street*.” American Studies Symposium, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, April 2006

“Catch Me If You Can: The Trauma of Lynching Revisited in Faulkner’s *Go Down, Moses*.” Herman C. Hudson International Conference, Indiana University, Bloomington, April 2005

SERVICE ON DISSERTATION, MASTERS, AND HONORS THESES COMMITTEES:

Dissertation Committee (member). Counseling Psychology Program. “Women of Color’s Experiences of Sexism in Computer Science and Engineering.” Eric McCurdy. Fall 2017

Master’s Thesis project (member). “Naturalism in Modern American Literature.” Afras Alharbi. In progress

Master’s Thesis Project (director). “A Site of Invasion: Representations of Home in 20th Century South African Literature.” Rita Stricklin. Spring 2018

Master’s Thesis Project (member). “Richard Wright’s Bigger Thomas and Paul Robeson’s Othello: Representations of Black Male Physicality.” Anna Glotzer. Spring 2018

Master’s Thesis Project (director). “Gendered Expressions of the ‘Passing’ Narratives: An intersectional African-American and Post Colonial Study.” Kayla Hardy-Butler. Spring 2017

Honors Thesis Project (advisor). "A Comparative Analysis of James Baldwin's *Blues for Mister Charlie* and Lorraine Hansberry's *Les Blancs*. Sonia Potter. In progress

Honors Thesis Project (advisor). "As If We Were Alive: Recovery from Trauma in Toni Morrison's *Beloved* and *Bluest Eye*." Eric McDonnell. Spring 2016

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

The University of Akron:

Honors Advisor (interim), English Department, 2019-

Director, Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL), 2013-2018

Purdue University:

General Staff-Temporary Appointment, Purdue University Black Cultural Center, 2013

Copy Editor, Network for Computational Nanotechnology at Purdue University, 2009 –2013

Graduate Professional Assistant for the Diversity and Resource Office at Purdue University, 2011 –2012

UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT/ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The University of Akron:

University-wide:

Diversity and Learning Environment (DLE) Report Committee, 2015

Department or Program:

Finley Memorial Scholarship Committee, 2016-2019

Dorris B. Harris Scholarship Committee, 2016-2019

Dr. Phillipson, Jr. Scholarship Committee, 2016-2019

Graduate Assistants Committee, 2015-2018

Graduate Programs Committee, 2015-2017

Jedediah Brownbread Award Committee, 2014

Composition Program Committee, 2013-2014

English Studies and Capstone Review/Proposal Committee, 2013

Task Force (Revamping the English major), 2013

Pan-African Studies Advisory Committee, 2013-present

Purdue University:

University-wide:

Purdue University's Dr. Martin Luther King Commemorative Committee, 2011-2012*; 2012-2013

*inaugural committee

Department or Program:

American Studies Program Symposium Committee, (organizer) 2008-2009

American Studies Graduate Student Organization (ASGSO), president, 2008-2009

Graduate Student English Association (GradSEA), graduate student representative, 2008-2009

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

The University of Akron:

Faculty Advisor, Delight, 2017-present

Faculty Advisor, BSU (Black Students United, formerly PASO), 2014-2016

Faculty Advisor, PASO (Pan African Student Organization), 2014

UA Scholars Day Participant, 2015

Evaluator, UASIS (University of Akron Student Innovation Symposium), 2014

Panelist, PASO's "Ask a Black Person" roundtable discussion, 2013

Purdue University

Invited Guest Facilitator, "When Identities and Cultures Collide: Approaching Conflict as an Opportunity for Change." The Connections Institute on Leadership and Diversity at Purdue University, 2012

Guest Lecturer, "Introduction to Black Women Writers," Wabash Area Lifetime Learning Association (WALLA), 2010; 2012

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

The University of Akron's 2015 Employee Service Awards Recipient

Purdue Research Fellowship, awarded by the College of Liberal Arts, 2009-2010

Purdue Graduate School Summer Research Grant Recipient, 2007

Graduate Student Essay Award, 1st place recipient for "My Story is Your Story: Gayl Jones's *Corregidora* and the Civil Rights Movement"; Women of Color Caucus's, WestLove, LTD, National Women's Studies Association, 2007

Purdue University Graduate Student Award for Outstanding Teaching, 2006

Fellow, Summer Pre-graduate Research Experience (SPGRE), Moore Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program (MURAP), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2001

Associate, Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers (IRT), 2001

OTHER ACADEMIC INVOLVEMENT

Co-facilitator, "Teaching with Tension: Strategies for Addressing Race and Resistance in the Classroom." Diversity Symposium. Diversity Committee, English Department, University of Alabama Tuscaloosa. February 18, 2019

Panel Moderator, The Society of Akron Graduate English Scholars (SAGES), Annual Conferences, University of Akron. Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Spring 2019

Co-organizer, "Making Sense of Charlottesville: A Civil Dialogue about Race, Citizenship, and Belonging." Teach-in. Hosted by University of Akron. October 24, 2017

Guest Speaker, "I am Not Your Negro." Film premiere at Nightlight in Akron, OH. Written by James Baldwin. Directed by Raoul Peck. March 3-4, 2017

Lecturer, "Black Identities and the Passing Trope: A Pan-African Consideration of Racial Transcendence and Transgression." Brown Bag Series, The Society of Akron Graduate English Scholars (SAGES), English Department, University of Akron, February 28, 2017

Lecturer, "An Evening with Zora: *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and the Harlem Renaissance Movement. Black History Month Event. Northwest Akron Public Library, February 9, 2016

Discussant, Northwest Akron Public Library's Book Club Series on Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Go Set a Watchman*, July 14, 2015

Student Panelist, "A Conversation with novelist Pearl Cleage and poet Sonia Sanchez," Spelman College, 2001

Spokesperson for pilot course at Spelman College on the Civil Rights Movement, 2000
The class concluded with students going to Alabama to participate in the 54-mile march re-enactment. I met with the Board of Trustees to talk about the experience.

SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

Collaborator and Volunteer, Akron Bechdel Film Festival, 2018-2019

Teacher, Upward Bound Classic, 2017-present

I have taught high school English courses to students as part of a summer enrichment program.

Upward Bound Classic
Sherice Freeman, Assistant Director
The University of Akron
Upward Bound Classic
Ayer Hall, Room 320
Akron, Ohio 44325-7908
330-972-8860

Board Member (2013-2016), Urban Ounce of Prevention

Urban Ounce of Prevention
Evaughn Cagle, President and CEO
1735 S. Hawkins Ave.
Suite B
Akron, OH 44320-4055

Invited Guest Presenter, Educational Talent Search Summer Program, 2014

Carolyn Felton, Coordinator
Educational Talent Search
Academic Achievement Programs
Division of Student Affairs
Ayer Hall 317
Akron, OH 44325-7909
330-972-5718

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Studies Association
College Language Association
Modern Language Association
Reception Studies Society