

Sarah Barringer

English Department | University of Iowa
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Education

PhD English Student University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA Thesis: Transmasculine Narratives in Medieval Literature Advisor: Dr. Jonathan Wilcox	In Progress
M.A. English University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA Comps Areas: Queer Theory, Monster Theory, Medieval Literature	September 2023
Certificate in College Teaching University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA	In Progress
Certificate in Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA	May 2024
B.A. Historical Fiction Writing The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH Minor: Creative Writing	May 2015

Employment

Graduate Instructor University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA	August 2021 – Present
Graduate Teaching Assistant University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA	August 2020 – May 2021
Writing Tutor University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA	January 2022 – May 2024
Rhetoric Co-Leader University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA	August 2022 – December 2022
Editor Freelance	May 2019 – Present
Teacher English First	May 2019 – Dec 2021
Advanced Tutor Tutor.com	September 2019 – September 2020

Teaching Experience

Graduate Instructor | University of Iowa

ENGL 1200: Interpretation of Literature: Medieval Monsters Spring 2025
I designed this course to highlight monstrosity in medieval literature. Rather than provide concrete definitions to help undergraduate students identify the monsters from the non-monsters, students cultivate a nuanced understanding of monstrosity to see that it's more than just black and white thinking. The central concern of the course is the act of interpretation, as students use and refine their reading and writing skills.

ENGL 1200: Interpretation of Literature: Medieval Fantasies Spring 2024
I designed this course for undergraduate students to examine how the medieval period proves William Faulkner's assertion that "The Past is never dead. It's not even past," to be true. Students read medieval literature to provide a foundation for discussing how issues of gender, sexuality, religion, and class compare with their conceptions in contemporary society. The central concern of the course is the act of interpretation, as students use and refine their reading and writing skills.

ENGL 1200: Interpretation of Literature: Adaptations Fall 2023
I designed this course to focus primarily on "ways of reading," asking undergraduate students to become aware of themselves as readers, to learn how to deal with different kinds of texts, and to understand how texts exist within larger historical, social, political, and cultural contexts. The central concern of the course is the act of interpretation, as students use and refine their reading and writing skills to respond critically and sensitively to literary texts.

RHET 1030: Rhetoric Fall 2021 – Spring 2023
I designed this course to teach undergraduate students the essential skills of advanced learning and higher education. In rhetoric classes, students learn to think logically, discover wrong or weak arguments, build a good case on a controversial topic, improve their writing, and overcome the all-too-common fear of speaking in public so that they can deliver crisp and well-prepared speeches.

Graduate Teaching Assistant | University of Iowa

ENGL 2010: Foundations of the English Major Fall 2020 – Spring 2021
This course offers a rigorous introduction to English literature by emphasizing three activities essential to a literary education: (1) close reading skills, (2) critical writing skills, and (3) a comprehensive knowledge of literary history. Students learn to read and write about key genres, drawing on exemplary texts that span the major periods of English studies.

ENGL 2030: Literary Reading Attendance Fall 2020
This course introduces undergraduate students to the rich array of creative and scholarly talks and readings that are a feature of the Writing University and the vibrant local literary scene. The course offers a learning experience based on the knowledge that one derives through focused attendance at live readings given by creative and scholarly writers and the question-and-answer period that follows.

Publications

“The Fluid and Female Body of Bisclavret.” *Marie de Trans: Tranimality, Transformations, and Queer Reception in the Lais of Marie de France*. Eds. Wally M. Cornell and Sara Petrosillo. Book proposal accepted in the *Premodern Transgressive Literatures* series at *Medieval Institute Publications*.

“*Beowulf* and the Far Right.” *Arthuriana, So What?* ed. Arielle McKee, accepted for May 2025.

“Trans People Affirmed their Gender Without Medical Help in Medieval Europe – History Shows how Identity Transcends Medicine and Law.” *The Conversation*, ed. Vivian Lam, Feb 2025.

“Born this Way.” *Tell Magazine*, ed. Aimen Hameed, Andrés Restrepo Sanchez, Brittany Bahl, and Jordan Ismaiel, University of Iowa, Oct 2023.

“Failure.” *Rhetoric Notes*, ed. Jennifer Janecheck, University of Iowa, no. 6, Dec 2021.

Certificates

Building University of Iowa Leadership for Diversity	University of Iowa 2024
LGBTQ+ Safe Zone	University of Iowa 2024
Engaging Across Cultures Professional Development Certificate	University of Iowa 2023
Associate, CIRTl for integrating teaching into research	University of Iowa 2021
TEFL Certificate, The Language House	Prague, Czech Republic 2019

Awards

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award	2024
\$1,000 award, Council on Teaching, University of Iowa	
Graduate College Summer Fellowship	2024
\$5,500 summer stipend + tuition scholarship, Graduate College, University of Iowa	
Post-Comprehensive Research Fellowship	2024
\$11,000 stipend + course release, Graduate College, University of Iowa	
Edwin Ford Piper Memorial Scholarship	2024-2025
\$1,000 award for language learning, English Department, University of Iowa	
Graduate Teaching Fellow	2023-2024
\$1,500 award + cohort meetings, Center for Teaching, University of Iowa	

Doug Trank Memorial Award for Excellence in Teaching and Mentoring 2023
Rhetoric Department, University of Iowa

Provost Scholarship 2011 – 2015
Tuition scholarship, The Ohio State University

Service

President | Textbook Committee August 2024 – Present
University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

Judge | Scholastic Art & Writing Awards December 2023
Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, Iowa City, IA

Associate Editor | Iowa Journal of Cultural Studies 2022
University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

Treasurer | Craft, Critique, Culture Conference May 2023 – May 2024
University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

President | Craft, Critique, Culture Conference May 2022 – May 2023
University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

Speaking Engagements

Graduate Student Experiences with Equitable Grading
Center for Teaching, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA April 2024

Emerald Colored Glasses: An Environmental Vision for Craft, Critique, and Culture
Colloquium, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA April 2023

Queer Failure and Making Something Useless
Gender, Sexuality, and Literature: Searching for Queer Stories September 2022
University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

Conferences Presentations

Genderqueer Masculinity in Le Roman de Silence
International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI April 2024

Queer Assemblages in The Romance of Silence
Craft, Critique, Culture Conference, Iowa City, IA April 2023

Woman? Man? Knight?: The Queer Needs of the Community in The Romance of Silence
MadLit Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI April 2023

<i>Despondent Dragons and Murderous Maids: Hippocrate's Daughter and the Queer Deconstruction of Chivalric Archetypes</i>	Medieval & Early Modern Studies Summer Festival, University of Kent, England	June 2022
<i>Community, Monsters, and Failure: The Margins in Margery Kempe</i>	Craft, Critique, Culture Conference, Iowa City, IA	April 2022
<i>The Textual Community of Margery Kempe</i>	Newberry Conference, Newberry Library, Chicago	January 2022
<i>The Deviant Christianity of the Goat-Man in The Travels of Sir John Mandeville</i>	LAMPS Liminality Conference, University of Edinburgh, Scotland	July 2021
<i>The Deviant Christianity of the Goat-Man in The Travels of Sir John Mandeville</i>	White Rose Medieval Conference, University of York, England	July 2021
<i>The Deviant Christianity of the Goat-Man in The Travels of Sir John Mandeville</i>	Medieval & Early Modern Studies Summer Festival, University of Kent, England	July 2021