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Mike Baxter-Kauf

Education

September, 1998 to May, 2002 Macalester College, St. Paul, Minnesota

Bachelor of Arts-Humanities and Cultural Studies

- Courses focused on many genres of literature as well as film and critical theory.
- Semester long senior project analyzed contemporary mainstream cinematic representations of snuff films using Lacanian psychoanalysis.

September, 2002 to February, 2007 State University of New York at Buffalo

Master of Arts-Comparative Literature

PhD-Comparative Literature

- Courses focused on continental critical theory, Freudian and Lacanian psychoanalysis, film and contemporary American literature.
- Participated in the Center for the Study of Psychoanalysis and Culture and served on the editorial board of Umbr(a).
- Dissertation focused on contemporary American literature and psychoanalytic thought, along with analyzing film, short fiction and ethical theory.

Work experience

September, 2002 to May, 2005 State University of New York at Buffalo

Teaching Assistant—Department of English Composition Program

- Taught 3 semesters each of English 101 and 201, the core of the University's composition requirement.
- Responsible for lesson planning, daily teaching, assigning and grading student papers and determining semester long grades.
- Received high level evaluations from students and both peer and faculty evaluators.

September, 2005 to May, 2006 State University of New York at Buffalo

Teaching Assistant—Department of Comparative Literature

- Teaching Seminars on "The Death Penalty in American Literature" and "Literature and Fashion."
- Responsible for course creation, advertising and recruitment, lesson planning, daily teaching, assigning and grading student papers and determining semester long grades.

- Received high level evaluations from students and both peer and faculty evaluators. Multiple students decided to take spring semester course based on their experience in the fall.

September, 2005 to June, 2007

University of Rochester

Visiting Instructor in Debate—Department of English

- Conducting bi-weekly practice sessions with students, weekly coaches meetings and routine one-on-one or small group student advising sessions.
- Researching, creating and developing arguments in collaboration with students.
- Judging practice and competition rounds.
- Instructing, advising and coaching college students to utilize and present arguments in debate rounds.

June-July, 2006-2013 Minnesota Debate and Advocacy Workshop

Program Director and Instructor of Debate

- Leading a group of around 10 students in several week long research projects, focused on the upcoming high school debate topic.
- Instructing students, mostly from the Minnesota Urban Debate League, on the upcoming high school topic and the skills and arguments involved in policy debate.
- Supervising students during a multi-week summer institute, during instructional, recreational and residential periods.
- Developing institute wide curriculum, including assignment of lectures, work sessions, research projects and practice debates.
- Design and delivery of lectures to advanced and beginning students on debate theory, topic knowledge, argument construction, debate strategy and philosophical background.
- Received high level evaluations from students. Many students have chosen to return to the institute in successive years.

July, 2014-2015

University of Oregon Global Debate Institute

Program Director and Instructor of Debate

- Leading a group of around 10 students in several week long research projects, focused on the upcoming high school debate topic.
- Instructing students on the upcoming high school topic and the skills and arguments involved in policy debate.
- Supervising students during a multi-week summer institute, during instructional, recreational and residential periods.
- Developing institute wide curriculum, including assignment of lectures, work sessions, research projects and practice debates.
- Design and delivery of lectures to advanced and beginning students on debate theory, topic knowledge, argument construction, debate strategy and philosophical background.
- Received high level evaluations from students. Many students chose to return to the institute in successive years

July 2007

University of Rochester Summer Programs

Rochester Scholars Instructor

- Leading a group of students in a course entitled “Worlds of Possibility,” focusing on science fiction, fantasy and horror film and literature.
- Designing the course, establishing its daily lesson plans, selecting stories, films and supplementary materials.
- Providing feedback on student writing and encouraging the development of fictional narratives.

August 2007 to July 2010

Macalester College

Director of Debate

- Planning for and supervising trips to debate tournaments with the Macalester College Debate Team, an extremely dedicated core group of students at an elite liberal arts college.
- Determining season long schedule and making and executing travel arrangements for approximately 13 debate tournaments.
- Recruiting and developing college students new to policy debate as well as retaining and improving students with high school debate experience.
- Conducting bi-weekly practice sessions with students and routine one-on-one or small group student advising sessions.
- Researching, creating and developing arguments in collaboration with students.
- Judging practice and competition rounds.
- Instructing, advising and coaching college students to utilize and present arguments in debate rounds.
- Budgeting and monetary responsibilities for tournament and debate expenses.

