

David Ainsworth
Associate Professor and Assistant Chair
Department of English
University of Alabama

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of English, August 2005
Area of Concentration: Early Modern English Literature, Latin minor
- M.A. University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of English, December 1997
- B.A. University of Arizona, May 1996
Major: English; graduated magna cum laude
- B.S. University of Arizona, May 1996
Major: Mathematics; graduated magna cum laude

PUBLICATIONS: BOOK

Milton and the Spiritual Reader: Reading and Religion in Seventeenth-Century England.
New York: Routledge, hardback 2008, paperback and kindle formats 2009.

Reading through the Spirit: Milton, Music and Literary Interpretation. Manuscript completed December 2016; submitted to Routledge in 2018.

Co-editor (with Thomas Festa) of 2017 Conference on John Milton volume, title TBD.

PUBLICATIONS: ARTICLES & REVIEWS

“Digital Humanities and Undergraduate Research for Undergraduates.” Chapter in *Quick Hits: Teaching with the Digital Humanities*, Eds. Christopher Young and Emma A. Wilson. Indiana UP, forthcoming. 6 pages.

“Digital Milton and Student Research.” Chapter in *Digital Milton*, Eds. David Curell and Islam Issa. Palgrave MacMillan, forthcoming. 21 pages.

“Milton’s Holy Spirit in *De Doctrina Christiana*,” *Religion and Literature* 45:2 (Summer 2013): 1-25.

“Rapturous Milton and the Communal Harmony of Faith,” *Milton Quarterly* 47:3 (2013): 117-25.

“Getting Past the Ellipsis: The Spirit and Urania in *Paradise Lost*.” *Renaissance Papers* 2012. Eds. Andrew Shifflett and Edward Gieskes. Rochester, NY: Camden House, 2013: 117-25.

"Rise to life with These: Salvation and Herrick's Mocking Epigrams." *ANQ* 25. 3: 147-153. (Selected as part of a special issue on Herrick's poetry.)

"'Thou art sufficient to judge aright': Spiritual Reading in *Areopagitica*." in *Their Maker=s Image: New Essays on John Milton* Edited by Mary C. Fenton and Louis Schwartz. Selinsgrove: Susquehanna University Press, 2011, 147-60.

"Spiritual Reading in Milton's *Eikonoklastes*." *Studies in English Literature 1500-1900* 45. 1 (Winter 2005): 157-189.

Contributor to the *Year's Work in English Studies* writing the entry for Poetry 1603-1660: General. 2008-2010.

Review of Thomas Fulton, *Historical Milton: Manuscript, Print and Political Culture in Revolutionary England*. University of Massachusetts Press, 2010. *Milton Quarterly* Volume 46.3 (Oct 2012): 188-92.

Review of John T. Shawcross, *The Development of Milton's Thought: Law, Government, and Religion*. Duquesne University Press, 2008, and Gordon Campbell and Thomas N. Corns, *John Milton: Life, Work, and Thought*. Oxford University Press, 2008. In *Religion and Literature*, Volume 41.1 (Spring 2009): 175-80.

Review of Ken Simpson, *Spiritual Architecture and Paradise Regained: Milton's Literary Ecclesiology*. Pittsburgh: Duquesne University Press, 2007. In *Christianity and Literature*, Volume 59.4 (Summer 2010): 717-20.

Review of *Milton and the Climates of Reading: Essays by Balachandra Rajan*. Edited by Elizabeth Sauer. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2006. *Modern Philology* Volume 108.1 (August 2010): E35-38.

Review of Scott Black, *Of Essays and Reading in Early Modern England*. Palgrave Studies in the Enlightenment, Romanticism and Cultures of Print. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006, published in *Journal of British Studies*, incorporating *Albion* 47: 1 (January 2008): 177-178.

PUBLICATIONS: WEB PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER ONLINE CONTENT

@MiltonSociety livetweeting for the Milton Society of America at multiple conferences, 2015-16. (International Milton Symposium, 2015 Conference on John Milton, MLA 2016)

The Edifice Project: online site for undergraduate research emerging from my Milton class.

<http://edificeproject.ua.edu/>

Reading of *Areopagitica* as first part of the Milton Podcasting project. Available through UA=s iTunes page.

<http://deimos3.apple.com/WebObjects/Core.woa/Browse/bama.ua.edu.2427612186.02427612191.2427750349?i=1403523058>

Reading of *Of Education* as second part of the Milton Podcasting project. Recording complete; awaiting upload to iTunes.

PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES

Chair and co-organizer, The Conference on John Milton, Birmingham AL, October 2019. (International)

“Heavenly Music and Milton’s Antitrinitarian Trio,” The Conference on John Milton, Birmingham AL, October 2017. (International)

Chair and co-organizer, The Conference on John Milton, Birmingham AL, October 12-14, 2017. (International)

Organizer/Chair/Presenter, Roundtable: Milton and the Digital Humanities. Renaissance Society of America, March 2017. (International)

Organized SE Milton Seminar with invited speaker Laura Knoppers (U of Notre Dame), November 2016.

“Heavenly Harmony and the Holy Spirit”, invited presentation at the Canada Milton Seminar. Toronto, ON. May 2016.

Organized SE Milton Seminar with invited speaker David Loewenstein (Penn State U), February 2016.

“Samson and the Spirit: A Breath of Fresh Air.” The 2015 Conference on John Milton. Murfreesboro, TN. October 2015. (International)

“Satan the Anti-Spirit: Finding the Holy Spirit in *Paradise Regained*.” 11th International Milton Symposium, July 2015. (International)

“Inspiration and the War in Heaven,” invited presentation at the Symposium on Medieval And Renaissance Studies, St. Louis University, June 2015. (International)

Organized SE Milton Seminar with invited speaker Paul Stevens (U of Toronto), November 2014.

Organized presentations for 2013-14 include talks by Ryan Netzley (Southern Illinois-Carbondale), Michael Schoenfeldt (U of Michigan).

“Teaching Milton with the Edifice Project: Undergraduate Research aimed at Undergraduates.” The 2013 Conference on John Milton. Murfreesboro, Tennessee. October 2013. (International)

“Creating an Undergraduate Research Community: The Edifice Project.” Paper accepted for Incorporating Undergraduate Research in English Studies Special Session at MLA 2014. (MLA turned down the panel.)

Proposed session and led discussion on Metadata and Search at THATCamp Alabama, August 2013. (Regional)

Organized and ran Southeast Milton seminar at UA funded by the Hudson Strode Program in Renaissance Studies with speaker William Shullenberger (Sarah Lawrence). March 2013.

“Getting Past the Ellipsis: The Spirit and Urania in *Paradise Lost*.” Southeastern Renaissance Conference. October 2012. (Regional)

Organized and ran the Strode Seminar on John Milton, bringing six renowned Milton scholars to campus to teach and lecture. Speakers were: Heather Dubrow (Fordham), Steven Fallon (Notre Dame), Ken Hiltner (UCSB), Maggie Kilgour (McGill), Elizabeth Sauer (Brock), Nigel Smith (Princeton). Spring 2012.

“Getting Past the Ellipsis: The Spirit and Urania in *Paradise Lost*.” The 2011 Conference on John Milton. Murfreesboro, Tennessee. October 2011. (International)

“Building a Community of Scholars through the Edifice Project.” Invited paper at the University of Alabama System Scholars Institute. Tuscaloosa, Alabama. May 2011. (Regional)

Organized and ran South East Milton seminar at UA funded by the Hudson Strode Program in Renaissance Studies with speaker Joseph Wittreich (CUNY). October 2010.

“‘To something extraordinary my thoughts:’ Samson as Spiritual Reader.” Invited paper for panel on John Milton at South Central MLA meeting. Baton Rouge, Louisiana. October 2009. (Regional)

“Christian Liberty and the Holy Spirit in *De Doctrina Christiana*.” The 2009 Conference on John Milton. Murfreesboro, Tennessee. October 2009. (International)

Organized and ran South East Milton seminar at UA funded by the Hudson Strode Program in Renaissance Studies with speaker Stella Revard (SIU Emerita). October 2009.

“Reading *De Doctrina Christiana*: A Model.” 9th International Milton Symposium. London, England. July 2008. (International)

“‘Thou art sufficient to judge aright:’ Spiritual Reading in *Areopagitica*.” The 2007 Conference on John Milton. Murfreesboro, Tennessee. October 2007. (International)

“Hope through Struggle: Spiritual Reading in Book XII of *Paradise Lost*.” Milton’s Readers panel at the MLA Convention. Philadelphia. December 2006. (International)

“Tragic History and Faithful Reading: Reading by the Spirit in Book XI of *Paradise Lost*,” The 2005 Conference on John Milton. Murfreesboro, Tennessee. October 2005. (International).

