

Carolyn Ownbey, PhD (she/her)

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY

- 2021– Assistant Professor
- 2021–24 Chair of English, Communications, & Literature
- 2022–24 Faculty Director, Degrees+ Programs

EDUCATION

- 2013–18 PhD English. McGill University.
- 2009–11 MA English. Boston College.
- 2006–08 BA English *summa cum laude*. University of California, Davis.

PUBLICATIONS

EDITED BOOK & SPECIAL ISSUE

- 2024. *Pandemic Play: Community in Performance, Gaming, & the Arts*, collection co-edited with Dr. Catherine Quirk. Palgrave Macmillan, Studies in Performance & Technology Series. DOI: [10.1007/978-3-031-47312-8](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-47312-8).
- 2022. *Global South Studies*, “[Postcolonial Studies and the Cold War](#),” book forum roundtable co-edited with Dr. Kerry Bystrom.

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS

- Under review. “Beyond Confinement: Revolt & the Law in Quenton Baker’s *ballast*.” *Law and Critique*, special issue on “Law and Literature in the World-System.”
- 2026. “Crime and Punishment.” *Elizabeth Bowen in Context*, ed. Allan Hepburn. Cambridge University Press. DOI: [10.1017/9781009535991.032](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009535991.032)
- 2024. “Going Viral: Cultivating COVID Play,” co-written with Dr. Catherine Quirk. *Pandemic Play*, eds. Ownbey and Quirk. Palgrave Macmillan. DOI: [10.1007/978-3-031-47312-8](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-47312-8).
- 2024. “Coda: & Postscript: The House of the Siberian Tiger,” co-written with Drs. Hannah Tweed and Catherine Quirk. *Pandemic Play*, eds. Ownbey and Quirk. Palgrave Macmillan. DOI: [10.1007/978-3-031-47312-8](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-47312-8).

2022. "Writing Solidarity: Women in Bapsi Sidhwa's *Cracking India*." [*In the Crossfire of History: Revisiting Women's War Resistance Discourse*](#), eds. Lava Asaad and Fayeza Hasanat. Rutgers University Press.
2021. "Culture and Activism: Mongane Wally Serote's *To Every Birth Its Blood*." *Safundi: The Journal of South African and American Studies* 22.1. DOI: [10.1080/17533171.2021.1874095](https://doi.org/10.1080/17533171.2021.1874095)
2019. "Jerusalem, 1961: Muriel Spark's Cold War Intrigue." *Law & Literature* 32.3. DOI: [10.1080/1535685X.2019.1675288](https://doi.org/10.1080/1535685X.2019.1675288)
2019. "Milan Kundera & the Radical Autonomy of Art." *Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction* 61.1. DOI: [10.1080/00111619.2019.1642844](https://doi.org/10.1080/00111619.2019.1642844)
2018. "'Not Guilty in the Sense of the Indictment': Statelessness, Rights, and Literary Form in *Eichmann in Jerusalem*." *Textual Practice* 33.9. DOI: [10.1080/0950236X.2018.1457565](https://doi.org/10.1080/0950236X.2018.1457565)
2017. "'Like photographs of ghosts': Representing Post-Apartheid South Africa in Ivan Vladislavić's *Double Negative*." *Safundi: The Journal of South African and American Studies* 18.4. DOI: [10.1080/17533171.2017.1334895](https://doi.org/10.1080/17533171.2017.1334895)
2015. "Haunting and Melancholia: A Reading of the Revenant in Seamus Heaney's 'Casualty.'" *Final Crossing: Death & Dying in Literature*, eds. John Han & C. Clark Triplett. Peter Lang. DOI: [10.3726/978-1-4539-1553-0](https://doi.org/10.3726/978-1-4539-1553-0)
- Accepted 2020; journal issue indefinitely delayed. "Social Media in/and Performance: Rethinking Theatre and Community in the Digital Age," co-authored with Dr. Catherine Quirk. *Variations*, special issue on Social Media.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

