

NICOLE A. SPIGNER

Woodrow Wilson Fellow, Assistant Professor of African American Literature and Culture
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EDUCATION

- | | |
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| Ph.D. | Vanderbilt University, December 2014, English Literature <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Graduate Certificate in Gender Studies, Vanderbilt Women's and Gender Studies Program (completed Spring 2013) |
| M.A. | Vanderbilt University, August 2010, English Literature |
| M.A. | University of Pennsylvania, May 2009, English Literature |
| B.A. | University of Pennsylvania, August 2007, English Major |

PUBLICATIONS & WRITING

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Academic Works in Progress | <i>Niobe Repeating: Black New Women's Literature and Ovidian Transformation</i> (book project)
"Phyllis Wheatley's Niobian Poetics," <i>Brill's Companion to Classical Reception in the Early Americas</i> (collection article/chapter, forthcoming, 2019)
<i>Oxford Bibliographies</i> entries for: 1) Frances E. W. Harper (Fall 2018), and 2) Harriet Jacobs (Spring 2019)
"I don't talk of mine": Black Women's Strategic Privacy in Alice Dunbar-Nelson's <i>A Modern Undine</i> (journal article, submitted for review) |
| Non-Peer Reviewed Online Articles | "We See You, Race Women" <i>Public Books</i> , June 5, 2018.
"In the Crawspace: Hill, Franken, and #MeToo Pain." <i>The A-Line Journal</i> , February 6, 2018.
"Slutwalk From the Margins," (Collaboration) <i>The Feminist Wire</i> (October 31, 2011)
"Fitting in, In Beijing." <i>The Feminist Wire</i> (September 02, 2011)
"On Her Birthday: Octavia Butler, The Mountain Climber," <i>The Feminist Wire</i> (June 22, 2011)
"Compassionate Feminism," <i>The Feminist Wire</i> (June 1, 2011)
"The Wrong One Let In," <i>The Feminist Wire</i> (March 11, 2011)
"An Open Letter to Judge Cosgrove," <i>The Feminist Wire</i> (January 31, 2011)
"There is Nothing Funny About Rape, But..." <i>The Feminist Wire</i> (January 21, 2011) |

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Woodrow Wilson National Foundation 2018 Career Enhancement Fellow (June 2018-June 2019)

Faculty Development Grant, Columbia College Chicago (December 2016)
 Mellon-Keiter Postdoctoral Fellowship in English, Amherst College (2015, declined)
 Africana Research Center Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Penn State University (2015, declined)
 Dissertation Year Fellowship, Vanderbilt English Department (2013-2014)
 International Travel Grant, Vanderbilt Graduate School (Fall 2014)
 Provost's Graduate Fellowship, Vanderbilt University (2009-2014)
 Dissertation Enhancement Grant, Vanderbilt Graduate School (2013)
 Summer Research Award, Vanderbilt College of Arts and Science (2013)
 International Travel Grant, Vanderbilt Graduate School (Summer 2011)
 Travel Grant, Vanderbilt Graduate School (Spring 2010)

**INSTITUTES &
 SEMINARS
 (PROFESSIONAL
 DEVELOPMENT)**

Inkwell Writing Retreat, Eloee, GA. (May 2017)
 #SayHerName Seminar, C19 Conference, State College, PA. (March 2016)
 Intensive Program of the Graduate Certificate in Advanced Learning and Leadership (GCALL), The University of Melbourne, sponsorship by Vanderbilt Dean's Office, College of Arts & Science (September 2012)
 Institute for World Literature, Peking University, Beijing, China, partial sponsorship by Vanderbilt English Department (Summer 2011)
 Futures of American Studies Institute at Dartmouth, sponsorship by Vanderbilt American Studies Department (Summer 2010)

