

# John Belk

Department of English  
Southern Utah University  
351 West University Boulevard  
Cedar City, UT 84720

johnbelk@suu.edu  
202C Braithwaite Center  
office: (435) 865-8158

## Academic Appointments

---

- 2021-present: **Associate Professor of English, Writing Program Director**, Southern Utah University  
2015-2021: **Assistant Professor of English, Writing Program Director**, Southern Utah University  
2014-2015: **Post-Doctoral Teaching Fellow**, Pennsylvania State University, University Park  
2007-2014: **Graduate Teaching Assistant/Fellow**, Pennsylvania State University, University Park

## Education

---

- 2014: **Ph.D., English (Rhetoric and Composition)**, Pennsylvania State University, University Park  
2010: **M.F.A., English (Creative Writing-Poetry)**, Pennsylvania State University, University Park  
2007: **B.A., English and History (Honors)**, Texas A&M University, College Station

## Publications

---

### BOOKS

*The Gardens of Our Childhoods*. Autumn House Press, 2022.

- selected by Matthew Dickman for the 2021 Autumn House Rising Writer Prize in Poetry
- selected by the New York Public Libraries as one of the Best New Poetry Books of 2023
- featured in *Poets & Writers Magazine* January 2023 "Inspiration" issue

*The Weathering of Igneous Rockforms in High-Altitude Riparian Environments*. Cathexis Northwest Press, 2020.

### SCHOLARSHIP

"The WPA as Labor Activist" in *Toward More Sustainable Metaphors of Writing Program Administration*, edited by Lilian Mina, Lydia Wilkes, and Patti Poblete, Utah State University Press, 2023

"Lab & Laughing = Learning: Using Impairment Goggles to Teach Science Practices" with Lindsey Roper and Carrie Jo Bucklin, in *The American Biology Teacher*.

"Freedom in Limits: Using Demi-Rubrics to Assess Creative Work" in *Imaginative Teaching: A User's Guide to Creative Writing in Secondary Classrooms* edited by Amy Ash, Michael Dean Clark, & Chris Drew, Bloomsbury Academic, 2021.

"Body of Work: OERs in an Integrated Anatomy and First-Year Writing Class" with Lindsey Roper and Rebekah Smith, in *The American Biology Teacher*, vol. 82, no. 5, 2020, pp. 344-357.

"Maintaining a Humanistic Center: Rhetorical Humanism as a Holistic Framework for Writing Programs" in *Composition Forum*, vol. 40, 2018.

"Horace's *Odes* as the 'Hidden Rhetoric' of the Principate, 27 BCE to 14 CE" in *Rhetoric Review*, vol. 37, no. 2, 2018, pp. 155-167.

"Snapshots of Identification: Kenneth Burke's Engagements with T.S. Eliot." in *Rhetoric Society Quarterly*, vol. 44, no. 4, 2014, pp. 363-382.

"Something to Push Up Against: Using Theory as Creative Pedagogy" with Kimberly Quiogue Andrews in the anthology *Dispatches from the Classroom*, edited by Chris Drew, Joseph Rein, and David Yost, Continuum, 2012, pp. 161-174.

## POETRY

"Seven Ways of Saying" in *Deseret Magazine*, vol. 4, no. 35, 2024.

"For Elijah" in *Menagerie*, no. 4, 2022.

"Then I Give you Magic" in *Menagerie*, no. 4, 2022.

"the young immortal plane" in *Jet Fuel Review*, no. 20, 2020, p. 52.

"definition of the continental shelf" in *Jet Fuel Review*, no. 20, 2020, p. 53.

"Good Endings" in *Poetry South*, no. 12, 2020, p. 68.

"The Fancy" in *Poetry South*, no. 12, 2020, p. 69.

"Seven Ways of Saying" in *The Worcester Review*, vol. 41, nos. 1 & 2, Fall 2020, pp. 3-5.

"The Dead Cat on the Side of the Road (an Ode)" in *The Maine Review*, no. 6, vol. 2, 2020.

"Perry Saturn makes ends meet after a failed tour with New Japan Pro Wrestling" in *The Fourth River*, no.9, 2020.

