J. A. Jackson

Hillsdale College

Department of English

Chair and Professor of English

Old and Middle English Language and Literature

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# EDUCATION

**Ph.D.** (2004) English, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN.

**Old and Middle English Literature**.

**M.A.** (1997) English, California State University, Fresno—Fresno, CA (*With Distinction*)

**B.A.** (1994) English, California State University, Fresno—Fresno, CA (*Cum Laude*)

# TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Hillsdale College**

**Professor**, Department of English, Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, MI (2016-present)

**Associate Professor**, Department of English, Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, MI (2010-present)

**Assistant Professor**, Department of English, Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, MI (2004-09)

***Devised and taught the following courses:***

English 401, Chaucer’s *The Canterbury Tales*.Fall 2018, Spring 2007.

English 403, Dostoevsky: The Madman and the Prophet. Fall 2017, Fall 2015.

English 401, The *Pearl*-Poet and the Eschatological Imagination. Fall 2016, Fall 2014, Spring 2011; Spring 2006.

English 403, Philosophy and Literature, Existence and Personhood. Spring 2014, Spring 2012.

English 401, Old English Language and Literature. Spring 2013, Spring 2010, Spring 2009.

English 403, Dostoevsky: The Madman and the Prophet. Fall 2009/Spring 2010.

Dostoevsky I: Dostoevsky Underground. Fall 2009.

Dostoevsky II: The Mantle of the Prophet. Spring 2010.

English 403, Reading Biblical Narrative. Summer 2018-2005.

English 401, Fourteenth-Century English Mystics. Spring 2008.

English 404, Desire, Violence, and Sacrifice: Mimetic Theory and Literary Studies. Spring 2008, Spring 2005.

English 310, Anglo-Saxon and Medieval British Literature. 2004-2016.

Honors 251, Chaucer’s *Troilus and Criseyde*. Spring 2014.

Honors 253, An Introduction to the Theology of Maximus Confessor. Fall 2011.

Honors 255, The Theopoetics of the Christian East. Fall 2008.

Honors 254, The Neighbor and the Divine: The Ethics of Emmanuel Levinas. Fall 2007.

Honors 250, Hagia Sophia: Elements of Orthodox Christianity. Spring 2006.

English 251, English Literature to 1798: The Biblical, The Political, and the Domestic in English Literature. Fall 2004.

English 101/104, Great Books in the Western Tradition—Ancient to Medieval.

English 105, Great Books in the British and American Traditions.

English 102/201, Great Books in Continental Literature—Renaissance to Modern.

English 597, Introduction to Western Modes of Writing. Fall 2006.

# PUBLICATIONS

“Christological Meditations in the Works of the *Pearl*-Poet.” In *Approaches to Teaching* *the* Pearl-*Poet*, edited by Jane Beal and Brad Busbee, 122-30. New York: MLA, 2017.

“Christian Humanism, Theandric Existence: Christology, Atonement, and the Wisdom of Love in Julian of Norwich’s *Revelations*.” In *A Companion to Medieval Christian Humanism*, edited by John P. Bequette, 313-28. Boston: Brill, 2016.

“Salvation Twice Told: Idolatry, Typology, and Repentance in *Genesis B*.” In Telling Tales and Crafting Books: Essays in Honor of Thomas H. Ohlgren, edited by Dorsey Armstrong, Shaun F.D. Hughes, and Alexander Kaufman, 93-117. Kalamazoo, MI: Medieval Institute Publications, 2016.

“*Deceit, Desire, and the Novel* Fifty Years Later—the Religious Dimension: An Introduction to the Forum.” Co-authored with Ann W. Astell. *Journal of Religion and Literature* 43, no. 3 (2011): 2-9.

“Freedom and Otherness: The Religious Dimension of Dostoevsky’s *Notes from Underground*. *Journal of Religion and Literature* 43, no.3: 45-52.