2024. "Musings on a Shout in a Stairwell." *Safundi* 26.1–2, tribute to Monica Popescu. DOI: [10.1080/17533171.2024.2405076](https://doi.org/10.1080/17533171.2024.2405076)
2022. "[Introduction: Postcolonial Studies and the Cold War](#)," co-written with Dr. Kerry Bystrom. *Global South Studies Book Forum*, eds. Bystrom and Ownbey.
2022. "[Against Empire: Reading Anticoloniality across Cold War Divides](#)." *Global South Studies Book Forum*, eds. Bystrom and Ownbey.
2021. Review of Pallavi Rastogi, *Postcolonial Disaster: Narrating Catastrophe in the Twenty- First Century*, Northwestern UP. *Safundi* 22.3. DOI: [10.1080/17533171.2021.1994695](https://doi.org/10.1080/17533171.2021.1994695)
2015. Review of Lyndsey Stonebridge, *The Judicial Imagination: Writing after Nuremberg*, Edinburgh UP. *Women: A Cultural Review* 26.3. DOI: [10.1080/09574042.2015.1069147](https://doi.org/10.1080/09574042.2015.1069147)
2013. "The Abandonment of Modernity: Bare Life and the Camp in *Homo Sacer* and *Hotel Rwanda*." *disClosure: A Journal of Social Theory* 22.5. DOI: [10.13023/disclosure.22.05](https://doi.org/10.13023/disclosure.22.05)

RESEARCH & EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

- 2021–23 Consultant: Projects & Editorial Direction. Hightail Media.
- 2019–21 Associate Director, Research Initiatives. The University of Chicago.
- 2018–20 Manuscript Editor, Freelance. Work on:
- [*The Cultural Cold War and the Global South: Sites of Contest and Communitas*](#). Editors Kerry Bystrom, Monica Popescu, & Katherine Zien. Routledge, 2021.
 - [*At Penpoint: African Literatures, Postcolonial Studies, and the Cold War*](#). Monica Popescu. Duke UP, 2020.
 - [*We Who Work the West: Class, Labor, and Space in Western American Literature, 1885–1912*](#). Kiara Kharpertian. University of Nebraska Press, 2020.
 - [*A Grain of Faith: Religion in Mid-Century British Literature*](#). Allan Hepburn. Oxford UP, 2018.
- 2018–19 Assistant Director, Research Initiatives. The University of Chicago.
- 2017 Research Assistant. *Bodies in Difference: Race and Performance In and Beyond North America* symposium and theatre festival, Montréal.
- 2015–17 Research Assistant. Professor Allan Hepburn. McGill University. Work on:
- [*The Weight of a World of Feeling: Reviews and Essays by Elizabeth Bowen*](#). Northwestern UP, 2017.
 - [*Around 1945: Literature, Citizenship, Rights*](#). McGill-Queen’s UP, 2016.

TEACHING

GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY (2021–present)

COMM 60: Professional Communication.

This course serves as an introduction to professional communication with an emphasis on public speaking in real-world contexts. Centered around the student and their story, the course focuses on authentic oral communication through self-exploration and storytelling. This course will arm students with confidence and communication skills for their professional journey. Students will prepare and deliver four speeches across the term, focusing on impromptu, extemporaneous, informative, and persuasive speaking framed as career-building and on-the-job scenarios. *4-unit course, offered in Degrees+ Programs only.*

COMM 61: Media & Information Literacy.

As the landscape of education shifts in response to emerging and developing technologies, particularly artificial intelligence technologies, the skills of media and information literacy have become foundationally critical skills—academically and professionally. In this course, students will develop the professionally transferable skills of recognizing, analyzing, and creating different media forms, including writing, oral communication, video- and image-based media, and new media such as artificial intelligence and social media. The class focuses on the skills of information literacy, communication, and media literacy.

ENGL 10B: Writing Skills Workshop II.

Teaches students the skills for composing well-formed essays for both academic and professional writing purposes.

ENGL 50: Expository Writing.

Introduces the comprehensive skills of expository writing and critical reading. Students will learn to analyze various types of reading material and will strengthen their writing skills in a variety of genres. These skills will support their academic work and prepare them to meet the reading and writing demands of professional activities.

