

Brenta Blevins

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APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of Writing Studies and Digital Studies, Department of English and Linguistics, University of Mary Washington, 2017-Present.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in English (Rhetoric and Composition), University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Dissertation Title: *From Corporeality to Virtual Reality: Theorizing Literacy, Bodies, and Technology in the Emerging Media of Virtual, Augmented, and Mixed Realities.*

- *Computers and Composition* Hugh Burns Dissertation Award Honorable Mention, 2018.

Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies, University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

M.A. in English, Radford University.

Thesis Title: *Online Peer Review: Responding to Writing Using Technology-Mediated Interfaces.*

B.A. in English, Virginia Tech.

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Digital rhetoric, media, and literacy; multimodality/multiliteracy; professional and technical writing; communication across the curriculum; genre theory.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

["Teaching Digital Literacy Composing Concepts: Focusing on the Layers of Augmented Reality in an Era of Changing Technology."](#) *Computers & Composition* 50, Dec. 2018, 21-38.

["Designing Scholarly Multimodal Texts: A Peer Review Process."](#) With Stacy W. Rice and Russell G. Carpenter. *The Peer Review* (October 2015): n.p.

Book Chapters

"Levelling up with Emergent Tutoring: Exploring the Ludus and Paidia of Writing, Tutoring, and Augmented Reality." With Lindsay Sabatino. *Unlimited Players: The Intersections of Writing Centers and Games Scholarship*. Ed. Stephanie Vie & Holly Ryan. Utah State UP, 2022. 103-122.

"The Literacies of Augmented Reality: Linking Traditional and New Ways of Composing." *Writing Changes: Alphabetic Text and Multimodal Composition*, Ed. Pegeen Reichert Powell. Modern Language Association, 2020. 177-193.

"Podcasts: Sound Strategies for Sonic Literacy." *Multimodal Composing: Strategies for Twenty-First-Century Writing Consultations*, Eds. Lindsay Sabatino & Brian Fallon. Utah State UP, April 2019. 140-152.

"Initiating Multimodal Training." With Lindsay Sabatino. *Designing and Implementing Multimodal Curricula and Programs*. Eds. Santosh Khadka & Jennifer C. Lee. Routledge, 2018. 125-138.

Book Review

"Developing Inclusive and Accessible Online Writing Instruction: Supporting OWI Principle 1: Review of Norman Coombs' *Making Online Teaching Accessible: Inclusive Course Design for Students with Disabilities*." *Writing Program Administration*, vol. 40, no. 3, 2017, pp. 94-99.

Conference Proceedings

"Getting Beyond 'Just Tell Me What to Write': Strategies for Engaging Conversation between Consultants and Students." With Stacy W. Rice and Lindsay Sabatino. *Akademisches Schreiben. Halbband 2: Sprache zum Schreiben – zum Denken – zum Beraten. Beiträge der 8. Peer-Tutor*innen-Konferenz*. University of Hamburg (Universität Hamburg), Hamburg, Germany. June 2016. 113-18.

WEBTEXTS (SELECTED)

["July Webtext of the Month: 'What is Code?'"](#) *Digital Rhetoric Collaborative*. July 31, 2015.

["Reflections from the Trenches in the Cloud"](#) online teaching series. *Digital Rhetoric Collaborative*. 2015.

["Using a Collaborative Classroom Wiki for Exam Study."](#) *Digital Rhetoric Collaborative*. October 15, 2014.

["January Webtext of the Month: *Hollow*."](#) *Digital Rhetoric Collaborative*. January 28, 2014.

["Visualizing Data through Infographics."](#) *Digital Rhetoric Collaborative*. November 14, 2013.

AWARDS, HONORS, AND GRANTS (SELECTED)

UMW Jepson Fellowship, 2021- 2022.

Award to support research into composing histories of Virtual, Augmented, and Mixed Reality.

UMW Faculty Supplemental Grant, Spring 2018, Summer 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Summer 2019, Fall 2019; Spring 2022.

Awards to support travel for presentations at various national and international conferences.

Computers and Composition Hugh Burns Dissertation Award Honorable Mention, 2018.

Competitive award recognizing the best dissertation in Computers and Composition Studies.

UMW Summer Pedagogy Grant, Summer 2018.

Competitive award to support development of Digital "Hacking" workshops.

UMW Faculty Research Grant, Summer 2018.