**TEACHING &
 ACADEMIC
 EMPLOYMENT**

Assistant Professor of African American Literature and Culture, Columbia College Chicago (2015-present)
 Writing Consultant, Vanderbilt Writing Studio (Fall 2014)
 Graduate Instructor, Vanderbilt English Department (2010-2013)
 Graduate Research Assistant to Dr. Hortense Spillers, Vanderbilt English Department (2010-present)
 Graduate Assistant to the Speakers' Committee, Vanderbilt English Department (2010-2011)
 Graduate Research Assistant to Dr. Herman Beavers, University of Pennsylvania English Department (September 2007-May 2008)
 Research Assistant to Dr. Marsha Fausti, University of Pennsylvania English Department (September 2001-May 2002)

Courses Taught

English 6690/3642 "Black Classicism." Texts include: *Of One Blood*, Pauline E. Hopkins; *Medea*, Euripides; *Beloved*, Toni Morrison; *Beastuary*, Donika Kelly; *Bearden's Odyssey: Poets Respond to the Art of Romare Bearden*, Kwame Dawes & Matthew Shenoda (Eds.); *The Marrow of Tradition*, Charles

- Chesnutt; *Oreo*, Fran Ross; Selections from Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and Homer's *Odyssey*. (Grad Seminar, Spring 2018; Undergrad, Fall 2017)
- English 3642 "Black Women Writers." Texts include: *Bestiary*, Donika Kelly; *Passing*, Nella Larsen; *Beloved*, Toni Morrison; *Wild Seed*, Octavia E. Butler; *The Black Woman: An Anthology*; Toni Cade Bambara (ed). (Spring 2018)
- English 3642 "Black Feminism." Texts include: *Venus*, Suzan-Lori Parks; *Zami*, Audre Lorde; *Sula*, Toni Morrison; *Women, Race, & Class*, Angela Y. Davis; *When and Where I Enter: The Impact of Black Women on Race and Sex in America*, Paula Giddings; *Bad Feminist*, Roxanne Gay; *Words of Fire: An Anthology of African-American Feminist Thought*, Beverly Guy-Sheftall. (Spring 2018, Fall 2016)
- English 2697 "American Gothic Literature." Texts include: short stories by Nathaniel Hawthorne, Edgar Allan Poe, Charlotte Perkins Gillman, Kate Chopin, William Faulkner; *Voodoo Dreams: A Novel of Marie Laveau*, Jewell Parker Rhodes; "The VVitch," Robert Eggers. (Fall 2017)
- Cultural Studies 2100 "Critical Issues in Cultural Studies: African American Anti-Racism- Words & Actions." Texts include: *From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation*, Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor; *Appropriating Blackness: Performance and the Politics of Authenticity*, E. Patrick Johnson; *Fences*, August Wilson; *The Vital System*, CM Burroughs; *The Black Maria*, Aracelis Girmay; *Seasons of Lotus*, *Seasons of Bone*, Matthew Shenoda. Course paired with a speakers series designed expressly for the course. (Spring 2017)
- English 3642 "19C Black New World Literature." Texts include: *The Bondwoman's Narrative*, Hannah Crafts; *Imperium In Imperio*, Sutton E. Griggs; *Of One Blood*, Pauline E. Hopkins; *Clotel: or, The President's Daughter*, William Wells Brown; *Our Nig*, Harriet E. Wilson; Selections from poetry and short stories of: Charles Chesnutt, Alice Dunbar-Nelson, Phillis Wheatley. (Spring 2017)
- English 3642 "Harlem Renaissance Literature." Texts include: *Invisible Man*, Ralph Ellison; *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Zora Neale Hurston; *Passing*, Nella Larsen; *Black No More*, George Schuyler; *Cane*, Jean Toomer. (Spring 2017)
- English 3642 "Slave and Neo-Slave Narrative." Texts include: select WPA Oral Interviews; Frederick Douglass; *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, Harriet Jacobs; *Kindred*, Octavia Butler; *Corregidora*, Gayl Jones; *The Underground Railroad*, Colson Whitehead. (Fall 2016)
- English 3690 "American Protest Literature." Texts include: "An Indian's Looking-Glass for the White Man," William Apess; Prison Letters, John Brown] "Everybody's Protest Novel" (Selection), James Baldwin; *Southern Horrors* (selection), Ida B. Wells; "Letter from Birmingham Jail," Martin Luther King, Jr.; "Poetry Is Not a Luxury," Audre Lorde; "Formation," "Lemonade," Beyoncé. (Spring 2016)
- English 3642 "Feminist Afrofuturisms." Texts include: *Of One Blood*, Pauline