ENGL 60: Research Writing.

Provides extensive practice in research and writing techniques that can be applied in both academic and professional settings. Students will learn to analyze various types of reading material and will practice information-gathering techniques, library and online research strategies, and the use of surveys, interviews, and field observations.

ENGL 61: College Writing I.

This course is an introduction to the skills and conventions of academic reading and writing. It centers on the close reading of sources, constructing compelling arguments, and marshaling evidence and secondary sources. Students will become intimately acquainted with every stage of the writing process—from pre-writing exercises, through revisions and rough drafts, to crafting a polished final essay. This course will offer students a “writing toolbox” of transferable skills which will aid them in their future college classes in the humanities and social sciences but also in their chosen careers. *4-unit course, offered in Degrees+ Programs only.*

ENGL 62: College Writing II.

Students who successfully complete College Writing I have a solid understanding of three genres of argumentative essay: the close reading essay, the comparative analysis, and the multi-source paper. This work will be redeployed in College Writing II as they are acquainted with more creative forms of composition and a broader, more sophisticated approach to research. *4-unit course, offered in Degrees+ Programs only.*

LIT 110: Citizenship & Belonging in Literature & Film.

In this course, students will examine the concepts of citizenship and belonging through a number of fiction and nonfiction literature and film texts. The course will cover issues of displacement, resettlement, statelessness, global citizenship, immigration, sovereignty, freedom and imprisonment, the conditions of civic and social belonging, social and governmental support, social justice, and community formation both within and outside of the legal institution(s) of citizenship.

LIT 120: Law & Literature.

This course introduces students to a range of modern and contemporary literature in conversation with theories of the law and of the state. Students will examine how relationships are drawn in literature between citizens and states in the contemporary world, and how studying the separate disciplines of law and literature can help us to understand them both more clearly. The course addresses human rights, nationalisms, and state formation and failure in literature from the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.

LIT 130: Science Fiction.

Students in this course will explore the genre of science fiction across several different media, including literature, film, television, and games. This course will require students to study science fiction aesthetics as well as narratives. The course will examine the relationship between science fictional narratives and worlds and their real-life counterparts, and what these genres can teach us about contemporary politics, economies, and environments.

LIT 198H: Special Topics in Literature: Science Fiction & Cyberpunk.

Students in this course will explore the genres of science fiction and cyberpunk across several different media, including literature, film, television, and video games. This course will require students to study science fiction and cyberpunk aesthetics as well as narratives. The course will examine the relationship between science fictional narratives and worlds and their real-life counterparts, and what these genres can teach us about contemporary politics, economies, and environments.

OLHS 115: Diversity & Inclusion in Organizations.

This course explores the meaning of diversity and inclusion and how both impact people's sense of meaning and belonging within organizational settings. This course examines how practices, behaviors and policies related to diversity and inclusion influence performance, and work to create values and norms within organizational cultures. Students will gain an understanding of how current issues of diversity and inclusion are experienced within communities and how organizations can leverage comprehensive diversity initiatives to build and sustain a competitive advantage. Special attention is directed toward understanding inclusivity and how it is experienced by members of various groups within communities.

PHIL 60: Introduction to Philosophy.

This course is a topical and historical introduction to the discipline and practice of philosophy. Through analysis of texts, discussion, participation, and lecture, the student will gain an understanding of philosophy both as a unique discipline that investigates some of the most profound questions about ourselves and the world, and as a practice that illuminates our scientific, social, and individual existences. *4-unit course, offered in Degrees+ Programs only.*

UGP 10: Gateway to Success.

This course introduces new students to Golden Gate University and lays the groundwork for success in their academic programs and beyond. Students will develop and practice time management skills and will become familiar with: GGU's academic policies and procedures (including the Academic Integrity Policy); student support services & resources (wellness, advising, etc.); opportunities for student involvement (clubs, student government, etc.); and academic resources & support (tutoring, library resources, etc.).

UGP 80: Pathway to Success.