Competitive award to support summer research into Mixed Reality scholarship and pedagogy.

UNCG Digital ACT Studio Instructional Equipment Grant. University of North Carolina at Greensboro, 2016-17.

College of Arts and Sciences Award for Outstanding Graduate Assistant Teaching. University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, NC, Spring 2016.

Open Educational Resources Mini-Grant, with Dr. Nancy Myers. University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, NC, 2015. Sponsored by the Office of the Provost and the University Libraries.

Fellow, [Digital Rhetoric Collaborative](#), Gayle Morris Sweetland Center for Writing, University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, MI, 2013-2014; 2014-2015.

- The DRC won the 2015 *Computers and Composition* Michelle Kendrick Outstanding Digital Production/Scholarship Award.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)

- "Writing and Wellbeing: Benefits of Reflective Digital Journaling in an Online Nursing Writing Course." Conference on Teaching Writing in the Health Professions, Arizona State University, June 2022.
- "The Impacts on Writing and Well-being of Weekly Journaling in an Online Nursing Class." *Computers and Writing*, East Carolina University, NC, Greenville, NC, May 2022.
- "Representation as Activism: Composing New Public Rhetoric in Augmented and Mixed Reality." *Computers and Writing*, East Carolina University, NC, May 2020; May 2022.
- "Immersing the Audience in Digital Space: Engagement Practices in Virtual Reality Activism." *Computers and Writing*, East Carolina University, NC, Greenville, NC, May, 2020; May 2022.
- "Informal Reading Groups as Inclusionary Practice for Facilitating Graduate Students' Disciplinary Access and Professionalization." *Conference on College Composition and Communication* Virtual Conference, March 2022.
- "Inviting the Audience In: An Exploration of Immersion and Empathy in Virtual Reality." *Rhetoric Society of America*, Portland, OR, May 2020. * *Cancelled due to COVID-19.*
- "Using Games to Support New Forms of Writing in Writing Centers and Classes." *Conference on College Composition and Communication*, Milwaukee, WI, March, 2020. * *Cancelled due to COVID-19.*
- "Composing New Public Rhetorical Possibilities Using Augmented and Mixed Reality." *Feminisms and Rhetorics*, James Madison University, VA, November 2019.
- "Contemplating Rhetorical Futures in a Post-Desktop Computing World." *2019 Western States Rhetoric and Literacy Conference*, Montana State University, MT, October 2019.
- "The Digital Studies 101 Website: Developing and Using an Ethical Un-Textbook." *The Association for Computers in the Humanities (ACH)*, Pittsburgh, PA, July 2019.
- "The Digital Studies 101 Website: Developing and Using an Ethical Un-Textbook." *Computers & Writing*, Michigan State University, MI, June 2019.
- "Developing Avatar Ethos in Mixed Reality Protests." *Computers & Writing*, Michigan State University, MI, June 2019.
- "Authoring Resistance through Augmented and Mixed Reality Composing." *Conference on College Composition and Communication*, Pittsburgh, PA, March, 2019.
- "Preparing for Current and Future Composing with Augmented, Mixed, and Virtual Reality." *International Thomas R. Watson Conference on Rhetoric and Composition*, University of Louisville, KY, October 2018.
- "Expanding the Available Means: Avatar-Rhetors in Mixed Reality Public Protests." *Rhetoric Society of America*, Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN, June 2018.
- "Locating Digital Writing in Digital Space." *Computers & Writing*, George Mason, VA, May 2018.
- "Composing Digital and Non-Digital Augmented Reality (AR) in the Classroom and Workplace." *Conference on College Composition and Communication*, Kansas City, MO, March, 2018.
- "Toward a Literacy Theory Made Whole: Composing in Emerging Media." *Modern Language Association*, Philadelphia, PA, January 2017.
- "Preparing for the Future Now: When Technologies of Augmented Reality, Mixed Reality, and Virtual Reality Change Definitions of 'Writing.'" *Council of Writing Program Administrators*, Raleigh, NC, July 2016.