*Levinas and Medieval Literature*: *The “Difficult Reading” of English and Rabbinic Texts*, co-edited with Ann Astell (Duquesne University Press, 2009).

“Before the Face: a Levinasian Pre-face,” with Ann Astell, in *Levinas and Medieval Literature*, 1-14.

“The Infinite Desire of *Pearl*,” in *Levinas and Medieval Literature*, 157-84.

“‘In Lieu of Logos’: Creation and Redemption in the Poetry of Scott Cairns.” In *Mother Tongue Theologies: Poets Novelists, Non-Western Christianity*, edited by Darren Middleton, 32-44. New York: Wipf and Stock, 2009.

“‘And They Sang A New Song’: Reading John's Revelation from the Position of the Lamb.” Co-authored with Allen Redmon. *Contagion: A Journal of Violence, Mimesis, and Culture* 12-13 (2006): 99-114.

“‘On forfeit of your selves, think nothing true’: Self-Deception in Ben Jonson’s *Epicoene*.” *Early Modern Literary Studies* 10, no. 1 (2004).

“Interfacing the Faceless: Maximizing the Advantages of Online Tutoring.” *The Writing Lab Newsletter*

25, no. 2 (Oct. 2000): 1-7.

Review. Curtis A. Gruenler, *Piers Plowman and the Poetics of Enigma: Riddles, Rhetoric, and Theology*. South Bend: University of Notre Dame Press, 2017. Pages ix + 586. *The Bulletin of the Colloquium on Violence & Religion* 53 (August 2017): http://violenceandreligion.com/publications/bulletin-53-aug-2017/#Piers

Review. Cecilia A. Hatt, *God and The* Gawain*-Poet: Theology and Genre in* Pearl, Cleanness, Patience and Sir Gawain and the Green Knight. Cambridge: D. S. Brewer, 2015. *Religion and Literature* 49.2 (2017): 341-43.

Review. Steven Shankman, *Other Others: Levinas, Literature, Transcultural Studies*. New York: SUNY Press, 2010. *Comparative Literature Studies* 50, no. 3 (2013): 548-51.

Review. “*Mimesis and Theory: Essays on Literature and Criticism, 1953-2005*. Edited with an Introduction by Robert Doran. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2008.”  *Christianity and Literature* 60, no. 4 (2011): 677-81.

**Publications in Progress and/or under submission**

“Girard, Levinas, Dostoevsky: Apocalyptic Frenzy and Eschatological Ethics in Dostoevsky’s *Devils*.”

“Seeing an End to Violence: The Poetics of Temptation in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*.” To be published in a festschrift dedicated to Shaun F. D. Hughes.

“*Cleanness*: Apocalyptic Violence, Eschatological Hope.” To be published in *A New Companion to the Gawain-Poet* (Boydell and Brewer).

**INVITED LECTURES/TALKS:**

“Reasoning with Dostoevsky: The Love of Wisdom and the Wisdom of Love.” Keynote. Circe Institute National Conference. July 2018.

“Contemplating the Atonement in the Medieval English Mystics.” Circe Institute National Conference. July 2018.

“*The Brothers Karamazov*.” Interviewed by John Miller for *National Review*’s *Great Books* podcast. December 2017.

“Parables of the Wedding Feast and the Eucharist.” Presented to the Saint Macrina Orthodox Institute. August 2017.

“The Importance of Literature.” Hillsdale Online Courses—A Proper Understanding in K-12 Education: Theory and Practice (Spring 2015).

“The Fundamentals of Writing.” Hillsdale Online Courses—A Proper Understanding in K-12 Education: Theory and Practice (Spring 2015).

“Resignation and Hope in Albert Camus’ *The Fall*.” Hillsdale Online Courses—Great Books, Renaissance to Modern (Fall 2014).

“Dostoevsky's *Notes from Underground*: Slavery to Self, Freedom in the Other.” Hillsdale Online Courses—Great Books, Renaissance to Modern (Fall 2014).