The capstone for the associate of arts degree integrates learning across the general education program. Using skills, knowledge, and abilities in the area of critical thinking, communication, ethics, lifelong learning, quantitative fluency and information literacy, this class will require the application of knowledge to create a professional portfolio that demonstrates mastery of the program's learning objectives.

In addition to the above, I served as instructor of record for 10 additional courses (24 course sections) at GGU in the final 3 terms of the Degrees+ Programs teach-out. These courses were:

ACCTG 60: Introduction to Financial Accounting.

CS 60: Computer Science I.

ECON 60: Principles of Economics.

ECON 61: Introduction to Macroeconomics.

ECON 62: Introduction to Microeconomics.

MATH 60: College Algebra.

MATH 61: Introduction to Statistics.

MATH 63: Calculus I.

PSYCH 60: Introduction to Psychology.

SCI 60: Introduction to Astronomy.

MCGILL UNIVERSITY (2013–2016)

ENGL 320: Postcolonial Literature and the State. *Course Lecturer.*

This course introduces students to a range of postcolonial, diaspora, and migrant literatures from the 1970s to the present, in conversation with contemporary theories of the state. Joseph Slaughter has claimed that human rights are a matter of narrative. In this course, we follow the logic of this claim further: as the guarantor (or, often, the executioner) of human rights, the state, too, is connected to storytelling. The nature of that connection is a primary focus of this course. Concentrating especially on state narratives (or, narratives of the state) as figured in literary texts, we focus on how relationships are drawn in literature between citizens and states in postcolonial spaces. This course brings together contemporary criticism and theory on literature and the state with postcolonial texts written primarily by women and people of color—in other words, by figures that the state always has difficulty recognizing. The course addresses women’s issues, human rights, nationalisms, and state formation and failure in literature from the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.

ENGL 320: Postcolonial Literature. *Teaching Assistant. Prof. Sandeep Banerjee.*

This course will introduce students to the field of postcolonial literary studies and theory. It will engage with literatures produced from postcolonial societies of South Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean and examine how authors from these regions articulate the (postcolonial) present. Crucially, we will try and understand what is meant by the term “postcolonial” in the context of literature and theory and how it relates to terms such as the “anti-colonial” and the “colonial.” Further, we will ask what, if any, are the central concerns of postcolonial authors and theorists, and how the various legacies of European imperialism mold the postcolonial perspective. We will also pay attention to the development of the field of postcolonial studies in the Anglo-American academy in addition to developing a clear understanding of some of the influential concepts developed by postcolonial critics and theorists. Finally, we will consider the status of postcolonial studies in today’s world and try to understand the relationship between colonialism, postcolonialism, and globalization.

ENGL 318: Socio-Historical Approaches to English Studies. *Teaching Assistant. Prof. Tabitha Sparks.*
From a socio-historical approach that begins in the 19th century and moves to the “culture wars” fought inside English departments in recent decades, this class examines theories about what art does. The writers and intellectual movements we will analyze variously argue that art sustains or dismantles social hegemony, or that art ennobles and empowers society. The common thread of critical readings will be a Marxist orientation towards the social structure and material conditions that produce works of art and command their reception.

ENGL 277: Introduction to Film Studies. *Teaching Assistant. Prof. Ned Schantz.*
This course is designed to prepare students for future film courses at McGill. It is therefore dedicated to three main goals: establishing a frame of reference for the history of film and film theory, introducing key analytical concepts and skills, and inspiring an ongoing interest in film.

ENGL 352: Theories of Difference. *Course Grader. Prof. Monica Popescu.*
The nineteenth century juxtaposition of industrialization, urbanization, and colonial expansion has invited numerous theoretical questions. How did the process of industrialization relate to European expansionism? What differences were set up by colonial regimes and how did they operate? How did these differences multiply themselves into other dichotomies structured in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, class, location, or age group? What lingering legacies do we encounter today? We will use critical theory as a springboard for questions that arise from contemporary literature and current socio-political debates.