- "The Corpse in the Corpus: How the Body Is Shaped in and by Textual Spaces." *Rhetoric Society of America*, Atlanta, GA, May 2016.
- "From Corporeality to Virtual Reality: The Corpse in the New Media Corpus." *Computers and Writing*, St. John Fisher College, May 2016.
- "Remixing Collaboration: (in)Visible Practice and Pedagogy." *Conference on College Composition and Communication*, Houston, TX, April, 2016.
- "Evolutions: The History and Future of Computers and Writing and Related Fields, as told on the DRC Wiki." Round Table Presentation. *Computers and Writing*, University of Washington, June 2014.
- "Promoting Civic Engagement in Lower Level General Education." *Conference on Higher Education Pedagogy*, Virginia Tech, February 2013.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor of Writing Studies and Digital Studies, Department of English and Linguistics, University of Mary Washington, 2017-Present.

- *Technical Writing* (ENGL 316A; Writing Intensive): This advanced writing course explores writing genres, media, and technologies used in technical professions. Students engage in technical writing practices, including learning about the writing process and writing as individual writers and in teams of subject matter experts, testers, and copyeditors.
- *Topics in Writing: Writing and Literacy in the Digital Age* (ENGL 306R; Writing Intensive): This advanced writing course explores how understandings of literacy have changed with new and rapidly changing digital technologies. Students read literacy research and write in traditional and new digital media, culminating in their own digital literacy narratives.
- *Writing Studies and Healing* (ENGL 308; Writing Intensive): A BSN requirement, this advanced composition course draws on Writing Studies research to explore the multiple relationships between writing and healing, how healing professionals use writing in work contexts, and how personal writing may intersect with wellbeing. Students read and write in multiple genres in academic, professional, and personal contexts.
- *Writing about Writing* (ENGL 202; Writing Intensive): Students read and write in a variety of fiction and non-fiction genres about writers, writing, and the writing process.
- *Writing in the Workplace* (ENGL 202; Writing Intensive): Students learn about the writing process and read and write in various professional genres, including job search materials.
- *Writing Studies* (ENGL 307; Writing Intensive): Upper-level examination of Writing Studies' scholarship and practitioners' examinations of the multi-stage writing process. Students learn writing strategies, engage in multiple writing projects, and reflect intensively on their own writing processes and their ability to apply their understandings to varied writing occasions.
- *Introduction to Digital Studies* (DGST 101): Introductory course that addresses digital culture, usage, ethics, and practice. Students broadly survey digital culture and create digital media, from podcasts to augmented reality, about digital studies topics.
- *Special Topics in Digital Studies: Virtual and Augmented Realities* (DGST 301): An advanced course theorizing, analyzing, and composing the emerging media of Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR). Students learn and apply theories of remediation (one medium incorporating or representing another medium) and multimodality (use of multiple communication modes) as they explore digital mediation of reality.
- *Applied Digital Studies* (DGST 395): An upper-level Digital Studies course in which students pursue in depth their own digital interests to design and develop their own digital projects. Course incorporates digital, project management, and technical communication skills.
- *Introduction to Disability Studies* (IDIS 300N): Developed content, graded, and supported this team-taught introductory course that broadly surveys issues pertaining to disability. My

teaching focused on usability, accessible writing, disability narratives, and digital accessibility.

Instructor of Record, Department of English, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, 2012-2017.

- Public and Workplace Writing (ENG 230).
- College Writing I (ENG 101; Online and Classroom; English as Second or Other Language).
- Freshman Seminar in Reasoning and Discourse (FMS 115; Speaking Intensive; Hybrid).
- College Writing II (ENG 102; Speaking Intensive).
- Introduction to Narrative (ENG 105; Writing Intensive).
- Introduction to Narrative (ENG 105; Summer Online).

Teaching Assistant, Department of English, University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

- Teaching College Writing (ENG 747), Fall 2015.
- Writing across the University: Practicum for Digital ACT Studio Consultants (ENGL 365), Spring 2013.

Consultant, Writing Center, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, 2012-2013.

Graduate Teaching Assistant and Graduate Teaching Fellow, Radford University, 2010-2012.

- Essentials of Written and Oral Communication (CORE 101).
- Advanced Written and Oral Communication (CORE 102).

WORKSHOPS LED (SELECTED)

"Gaming in Writing Pedagogy: Supporting Multimodal Augmented Reality Projects." IWCA Annual Conference, Vancouver, BC, Oct. 26-29, 2022.

["Incorporating 'Hacking' Workshops to Support Digital Literacy."](#) Pedagogy Colloquium, University of Mary Washington, February 2020.

Workshop Coordinator and Presenter. "Teaching English 101 and 105 Online." For UNCG Graduate Teaching Assistants, May 2015, May 2017.