	Hopkins; <i>Dawn</i> , Octavia E. Butler; <i>The Salt Roads</i> , Nalo Hopkinson; selections from <i>Dark Matter</i> , Sheree R. Thomas (ed.), <i>Afro-future Females</i> , Marleen S. Barr (ed.), and <i>Afrofuturism</i> , Ytasha Womack. (Fall 2015)
English 1600	“Introduction to Literature.” Primary text: <i>The Norton Introduction to Literature</i> (Shorter Edition); Additional fiction, poetry, and drama selections across genres and time periods. (Fall 2017, Spring 2016, Fall 2015)
English 104W	“Mythmaking and the American Imagination,” Prose Fiction: Forms and Techniques. Texts included: <i>The Red Badge of Courage</i> , Stephen Crane; <i>Of One Blood</i> , Pauline Hopkins; <i>Frankenstein</i> , Mary Shelley; “The Dumb Witness,” Charles W. Chesnutt; “Janus,” Ann Beatie; “The Swimmer,” John Cheever; “The Eye of the Sibyl,” Phillip K. Dick; <i>The Adventures of Wonder Woman</i> . (Spring 2013)
English 100	“Election Year,” Composition. Texts Included: <i>The Bedford Handbook</i> , Eighth Edition, Diana Hacker and Nancy Sommers; <i>They Say, I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing</i> , Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein; <i>The Constitution of the United States of America</i> ; “First Inaugural Speech,” George Washington; “The Election for Beadle,” Charles Dickens; “Lynch Law in America,” Ida B. Wells-Barnett; “Hills Like White Elephants,” Earnest Hemmingway; “Barn Burning,” William Faulkner. (Fall 2012)
English 102W	“Bad Girls, Handmaids, & Martyrs: Feminist Literature and Theory Since the 1400s,” Literature/Analytical Thinking, applicable also for credit towards Women & Gender Studies major and minor. Texts included: “Hymn to Joan of Arc,” Christine de Pizan; <i>Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl</i> , Harriet Jacobs; Sojourner Truth, Two Speeches; Elizabeth Cady Stanton, “The Solitude of Self”; Helene Cixous, “The Laugh of the Medusa”; <i>The Handmaid’s Tale</i> , Margaret Atwood; <i>Guerrilla Girls</i> , “When Sexism and Racism Are No Longer Fashionable.” (Fall 2011, Spring 2012)
English 102W	“Speculative Fictions: Narratives of Nation, Utopias, and Dystopias,” “Speculative Narratives of the Other” and Literature/Analytical Thinking. Texts included: <i>Utopia</i> , Sir Thomas More; <i>Wild Seed</i> , Octavia Butler; “Sur,” Ursula K. Le Guin; “In the Penal Colony,” Franz Kafka; “The Return: A Fantasy,” Gayl Jones; “Children of Men” (film); “The Book of Eli” (film). (Fall 2010, Spring 2011)
Guest Lectures	<p>“Race, Gender, and Narrative Form in Charles Chesnutt and Alice Dunbar-Nelson.” Humanities, History, and Social Science 2105, Introduction to Black World Studies, Columbia College Chicago. (October 2015)</p> <p>“Real and Imagined Slavery in Samuel Delaney’s ‘The Tale of Small Sarg.’” Philosophy 235: Gender and Sexuality, Vanderbilt University. (November 2011)</p> <p>“Cesaria Evora, Blues Woman.” English 263: Transatlantic Traffic: Women Singers & the Rise of Popular Culture, Vanderbilt University. (March 2012)</p>