BOSTON COLLEGE (2010–2011)

ENGL 2171: Introduction to British Literature, Part II. *Teaching Assistant. Prof. John Anderson.*
This lecture course explores great British writers from 1700 to the present. This period includes (among much else) the great essayists and satirists of the eighteenth century, the Romantic poets and Victorian novelists of the nineteenth, the modernists of the twentieth, and the world writing that follows the break-up of the British empire. We consider these works in light of the cultural context in which they were written.

ENGL 2172: The City in American Literature and Film. *Teaching Assistant. Prof. Carlo Rotella.*
This course examines some ways (mostly) American literature and film engages the city—from Dreiser’s *Sister Carrie* to *Blade Runner*, from Petry’s *The Street* to *Do the Right Thing*, from Lee’s *Native Speaker* to *Gangs of New York*. We consider selected cases that help us to see how novels and movies respond to the interlinked formal, social, and conceptual problems posed by cities. Although the course will not attempt anything like a survey of urban literature and film, we will sample significant elements of each in exploring the fit between the hard facts of city life and the aesthetic choices that artists have imposed on them. We consider how works of art exploit basic elements of urbanism (e.g., redevelopment, urbanization, social difference) and we consider basic concepts in the relationship of art to city life (e.g., genre and formula, representation, the dynamics of power).

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLIC EVENTS

2026. [Sinema Chat](#): Screening and Talkback, with director Al'Ikens Plancher. Golden Gate University.
2025. Ruth and Mark Phillips Professorship Public Lecture & Workshop. Lecture: "[Literary Trials and the Possibility of Justice](#)." Workshop: "Law and the Public Imagination." Institute for Comparative Studies in Literature, Art, and Culture, Carleton University.
2025. "Remember Oluwale': Caryl Phillips' Challenge to Policing and/as Nation." American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) Conference. Panel: "Comparative Approaches to Prison Abolition: Reading & Representing Against Carcerality."
2025. "Beyond Confinement: Revolt & the Law in Quenton Baker's *ballast*." Northeast Modern Language Association Convention (NeMLA). Panel: "Radical Futures and Decolonization: Law, Marxism, and World Literature."
2025. "Seeking Asylum: The Conditions of State Hospitality in *By the Sea*." Modern Language Association (MLA) Convention. Panel: "Hospitality and Contemporary Global Fiction."
2023. "Civic Narration: Writing & Reading Israel/Palestine." MLA Convention. Panel: "Doing Justice: Law and Postcolonial Studies."
2021. "Against Empire: Reading Anticoloniality across Cold War Divides." ACLA Conference. Panel: "*At Penpoint* and the Pasts and Futures of African Cold War Studies."
2020. "Conditions of Entry: Hospitality and the State in Abdulrazak Gurnah's Writing." MLA Convention. Panel: "Law, Literature, and Human Rights."
2019. "Performing Polygraphy: On Social Media Performance," with Dr. Catherine Quirk. Association for the Study of Arts of the Present (ASAP) Conference. Panel: "Practicing Polygraphy."
2018. "Crisis in Ferguson." International Conference on Narrative. Panel: "Stories of Crisis in the American Midwest."
2018. "#GettingBolderWithBoulders: *The Iliad* in Multimedia Performance," with Dr. Catherine Quirk. MLA Convention. Panel: "Epic and Performance."
2017. "Claiming Citizenship: Caryl Phillips' Challenge to 'Britishness.'" Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English (ACCUTE) Conference. Panel: "Reinventing Britain and Contemporary British Fiction."
2017. "(Non)Citizenship and Narration: Anton Shammas' *Arabesques*." MLA Convention. Panel: "Writing Migrant Selves in Transnational Arab Contexts."
2017. "Statelessness and Literary Form: Arendt's Anti-Totalitarian Prose." MLA Convention. Panel: "Mobility and Stasis: Human Geographies and Artistic Forms."
2016. "Toward Revolution: Nadine Gordimer's Bodily Politics." McGill University English PhD & Postdoctoral Fellow Colloquium: "Bodily Narration."
2016. "Cold War Correspondences: Nadine Gordimer Writing under Apartheid." Third World Aesthetics Conference.