“*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. Hillsdale Online Courses—Great Books, Ancient to Medieval (Spring 2014).

“The David Story.” Hillsdale Online Courses—Great Books, Ancient to Medieval. Spring 2014.

“Girard, Levinas, Dostoevsky: Apocalytpic Frenzy and Eschatological Ethics in Dostoevsky’s *Devils*. Invitation by l’ARM (Association de Recherches Mimétiques) and delivered at Bibliotheque nationale de France. November 2012.

“*The Cloud of Unknowing* and Apophatic Theology.” Delivered at Spring Arbor University. November 2012.

“Understanding the Fall.” Interviewed by Father Christopher Metropolous at OCN Radio (Spring 2008).

“The Original Sin in Eastern Orthodoxy.” Presented at Calvin College (Winter 2007).

# CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

“Julian of Norwich, *The Cloud of Unknowing*, and the Doctrine of Deification.” 52nd International Congress on Medieval Studies. Sponsored Session, “Medieval Theories of Atonement,” Western Michigan University (May 2017).

“The Apocalyptic and the Ethical: Girard, Levinas, and the Case of Dostoevsky.” The Colloquium on Violence and Religion 2015. Saint Louis University (July 2015).

“Julian of Norwich as a Teacher of Deification.” 50th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Sponsored Session, “Mysticism and Materiality,” Western Michigan University (May 2015).

“From Luf-Talkyng to Eschatological Hypostasis: Finding a Focus in Teaching the *Pearl*-Poems.” 46th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Sponsored Session, “New Approaches to Teaching the *Pearl*-Poems in the Undergraduate Classroom,” Western Michigan University (May 2011).

“*Levinas and Medieval Literature*: A Roundtable Discussion.” 45th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Sponsored Session, Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program at Purdue University (May 2010)

“‘And Suffering Appeared on their Faces’: Dostoevskyan Apocalypse, Dostoevskyan Paradise.” The Colloquium on Violence and Religion 2010, Special Topic Session: The Apocalyptic (July 2010).

“‘As lyttel barnez on barme þat neuer bale wroзt’: Imagining Women and Children in *Cleanness* and *Patience.”* 44th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Sponsored Session: Margins and Marginalization—The “Lesser” and “Disputed” Works of the *Pearl*-Poet, Western Michigan University (May 2009).

“’It is al that is made’: Teaching Julian of Norwich and the *Cloud*-Author.” 43rd International Congress on Medieval Studies, Sponsored Session: Teaching The Mystics, Western Michigan University (May 2008).

“‘Who Told You That You Were Naked?’: Death, Vulnerability, and the Original Sin.” The Colloquium on Violence and Religion 2007, Special Topic Session: Vulnerability in the Theological Traditions, Blaise Pascal Institute, Amsterdam, Netherlands (July 2007).

“A Divine Disposition; Scandalizing the Reader in *The Cloud of Unknowing*.” 42nd Congress on Medieval Studies, General Session, Western Michigan University (May 2007).

“Yeah, but Chaucer Tells Dirty Jokes: Teaching the Gravity and Playfulness of the *Pearl*-Poems.” 41st Congress on Medieval Studies, Sponsored Session: Teaching the *Pearl-*Poems. Western Michigan University (May 2006).

“‘And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun’: Mimesis, *Kerygma*, and the Iconography of the East.” The Colloquium on Violence and Religion 2005, Special Topic Session: Mimetic Theory and Visual Art, Koblenz, Germany (July 2005).

“From Jonah the Prophet to Jonah the Ninevite: The Beginning and End of Prophetic Repentance in the Middle English *Patience*.” 40th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Sponsored Session: Passage of Tine, Beginnings, and Endings in the *Pearl*-Poems, Western Michigan University (May 2005).

“Towards a Hermeneutics of Ecological Responsibility: *Genesis* and Cosmic Redemption.” The Colloquium on Violence and Religion 2004, Special Topic Session: Biblical Reading and the Environment, Ghost Ranch, New Mexico (June 2004).