**PROFESSIONAL
PRESENTATIONS**

- Invited Talks “Reapplying Words” Salon Program, Guild Literary Complex, Chicago, IL. (March 2017)
- “The past to explore, the future to reveal: Toward a Black Feminist Reading of Phillis Wheatley's “Niobe in Distress.” University of Colorado-Denver. (September 2013)
- Conference Presentations “Niobe Repeating: Black New Women and Ovidian Transformation.” Woodrow Wilson Fellows Conference, Tampa, FL. (August 2018)
- “Echoes of Niobe: Ray and Wheatley Rewrite Ovid,” The African American Intellectual History Society (AAIHS) 2017 Conference, Nashville, TN. (March 2017)
- “Phillis Wheatley's Niobian Poetics.” “Classical Encounters in Early America” paper panel, Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association (PAMLA) Conference, Pasadena, CA. (November 2016)
- “By Jovel’: Ovidian Desire and Deanimation in Pauline Hopkins's *Of One Blood*.” Pauline E. Hopkins Society Panel, American Literature Association, San Francisco, CA. (May 2016)
- “The Monstrous Mother Creative Principal in Alice Dunbar-Nelson’s *A Modern Undine*” Issues in Critical Investigation Biennial Symposium, Nashville, TN. (September 2015)
- “Behold, I am become a word painter’: Criticizing New Womanhood in Alice Dunbar-Nelson’s *Confessions of a Lazy Woman*.” MLA 2015 Convention, Vancouver, BC, Canada. (January 2015)
- Seminar Co-Chair. “She that out of Lethe scales’: Fine de Siècle Black American Classicist Women Rewriting National Narratives.” American Comparative Literature Association 2014 during the “Cultural Capital in the Multilingual Black Atlantic” seminar, New York, NY. (March 2014)
- “Furious Motherhood: Classicism, Fairy Tale, and the Birth of Realism in Alice Dunbar-Nelson’s *A Modern Undine*.” C19 Conference, “American Literature: New Narratives, New Paradigms” seminar, Chapel Hill, NC. (March 2014)
- “Ovidian Reanimation and Racial Re-identification in Pauline Hopkins’s *Of One Blood*,” *Callaloo* Postgraduate/Early Career Workshop, *Callaloo* Conference, Oxford, England. (November 2013)
- “The Sex, Slavery, and Salvation: Women Healers in Nalo Hopkinson’s *The Salt Roads* and *Wild Seed* by Octavia Butler.” Sixth International Conference of Caribbean Women's Writing, Comparative Critical Conversations, London, England. (July 2011)
- “Chain of Fools’: Poe's Trickster Tale.” American Comparative Literature Association 2010: “Creoles, Diasporas, Cosmopolitanisms,” “Cosmopolitan Poe” seminar, New Orleans, LA. (April 2010)
- “The Fantastic Feminine: Blackness, Desire and the Witch in the Works of Maryse Condé and Kara Walker.” 2009 SAMLA, “African American Women and Spirit Work” paper panel, Atlanta, GA. (November 7, 2009)

Discussion Panels
/ Roundtables

Conference participant, Vanderbilt English Department First Year Conference, co-sponsored by Vanderbilt Graduate Student Council. (April 2010)

College Assembly, “Post-Election Special Assembly,” Columbia College Chicago (November 2016)

“The University in the Era of Trump” panel, Cultural Studies and Humanities, History, and Social Science Departments, Columbia College Chicago (November 2016)

“The Scandalous Empire: Perpetuating Sexual Stereotypes and Myths of Black Sexuality” panel, The Association of Black Sexologists and Clinicians Conference, Philadelphia, PA. (October 2015)