Workshop Coordinator and Presenter. "Working with Virtual, Augmented, and Mixed Reality: Spatial Considerations." For UNCG Digital ACT Studio Consultants, Spring 2017.

Workshop Coordinator and Presenter. "Using Digital Tools in the Classroom: Incorporating Multimodal Digital Assignments in Online Courses." For UNCG Faculty (UTLC), Spring 2017.

"Material Digital Rhetoric: An Upcycling Tech Craft Workshop." *Computers and Writing*, St. John Fisher College, May 2016.

"Assessing Multimodal Assignments." With Dr. Lindsay Sabatino, Director of UNCG Digital ACT Studio. For UNCG Public Health Education, April 2015.

"Communication Across the Curriculum Dialogue: ePortfolios." With Dr. Roy Schwartzman. For Writing-Intensive Faculty across the Curriculum, March 2015.

"Teaching Digital Composing." With Dr. Lindsay Sabatino, Director of UNCG Digital ACT Studio. For UNCG Public Health Education, March 2015.

"Teaching with Writing-Enhanced Digital Composing." With Dr. Lindsay Sabatino. For Writing Intensive Faculty across the Curriculum, UNCG FTLC, October 2014.

"PREPing for Portfolios: Portfolios as Pedagogical Practice." With Dr. Nancy Myers. For UNC PREP (Pilot Rollout of e-Portfolios) investigators, March 2014.

"Multigenre, Multimodal, and Multimedia Teaching Workshop." For UNCG English Department Lecturers and Graduate Teaching Assistants, November 2013.

ADMINISTRATIVE

- Assistant Director**, College Writing Program, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, 2015-2016.
Graduate Assistant Director, University Writing Center, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Fall 2014.
Assistant Director, Digital ACT Studio, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Spring 2013.

SERVICE

University

- Digital Intensive Committee, 2022-2025.
- Writing Intensive Committee, 2019-2022. Chair, 2020-22.
- Sponsor, UMW National Day on Writing, 2017-2021.
- Sponsor, UMW Banned Books Week, 2018-2021.
- Web Administrator, [UMW Department of English and Linguistics Website](#).

Professional

- Anonymous Peer Reviewer for Routledge book proposal, 2020-21.
- Anonymous Peer Reviewer for *Computers and Composition*, March 2021.
- Anonymous Peer Reviewer for *Linguistics and Education*, May 2021.
- Anonymous Peer Reviewer for Computers and Writing presentation proposals, 2018-19.
- Named Peer Reviewer. For "[Creating Mobile Augmented Reality Experiences in Unity](#);" Jacob W. Greene, *Programming Historian*, 10 Aug. 2018.
- Peer Reviewer; Graduate Reviewer, *The Peer Review*, 2015-2018.
- Associate Editor. *The 2015 Best of Independent Rhetoric and Composition Journals*. Anderson, SC: Parlor Press. 2016.
- Preliminary Judge, *storySouth* Million Writers Award, Greensboro, NC. Fall 2014, 2015, 2016.

INVITED TALKS

- "Digital Identity and Social Media" presentation and workshop. Virginia Farm Bureau's Growing Leaders Academy, Blacksburg VA, January 2020.
- Open Education Resources (OER) Faculty Forum. University Libraries, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, March 2016.
- "Multimodal Invention." *Duke Talent Identification Program (TIP)*, Wake Forest University, June 2013.
- Visiting Writer, Brewton-Parker College, Mt. Vernon, Georgia, April 2009.
- "So, You Want To Be a Technical Writer?" English Department, Virginia Tech, April 2000.

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Futurist, Freelance, 2016-Present.

Write narratives envisioning future technologies and scenarios per client requests.

Documentation Manager and Technical Writer, TEDS, Inc./TEDS – A Fidelity Investments Company, Atkins, VA, 1993-2010.

Business Analysis: Developed requirements and designs used to code software interfaces.

Technical Documentation: Wrote software installation, EDI (Electronic Data Interchange), data dictionary, APIs, and release notes for print and multiple electronic formats.

User Documentation: Wrote, coded, and compiled online help for Windows and web delivery.

Project Management: Conceptualized and wrote consulting project implementation documentation.

Marketing: Wrote Requests for Proposals (RFPs), press releases, and product specification sheets.

Training: Wrote and delivered training in-house, on-site, and at user conferences.