“*De Doctrina Christiana*: the Reader as Believer,” International Milton Congress. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. March 2004. (International)

“The Trouble with *De Doctrina Christiana*,” The 2003 Conference on John Milton. Murfreesboro, Tennessee. October 2003. (International)

“Godly Reading in Milton’s *De Doctrina Christiana*,” Renaissance Colloquium Series. Madison, Wisconsin. January 2002. (Regional)

“In His Own Text Revealed: Reading Charles in *Eikonoklastes*,” The 2001 Conference on John Milton. Murfreesboro, Tennessee. October 2001. (International)

“‘[H]is Art in Youth and Youth in Art:’ A Lover’s Complaint and Shakespeare’s Sonnets,” Department of English Graduate Student Symposium. Madison, Wisconsin. March 1999. (Regional)

“‘[O]ne mutual happiness:’ Gender and Exchange in *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*,” Shakespeare Association of America, Domesticity and Difference Seminar. San Francisco, California. April 1999. (International)

RESEARCH AND TEACHING GRANTS

Folger Shakespeare Library Summer Institute for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities: "Early Modern Digital Agendas" (July 8-26, 2013)

Participation funded by the Folger Library through an NEH grant, supplemented by the Strode Program.

Bauer Grantwriting Workshop (Internal to University of Alabama)

Participation funded by A&S to develop a grant for a digital humanities project.

CAISS Grant (Internal to University of Alabama)

Grant awarded for the Edifice Program, intended to improve Six-Year graduation rates.

RGC Grant (Internal to University of Alabama)

Grant awarded for summer research project, AReading *De Doctrina Christiana*.@

DISSERTATION

Milton and the Spiritual Reader: Reading and Religion in Seventeenth-Century England

Director: Professor David Loewenstein

Committee: Professors Alger N. Doane, Heather Dubrow, Susanne Wofford, Steven Nadler
(Outside reader)

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Seventeenth-century literature, especially Milton; Early Modern literature, with a particular focus on Shakespeare; Medieval literature; politics and literature; American Civil War era literature; composition and pedagogy; intersections between science and literature; myth; science fiction, fantasy and detective fiction.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor, University of Alabama, Spring 2014-present

Assistant Professor, University of Alabama, Fall 2008-Spring 2014

University of Alabama Department of English, ongoing

Currently teaching a graduate-level digital humanities seminar. Developed and taught graduate seminars on John Milton's work and on seventeenth-century poetry and prose. Taught the Strode Seminar on *Paradise Lost*, which brought six top scholars to the University of Alabama to present and discuss their work. Taught an honors survey course on British literature from *Beowulf* to Alexander Pope. Developed and taught an introduction to literary theory course. Developed and taught an undergraduate Milton course, the pilot for the Edifice Project. Taught a course on Chaucer. Developed and taught an undergraduate seminar on prophetic literature. Developed and taught a large lecture survey course on early British literature.

Visiting Assistant Professor, Grinnell College, Fall 2007-Spring 2008

Grinnell College Department of English, 2 semesters

Developed and taught a seminar on fools and trickster-figures in Early Modern English literature, with readings including *Praise of Folly*, *Utopia*, *Twelfth Night*, *Volpone*, and *Paradise Regained*. Taught an introduction to analysis course: "Motive and Detection," an introductory literature course built around a comparison of the process of literary interpretation and crime detection (texts include works by Conan Doyle, Blake, Rex Stout, *Othello*, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*). Taught a survey course on British literature from *Beowulf* to Milton. Taught an introductory Shakespeare course on fools and madmen.

Visiting Assistant Professor, College of the Holy Cross, Fall 2006-Spring 2007

College of the Holy Cross Department of English, 2 semesters

Taught a Critical Reading and Writing course on poetry, teaching first-year students poetic analysis and close reading; developed and taught a Readings in Renaissance Literature course examining truth and hypocrisy in works from Wyatt's poetry to Milton's prose, involving students in writing about both primary and secondary literature; taught a Shakespeare course on power and performance in Shakespeare's plays (including *Hamlet*, *Richard III*, *King Lear*, *The Winter's Tale*, and *The Tempest*); developed and taught a course on Seventeenth-Century poetry and prose.

Associate Lecturer, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Spring 2006

University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of English, 1 semester

Developed and taught English 226, an introductory Shakespeare course focused on the

performative aspects of Shakespeare. The course topic, "Fools and Madmen," was explored in *Richard II*, *Hamlet*, *Twelfth Night*, *Macbeth*, *King Lear*, and *The Winter's Tale*. The 35-student class participated in discussion and small groups perform short scenes from the plays.

Visiting Instructor, Beloit College, Fall 2004-Spring 2005

Visiting Assistant Professor, Beloit College, Fall 2005

Beloit College Department of English, 3 semesters

Developed and taught five courses: two basic composition courses, one designed around a study of free speech and censorship and the other around complicity and responsibility; *Motive and Detection*, an introductory literature course built around a comparison of the process of literary interpretation and crime detection (texts include works by Conan Doyle, Blake, *Othello*, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*); "Milton and Zeal," an upper division seminar focusing on the work of John Milton; and "The Question of Satire," an advanced literature course which considers the development of British satire from Chaucer to modern British television.