**UNIVERSITY &
PROFESSIONAL
ACTIVITIES &
SERVICE**

Academic Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Cluster Hiring Committee (Fall 2017-Spring 2018)

Advisory Committee, English Department, Columbia College Chicago (Fall 2016-Spring 2018)

Review Committee Member: Award for Outstanding Achievement in Cultural Studies, Columbia College Chicago (Spring 2018, Spring 2017, Spring 2016)

Literature Essay Award Review Committee, English & Creative Writing Department, Columbia College Chicago (Spring 2017, Spring 2016)

Program Assessment Committee, Cultural Studies, English and Humanities, History, and Social Science Departments, Columbia College Chicago (Fall 2016-present)

truth talk, Campus-Wide Political Action Forum, creator and administrator, Columbia College Chicago (Fall 2016-Fall 2017)

Series Chair, “Critical Issues in Cultural Studies” Speakers Series, Columbia College Chicago (Spring 2017)

Diversity Scholarship Committee, Columbia College Chicago (Spring 2017)

Feminist Film Festival Screening Committee, Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, IL (Spring 2017, Spring 2016).

Cultural Studies Committee, English and Humanities, History, and Social Science Departments, Columbia College Chicago (Fall 2015-present)

Literature Studies Committee, English Department, Columbia College Chicago (Fall 2015-present)

Executive-Advisory Board Member, Issues in Critical Investigation (2011-present)

Vanderbilt Graduate Leadership Academy (2013-2014)

Rhoney Speaker Committee Chair, English Graduate Student Association, Vanderbilt University (2013-2014)

Henrietta Morgan Memorial Award Committee, Vanderbilt Undergraduate Writing Program (April 2013)

Editorial Collective Member, *The A-Line Journal*, (2011-present)

Teaching & Professionalization Liaison, English Graduate Student Association, Vanderbilt University (2011-2012 school year)

Editorial Board, *Arkansas Literary Review*, University of Arkansas (2009-2011)

Conference Organizer, Issues in Critical Investigation Fall Symposium, sponsored by Hortense Spillers, Vanderbilt English Department, and various departments across the Vanderbilt community (October 2011)

Conference Organizer, “Slavery, Political Culture, and the Archive,” an interdisciplinary symposium sponsored by Colin Dayan, Vanderbilt English Department, and various departments across the Vanderbilt community (March 2011)

Editorial Collective Member, Culture Feature Editor, Copy Editor, and Contributor, *The Feminist Wire*, thefeministwire.com (2011)

Conference Organizer, Vanderbilt English Department First Year Conference, co-sponsored by Vanderbilt Graduate Student Council (April 2010)

**ORGANIZATIONAL
AFFILIATIONS**

MLA, Member	ACLA, Member
ASA, Member	C19, Member
Pauline Hopkins Society, “Publications Committee”	African American Intellectual History Society, Member

**FOREIGN
LANGUAGES**

Reading knowledge of Spanish.
Elementary proficiency of Latin.

**ADDITIONAL
WORK
EXPERIENCE**

Assistant to National Director of Business Development and Marketing, KlingStubbins, Philadelphia, PA (2006-2007)

Compliance Specialist, ACE USA, Accident and Health Compliance Department, Philadelphia, PA (2001-2006)

Administrative Assistant, CIGNA Group Insurance, Philadelphia, PA, (2000-2001)

Regional Manager, Color, Inc., Philadelphia, PA (1999-2001)

**MISCELLANEOUS
ACTIVITIES &
MEMBERSHIPS**

Assistant Editor, Yoga Page, AllThingsHealing.com (2010-2012)

Graduate Associate, Harnwell House, University of Pennsylvania (2007-2008)

Yoga Research Society, Conference and Program Coordinator. (2005-2008)

Pan African Studies Community Education Program (PASCEP), GED Teacher. (2002-2004)

Women’s Anti-Violence Education (WAVE), Fundraiser and Self-Defense Program, graduate. (2003)