2016. “Subversive Sexuality: Incest in Nadine Gordimer’s *A Sport of Nature*.” ACLA Conference. Panel: “All in the Family: The Literary and Cultural Politics of Incest.”
2015. “Citizenship Under Apartheid: Nadine Gordimer and David Goldblatt.” ACCUTE Conference. Panel: “South Africa: Literature and Politics.”
2014. “‘Learning to live, finally’: Supplementarity and Ethico–Political Potentialities in Theorizations of Diaspora.” ACLA Conference. Panel: “Detouring Tradition’s Capital.”
2013. “The Making-Absent of Presence: The Paradoxical Logic of Nabokov’s *Lolita*.” NeMLA Convention. Panel: “Present in her Absence: Nabokov’s Woman.”
2011. “Profanatory Potential in Feminist Narrative.” The VIII Annual Social Theory Forum: “Italian Social Theory: from Antonio Gramsci to Giorgio Agamben.”
2011. “The Abandonment of Modernity: Bare Life and the Camp in *Homo Sacer* and *Hotel Rwanda*.” ACLA Conference. Panel: “Agamben and Foucault: Comparison, Interpretation, Contradiction.”

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2025 Committee to Assess Technology Platform (Coursera).
- 2025 Faculty Senate Elections Committee.
- 2025 Panel Organizer, with Prof. Armin Fardis (San Francisco State), Prof. Michael Reyes Salas (Vassar College), Cait Jones (Carleton University), and Kaushik Tekur (SUNY Binghamton). American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) Conference.
- 2024 Campus Climate Survey Working Group, Golden Gate University.
- 2024 University Registrar Search Committee.
- 2024 Reviewer, *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*.
- 2023–24 Steering Committee, Institutional Self-Study.
- 2022–24 Faculty Senator.
- 2021–24 Curriculum Committee, School of Undergraduate Studies.
- 2021–24 Academic Integrity Committees.
- 2023 Reviewer, *Journal of Global Postcolonial Studies*.
- 2023 Reviewer, *Religion and Literature*.
- 2022–23 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging Committee. Golden Gate University.
- 2022, 2023 Faculty Search Committees.
- 2022, 2023 Commencement Speaker Selection Committee.
- 2022, 2023 External Reader, DBA. Ageno School of Business, Golden Gate University.
- 2022 Faculty Service Award Committee.

- 2021–23 Committee on Adjunct Faculty.
- 2020–21 External Examiner, PhD (Creative Writing). The University of Pretoria, South Africa.
- 2018 Panel Organizer, with Prof. Carlo Rotella (Boston College) and Evan Wisdom-Dawson (University of Chicago). International Conference on Narrative.
- 2019 Inclusion in Practice Facilitator, Diversity & Inclusion Initiative. University of Chicago.
- 2016 Panel Organizer, with Prof. Stephen Guy-Bray (University of British Columbia) and Bronwyn Malloy (University of British Columbia). American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) Conference.
- 2015 Conference Organizing Committee Co-Chair. English Graduate Student Association, McGill University. Conference: “Violation: Representations in Literature and Culture.” Keynote: Prof. Rinaldo Walcott (University of Toronto).

MEMBERSHIPS

- 2010– American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA)
- 2016– Modern Language Association (MLA)
- 2024– Modernist Studies Association (MSA)
- 2019–20 Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present (ASAP)
- 2017–18 International Society for the Study of Narrative
- 2015–17 Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English (ACCUTE)

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

- 2016–17 McCall MacBain Fellowship
- 2016–17 Glorianna Martineau Fellowship
- 2016–17 Friends of McGill Fellowship
- 2017 McGill University Faculty of Arts Travel Award
- 2014–17 McGill University Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Award
- 2013–17 McGill University Graduate Excellence Award
- 2016 McGill University Faculty of Arts Travel Award
- 2014–16 Molson Graduate Award
- 2015 Slava Klima Prize for Excellence in English Literary Studies
- 2014–15 WYNG Trust Fellowship
- 2014–15 McGill University Department of English Graduate Award
- 2010–11 Boston College Teaching Fellowship Award
- 2008 Summa Cum Laude, University of California, Davis