Instructor, Introductory Composition, 1998-2000, 2002-2003

University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of English, 6 semesters

Developed two syllabi (one on education, one on monstrosity), designed assignments, independently instructed, held individual conferences and completed grading for classes of 19 students in analytical writing.

Teaching Assistant, English Literature Before 1800, 2001-2002

University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of English, 2 semesters

Led discussion sections, designed assignments, provided writing instruction, coordinated online discussion groups using Web Course Tools, graded 60 English majors in survey of English literature from *Beowulf* to Pope. Lectured on *Paradise Lost*.

Teaching Assistant, Epic, Empire and Myth, 2001

University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of English, 1 semester

Led discussion sections, designed writing assignments, coordinated online discussion groups using Web Course Tools, graded 70 students in course covering the entirety of *The Iliad*, *The Aeneid*, Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra*, and *Paradise Lost*. Lectured on *Paradise Lost*.

Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Nineteenth-Century Literature, 1997-1998, 2000

University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of English, 3 semesters

Led discussion sections, designed assignments, graded 70 students in three introductory literature courses with different syllabi (Literature of the City; The Uses of Disguise in Literature; Literary, Individual, and Communal Identities). Subject matter ranged from *Beowulf* and Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to Cooper, Emerson, Hughes, and Cather, and included both English and American literature. Performed guest lecture in 1998 on *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, and guest lecture in 2000 on Emerson.

Honors Preceptorship, 1994-1995

University of Arizona, 2 semesters

Undergraduate honors program offering the opportunity to assist in teaching a course. Helped design syllabi and assignments, graded quizzes, and helped teach in two humanities courses, one focusing on art, architecture, and philosophy in the Early Modern period, and one focusing on science and the humanities.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Sigma Tau Delta, 2009

English honorary society.

Phi Beta Kappa, 1996

Certificate of Commendation Award in English, University of Arizona, 1996

Given in recognition of scholarly achievement in English.

Pi Mu Epsilon, 1995

Mathematics honorary society.

College of Science Academic Distinction Award, University of Arizona, October 1995

Given in recognition of scholarly achievement in mathematics.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

University of Alabama

Chair, Organizing Committee for the 2017 Conference on John Milton, ongoing

Continuation of one of the two major international conferences on John Milton following the decision of the original organizers to step down after the 2015 conference. 2017 and 2019 conferences will be held in Birmingham, AL.

Assistant Chair, Department of English, ongoing

In charge of course scheduling, assessment, hiring of part-time instructors and grade appeals.

Alabama Digital Humanities Center, ongoing

Participant and faculty consultant and presenter. In Spring 2012, taught the Digital Humanities Seminar.

Departmental Assessment Committee, ongoing

Service on committee to assess and document the work of the English department. Attended Active and Collaborative Learning Conference in 2009, 2010.

Departmental IT Committee Chair, ongoing

Service on departmental IT committee, concentrating on the website redesign and on digital humanities initiatives.

Communications Officer, Milton Society of America, 2011-2017

In charge of maintaining the Society website and expanding its digital footprint in other ways, including Twitter.

Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Departmental Vision, 2014-2015

In charge of developing departmental vision, including plans for research foci, hiring priorities and changes to the curriculum.

Member, Strode Search Committee, 2014-15

Member of the search committee to find a new Strode Chair.

College Technology Committee, 2013-2014

Service on College of Arts & Sciences committee.

Technology and Learning Committee, 2013-2014

A&S representative for IT/FRC committee.

Department Assessment Coordinator, 2010-2012

In coordination with departmental administrators, developed assessment plans and reported on results. Organized departmental conversation about assessment. Initiated comprehensive review of peer institution introductory literature programs as first step towards reorganization of our own.

Pedagogical Discussion Group, founder and coordinator, 2010-11.

Organized and coordinated an interdepartmental pedagogical discussion group with members from multiple UA colleges.

Executive Committee, Milton Society of America, 2009-2012

Elected position. Committee votes to decide on the Milton Society's Honored Scholar and makes other decisions relating to the annual meetings at MLA.

Chair, Literature Steering Committee, Fall 2010- Spring 2011

Service on departmental committee for English department literature faculty, reviewing curriculum and coordinating with department administrators.

Sigma Tau Delta, Fall 2010-Spring 2011.

English honor society. Co-director with Deborah Weiss. Organized travel to annual conference for 17 students; attended conference.