“From Totality to Infinity: Levinasian Ethics and the Kingdom of God in *Pearl*.” 39th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Special Session: Levinas and Medieval Literature II, Western Michigan University (May 2004).

“Violence and the Political: Emmanuel Levinas in Vern Neufeld Redekop’s *From Violence to Blessing*.” American Academy of Religion 2003 Annual Meeting. Additional Meeting: Colloquium on Violence and Religion, Atlanta, Georgia (November 2003).

“On Earth as it is in Heaven: Ethics, Substitution, and the Heavenly Kingdom in the Middle English *Pearl*.” 19th Annual Conference of the Medieval Association of the Midwest. Special Topic Session: Late 14th-Century Masterpieces, University of Indianapolis (October 2003).

“‘And Ay þe Bigest in Bale þe Best Watz Halden’: Monstrous Progeny, Violent Community in *Cleanness*.” 39th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Sponsored Session: Violence and the Monstrous in the *Pearl*-Poem, Western Michigan University (May 2003).

“Prophetic Mimesis: Face to Face with God in the Middle English Poem *Cleanness*.” The Colloquium on Violence and Religion 2002, Special Topic Session: Medieval Writing and Religion: Mimesis and Violence, Purdue University (June 2002).

“Abraham the Prophet and the Case Against Lot: A Study of Medieval Narrative Exegesis in the Middle

English *Cleanness*.” Narrative 2002: An International Conference, Michigan State University

(April 2002).

“Reading the Writing on the Wall: Prophetic Reading in the *Pearl* Poems.” 36th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Sponsored Session: Themes and Contexts in the *Gawain*-Poet, Western Michigan University (May 2001).

“The Holocaust and Biblical Interpretation.” Panel Discussion member with Professors Ann W.

Astell, Sandor Goodhart, Stuart Robertson, and Tom Ryba. 20th Annual Holocaust Remembrance Conference at Purdue University (March 2001).

“Technology and the Teaching Environment.” An Electronic Poster Session at the 4th Annual Teaching,

Learning, and Technology Conference, Purdue University (February 2001).  
“Dis-Solving God’s Judgment in *Genesis B*: Adamic Criticism’s Ascension to the Throne of God.” 16th

Annual Conference of the Medieval Association of the Midwest. Special Topic Session: Anglo-

Saxon Poetry in Manuscript and Critical Contexts, Saint Scholastica University (October 2000).

“From Psalter to Stage: Images, Memory, and Contract in the ‘Harrowing of Hell.’” Medieval Mondays

Lecture Series, Purdue University (February 2000).

“A Double Discovery: The Yeoman’s Tale of Robin Hood and Friar Tuck.” A Reading with Professors Ann W. Astell, Shaun F.D. Hughes, et al. 34th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University (May 1999).

“Between Letter and Spirit: An Ascetic Reading of Courtly Love and Divine Love in *Pearl*.” 29th Annual

Interdisciplinary CAES Conference, Ball State University (October 1998).

“Sipping Sangria in Hell: Kyd's Justification for Revenge in *The Spanish Tragedy*." English Graduate

Students' Association Conference on Medieval/Renaissance Studies. Special Topic: Renaissance Drama, California State University, Fresno (April 1996).

“Natural Law and Hospitality: A Justification for Alisoun's Pardon?” English Graduate Students' Association Conference on Medieval/Renaissance Studies. Special Topic Session: Chaucer's Women, California State University, Fresno (May 1995).

# CONFERENCE PANEL CHAIR/ORGANIZER

**Chair**. 46th International Congress on Medieval Studies. Sponsored Session: “The Other Pearls: Rediscovering *Cleanness*, *Patience*, and *Saint Erkenwald*,” Western Michigan University (May 2010).