August 2010 to July 2011

ITT Technical Institute

Composition Instructor

- Designing, planning and teaching Composition 1 and Composition 2 courses, focused around basic research strategies, argumentative writing and general composition skills.
- Designing, planning and teaching course in Research Methodologies, focusing on creating and analyzing social science research.
- Designing planning and teaching course in Written Analysis, focusing on advanced composition, critical and creative thought for ITT Bachelor track program.
- Creating assignments, evaluating student writing, providing feedback and determining grades.
- Received consistently excellent teaching evaluations from faculty observers and bonuses for excellent student involvement.

August 2011 to Present

University of Minnesota

Senior Lecturer in Communication Studies

- Design, planning and execution of Introduction to Public Speaking courses.
- Teaching approximately 75 students per semester in a practice intensive speech course, including 7-8 formal speeches by each student each semester.

- Development of assignments and grading metrics for each of the formal and informal speeches.
- Service to students in the form of letter writing, interview support and assistance in speech situations external to class.
- Service on several committees including the Departmental Council, the Faculty Review Committee and the College of Liberal Arts Professional and Administrative Employees Board.
- Received excellent evaluations of teaching and service from both student survey responses and Faculty Evaluation Committees.

Conference Papers

“Plagiarism and Psychosis in Kathy Acker’s *Empire of the Senseless*”—Presented at the New York College English Association Fall 2005 Conference, Nazareth College, Rochester NY, October 15th, 2005

“You Can See Me?” Presented at Lane Community College Conference on Poverty, Hunger, and Health, Eugene, OR, October 27th, 2005

“The Submissive Mouth,” Presented at the Open Wide Conference at Madame of the Arts, Minneapolis, MN, May 24th, 2014

Awards received

Presidential Scholarship, Fall 2002, to Spring 2006, State University of New York at Buffalo

Selected as a Critic of Policy Debate Rounds for the Minnesota State High School League State Debate Tournament, January 2005, January 2006 January 2008 January 2009 January 2010 January 2011 January 2012 January 2013 January 2014 January 2015

Top Judge Award, Novice National Policy Debate Championship, Georgetown University, March 5th-7th, 2005

Neil Butt Debate Judging Award, West Virginia University, March 4th, 2006

Cross Examination Debate Association East Region Judge of the Year, March 22nd, 2007

Award for Excellence in Judging, Towson University, March 8th, 2009

Minnesota Urban Debate League Coach of the Year, 2012

Minnesota State High School League Selection as State Debate Judge, 2007-2014

Minnesota State High School League, Debate Coach of the Year Finalist, 2014

John Edie Memorial Debate Tournament Coach of the Year, The Blake School, 2014

Thank a Teacher Program Recognition, Center for Educational Innovation, University of Minnesota, Spring 2018

Thank a Teacher Program Recognition, Center for Educational Innovation, University of Minnesota, Spring 2020

Thank a Teacher Program Recognition, Center for Educational Innovation, University of Minnesota, Fall 2021

Thank a Teacher Program Recognition, Center for Educational Innovation, University of Minnesota, Spring 2022

Thank a Teacher Program Recognition, Center for Educational Innovation, University of Minnesota, Spring 2024

Thank a Teacher Program Recognition, Center for Educational Innovation, University of Minnesota, Fall 2024

Thank a Teacher Program Recognition, Center for Educational Innovation, University of Minnesota, Fall 2025

Organizations

Editorial Committee Member, *Umbr(a): A Journal of the Unconscious*, Fall 2002-Fall 2006

Member, University at Buffalo Group For Discussion of the Freudian Field, Fall 2002-Fall 2006

Board Member, Professional and Administrative Board, University of Minnesota, College of Liberal Arts, Fall 2012—Present

Member, DEI Committee, University of Minnesota, Department of Communication Studies, Fall 2017—Present

Publications

Syllabus for “The Death Penalty in American Literature” selected for Death Penalty Information Center’s College Curriculum Website, Capital Punishment in Context, Available at <http://www.capitalpunishmentincontext.org>

“In Debate More Than Itself: An Introductory Discussion of Slavoj Zizek and Psychoanalytic Thought in Contemporary Debate.” The Last Word June 2011 (online)