Early Modern Job Search, Fall 2008-Spring 2009

Service on search committee for a new hire in the Early Modern period.

Large Lecture Committee, Fall 2008-Spring 2010

Service on committee to research and implement English course in a large lecture format.

Grinnell College

Early Career Faculty Group, Fall 2007-Spring 2008

Co-director for the year of an established on-campus support group for early career faculty. Organized activities range from lunches and social events to organizing talks on balancing research and teaching, applying for grants, navigating the job market and preparing for tenure review.

Reaccreditation Self-Study Review, Fall 2007-Spring 2008

Contributed to Grinnell College's self-study review focus, on finding ways to encourage students to become leaders by defining leadership in ways not associated with top-down management or imposition, by relating leadership issues to Milton's work on inspiring readers to develop their own readership skills without dictating to them.

College of the Holy Cross

Undergraduate Shakespeare Conference, Spring 2007

Colleges of Worcester Consortium

Organized and ran undergraduate conference on Shakespeare, with topic "Sexy Shakespeare" focused on issues of gender in his works.

Graduate School Advisory Committee, Fall 2006-Spring 2007

College of the Holy Cross, 2 semesters

Discussed graduate schools, graduate school applications, and careers with interested English majors.

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Renaissance Colloquium Committee, 2002-Spring 2004

University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of English, 4 semesters

Scheduled, coordinated, and advertised the English Department's Renaissance Colloquium series, with speakers from both inside and outside our department. With new Early Modern Masters students, proposed, organized, and convened a two day conference entitled "Alternative Economies in the Early Modern Period: Local, National, Global," featuring Mark Netzloff, Natasha Korda, and Dan Vitkus.

Teaching Mentor/Trainer for Introductory Composition Courses, 1999-2000, 2002-3

University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of English, 4 semesters

Trained new and returning teaching assistants on facilitating discussion and procedures for grading papers in composition courses, helped coordinate peer-led discussions, demonstrated paper workshop practices. Developed sample syllabus with analysis of syllabus design and implementation.

Graduate Student Mentor, 1997-2000, 2003

University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of English, 6 semesters

Acted as mentor for new graduate students in English literature.

Graduate Student-Faculty Committee, 1997-2000

University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of English, 6 semesters

Organized welcome meeting and picnic for new graduate students in English, provided information for prospective students, organized and ran mentoring program for new graduate students. Administered yearly graduate student departmental elections, ran yearly departmental book sale and administered funds for picnics.

Attended all departmental committee meetings, initiated and maintained regular e-mail reports to graduate students on departmental committee deliberations and decisions. During the English department's ten-year reassessment, surveyed graduate students, developed specific proposals for modifications to departmental policies, and presented them to the graduate committee, which discussed and implemented our recommendations.

Graduate Student Association, 1998-1999

University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of English, 2 semesters

Planned, developed, and organized annual Graduate Student Association conference, awarded annual Faculty Graduate Teaching Award. Organized and ran weekly departmental social event (Bagel hour), wrote weekly poetic advertisements (take-offs on classic poetry), organized, scripted, and performed in departmental talent show skits.

Teacher Training for Introductory Literature Courses, 1998

University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of English, 1 semester

Trained new teaching assistants on facilitating discussion and student-led discussion formats.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

University of Alabama

Improbable Fictions Staged Readings, ongoing

Actor in student-organized public readings of: *King Lear*, *Comedy of Errors*, *Hamlet* and *As You Like It* on the U of A campus; *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Hecuba*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Timon of Athens* at the Bama theater; *The Tragedy of Tragedies* and *Coriolanus* at Kentucky; *King John* and *Richard III* at the Dinah Washington Center. Directed *Julius Caesar* for performance on U of A campus.

Rude Mechanicals, ongoing

Actor in summer performance of Shakespeare's *All's Well that Ends Well*, *Julius Caesar*, *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Twelfth Night*.

Prentice Concert Chorale, Fall 2008-Spring 2010

Singer as part of a by-audition community choir.

Grinnell College

Grinnell College Community Chorus, Fall 2007-Spring 2008

Faculty singer.

College of the Holy Cross

Holy Cross College Choir, Fall 2006-Spring 2007

Faculty singer as part of a by-audition choir (singing bass).

Out Loud Program, Fall 2006-Spring 2007

Involved in a student-run program to read works of literature aloud during the school year, both as a reader and as a supervisor for other readers.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Modern Language Association
Milton Society of America
Renaissance Society of America

LANGUAGES

Latin: Advanced reading knowledge
Spanish: Advanced reading, writing and speaking knowledge