**Chair**. Colloquium on Violence and Religion 2010. Special Session: Girard and Theatre. University of Notre Dame (July 2010).

**Keynote Address Respondent**. Allen Frantzen, “Sacrificial Soldiers.” The Colloquium on Violence and Religion 2005, Keynote Address, Koblenz, Germany (July 2005).

**Chair**. 40th International Congress on Medieval Studies. Special Session: “Levinas and Medieval Literature II (May 2005).

**Organizer**. 38th International Congress on Medieval Studies. Sponsored Session: “Editing the *Pearl*-

Poems Manuscript: A Roundtable Discussion,” Western Michigan University (May 2003).

**Organizer**. 38th International Congress on Medieval Studies. Sponsored Session: Violence and the

Monstrous in the *Pearl*-Poems,” Western Michigan University (May 2003).

**Organizer**. 38th International Congress on Medieval Studies. Sponsored Session: “Deceit and Desire in the *Pearl*-Poems,” Western Michigan University (May 2003).

**Organizer**. 38th International Congress on Medieval Studies. Sponsored Session: “The Domestic and the

Dysfunctional Family in the *Pearl*-Poems,” Western Michigan University (May 2003).

**Organizer**. 38th International Congress on Medieval Studies. Sponsored Session: “Space and Time in the *Pearl*-Poems I,” Western Michigan University (May 2003).

**Organizer and Chair**. 38th International Congress on Medieval Studies. Sponsored Session: “Space and

Time in the *Pearl*-Poems II,” Western Michigan University (May 2003).

**Chair**. 38th International Congress on Medieval Studies: “Uses of Christianity in Alliterative Poetry of the High Middle Ages,” Western Michigan University (May 2003).

**Organizer**. 37th International Congress on Medieval Studies. Sponsored Session: “Performative Elements in the *Pearl* Poems,” Western Michigan University (May 2002).

**Organizer and Chair**. 37th International Congress on Medieval Studies. Sponsored Session: “The Digital Cotton Nero A.x Project: A Roundtable Discussion,” Western Michigan University (May 2002).

**Organizer**. 37th International Congress on Medieval Studies. Sponsored Session: “The ‘Other Three

Poems’: *Cleanness*, *Patience*, and *Saint Erkenwald*,” Western Michigan University (May 2002).

**Organizer**. 37th International Congress on Medieval Studies. Sponsored Session: “Uses and Abuses of the Bible in the *Pearl* Poems,” Western Michigan University (May 2002).

**Chair**. Narrative 2002: An International Conference, Special Topic Session: Religion and Narrative,

Michigan State University (April 2002).

**Chair**. English Graduate Students' Association Conference on Medieval/Renaissance Studies. Special

Topic Session: “Images of Women,” California State University, Fresno (May 1996).

**Chair**. English Graduate Students' Association Conference on Medieval/Renaissance Studies. Special

Session Topic: “Chaucer's Women,” California State University, Fresno (April 1996).

# COLLEGE/DEPARTMENT SERVICE

**Hillsdale College**

**Director**, Hillsdale College Writing Center (2008-present).

Barney Charter School Initiative: Literature and Writing programs (2013-present).

* Provide pedagogical instruction to charter school teachers both here on campus and nationwide.

Academic Honesty Policy Review Committee (2015-present): with Mark Nussbaum and Charles Steele.

* We were asked to review the College’s Academic Honesty Policy and to craft new language that better reflects and helps us to meet the College’s Mission Statement.

“Academic Honesty.” An invited lecture to the incoming freshman class of 2019. Fall 2015-present.

Hillsdale Hostel. The Great Conversation in Western Literature: “Christianity and Literature.” 2011-present.

Hillsdale College Educational Policies Committee (2015-16).

Hillsdale College Tenure and Promotion Committee (2014-2015).

Hillsdale College, Department of English, Departmental Goals and Mission Statement Committee (Fall 2015).

Hillsdale College, Department of English, Departmental Honors Policy Committee (Spring 2014).

Job Search Committee: Classical Education (Fall 2015).

Job Search Committee: Theology (Spring 2014).

Hillsdale College Honors Program Committee (2007-2010).

Distinct Scholars Weekend Interview Committee (Spring 2014; Spring 2010; Spring 2009).

Hillsdale College Department of English Writing Assessment Committee (2015-2004).

Hillsdale College Nominating Committee (2008).

Hillsdale College CCA Faculty Roundtable Participant (Fall 2009; Spring 2007).

Hillsdale College Academic Honesty Review Committee (2007-08).

Job Search Committee, Generalist/18th-Century British Literature (January 2007).

Roodhouse Scholarship Award Committee (Spring 2008, 2007).

Department of English Writing Assessment Committee for NCCA (Summer 2006, Summer 2005).

Hillsdale College Academic Status Committee (2006-07).

Department of English Writing Assessment Review (Spring 2005-Fall 2005).

Department of English Mission Statement Committee (Spring 2005).

**Lectures on campus**

“Dostoevsky and the 19th-centruy Russian Novelists.” Delivered at Hillsdale College for the Graduate School of Statesmanship. November 2014.

“Mimetic Desire and Literary Study.” Presented to the Hillsdale College Honors Program Banquet. Spring 2014.

“Atonement in the Ancient Church.” Presented to the Hillsdale College Orthodox Christian Fellowship. Fall 2013.

“Absence as Icon: Eros and Death in Literature, Ancient and Modern.” Presented to the Hillsdale College Honors Program Banquet. Fall 2013.

“The David Story and Biblical Narrative.” Delivered at Hillsdale College for the Graduate School of Statesmanship. September 2012.

“’You become responsible, forever, for what you have tamed’: Some thoughts on Roses, Foxes, and Friendship.” Delivered at Hillsdale College Convocation, Spring 2010.

“Poetry and Philosophy.” Presented to Liberal Arts Friday Forum at Hillsdale College. Spring 2009.

“The Heroic and the Domestic in Homer’s *Odyssey*.” Presented at Junior visitation day at Hillsdale College. Spring 2009; Spring 2008.

“Exegetical Paradigms and the Rupturing of Time: The Jewish Roots of Eastern Orthodoxy.” Presented to the Hillsdale College Orthodox Christian Fellowship.” Spring 2007.

“Literary Studies and the Slipperiness of Language: Questions and Answers.” Presented to the Hillsdale College Honors Program Banquet. Fall 2006.

“God, Death, and Dirty Jokes: An Introduction to the Study of Old and Middle English Literature.” Presented to the Hillsdale College Honors Program Colloquium. Spring 2005.

“An Introduction to Eastern Orthodox Christianity,” for Professor Michael Bauman’s Religion 105, Introduction to Western Religion. Spring 2005.

“Cosmic Redemption and Ecological Responsibility.” Presented to the Hillsdale College Fairfield Society. Fall 2004.

“Biblical Exegesis in the Early Church.” Presented to the Hillsdale College Orthodox Christian Fellowship. Fall 2004.

# HONORS/AWARDS

# *Princeton Review’s Best 300 Professors*. 2012.

# Professor of the Year, 2011. Hillsdale College.

# Emily Daugherty Award for Teaching Excellence (Hillsdale College, 2008).

Hillsdale College Summer Leave Grant (Hillsdale College, 2015, 2007, 2005).

# SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

International *Pearl*-Poet Society

President (May 2003-2006); Vice-President (May 2001-May 2003)

* organized, promoted, and advertised four sponsored sessions at the 37th and 38th International Congress on Medieval Studies (May 2002, May 2003).
* convened annual *Pearl*-Poet Society business meeting and discussed plans for the upcoming year

New Chaucer Society

Medieval Academy of America

Medieval Association of the Midwest

COV&R (Colloquium on Violence and Religion)

North American Levinas Society