- "At the top of this space elevator" in *The Fourth River*, no. 9, 2020.
- "Seven Types of Caring" in *The Madison Review*, vol. 45, no 1, Fall 2020.
- "A Wish Geometry" (Reprint), in *Poems2go*, Spring 2020.
- "bar trivia: no wrestler has ever used an Annie Lennox song as entry music" in *Sport Literate*, vol. 12, no. 2, 2020 & finalist for the Sport Literate 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Prize.
- "Mr. Brautigam (again)" in *Kestrel*, no. 42, Winter 2019, p. 116.
- "Mr. Brautigam (the last)" in *Kestrel*, no. 42, Winter 2019, p. 117.
- "Peace" in *Salt Hill Journal*, no. 44, 2019, p. 30.
- "Beginning" in *Poetry South*, no. 11, 2019, p. 64.
- "Cleaning" in *Poetry South*, no. 11, 2019, p. 65.
- "These Mornings of Fear" in *Sugar House Review*, vol. 11, no. 19, 2019, p. 75.
- "In a Land of Mountains and Decent People" in *Sugar House Review*, vol. 11, no. 19, 2019, p. 75.
- "A Wish Geometry" in *Sugar House Review*, vol. 11, no. 19, 2019, p. 76.
- "Self-rendered palliative care in a coatroom in New Bethlehem, PA" in *The Worcester Review*, vol. 40, nos. 1 & 2, Fall 2019, p. 8.
- "Jimmy Snuka's Mother" in *Sport Literate*, vol. 12, no. 1, Winter 2019, p. 80.
- "Blackjack Mulligan's Mother" in *Sport Literate*, vol. 12, no. 1, Winter 2019, pp. 76-77.
- "Angle of Regard" in *Sport Literate*, vol. 12, no. 1, Winter 2019, pp. 78-79.
- "Lithology I" in *Comstock Review*, Fall/Winter 2019.
- "Benediction" in *San Pedro River Review*, vol. 11, no. 2, Fall 2019. p. 1.
- "The Clear, Gentle World" in *Crosswinds*, vol. 4, 2019, p. 42.
- "Mise en place" in *Crab Orchard Review*, vol. 24, no. 2, 2019, p. 13.
- "The weathering of igneous rockforms in high-altitude riparian environments" in *Cathexis Northwest*, March 2019, featured content.
- "Feste at the city park concession stand" in *Cathexis Northwest*, March 2019, featured content.
- "Today I" in *Cathexis Northwest*, March 2019, featured content.

"Fairlane" in *Cheat River Review*, no. 11, Winter 2018.

"This Liturgy (a leaving off)" in *Levee Magazine*, no. 1, Fall 2018, p. 96.

"On meeting a former lover for pie in southern Louisiana" in *Pivot*, no. 1, Summer 2018.

"October Pick-up" in *Habitat*, no. 3, 2018, p. 50.

"Floodplain" in *Arkansas Review: A Journal of Delta Studies*, vol. 49. no. 1, 2018, p. 58, featured content.

"Baptism" in *Arkansas Review: A Journal of Delta Studies*, vol. 49. no. 1, 2018, p. 59, featured content.

"Fishing" in *Arkansas Review: A Journal of Delta Studies*, vol. 49. no. 1, 2018, p. 59, featured content.

"Figgerly" in *Wraparound South*, vol. 8, Winter/Spring 2018.

"This is what I think about" in *Brazos Gumbo*, vol. 1, no. 3, March 2005, p. 17.

## Grants, Awards, and Funding

---

Debut Poets of 2023, *Poets and Writers Magazine* for *The Gardens of Our Childhoods*

Best New Poetry Books of 2023, New York Public Libraries for *The Gardens of Our Childhoods*

Finalist, Barry Spacks Poetry Prize from Gunpowder Press for full-length poetry manuscript *These Waters*, 2019

Finalist, Cathexis Northwest Chapbook Contest for chapbook manuscript *The Weathering of Igneous Rockforms in High-Altitude Riparian Environments*, 2019

Finalist, Autumn House Press Rising Writer Contest for full-length poetry manuscript *These Waters*, 2019

Finalist, Comstock Review Chapbook Contest for chapbook manuscript *The Weathering of Igneous Rockforms in High-Altitude Riparian Environments*, 2018

Semi-finalist, Vassar Miller Prize for full-length poetry manuscript *These Waters*, 2018

Finalist, Autumn House Press Poetry Prize for full-length poetry manuscript *These Waters*, 2018

Early Career Award, Southern Utah University, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, 2018

Outstanding Teacher, Department of English, Southern Utah University, 2017-18.

Curriculum Innovation Grant, Southern Utah University Center of Excellence for Teaching and Learning, 2017

Distinguished Educator Award, Southern Utah University, 2016-2017

Influencer Award, Southern Utah University, 2015-2016, 2016-2017

## Presentations

---

“Poetry and Music” (Invited). Chaired panel, Utah Poetry Festival, Spring 2024.

“Poetry and Persona” (Invited). Presenter, Utah Poetry Festival, Spring 2024.

“Corequisite Models, Integrated Teaching, Lab/Studio Supplements, Oh My!” (Invited). Idaho State University English Department. Pocatello, November 2022.

“Writing About Place: A Poetry Reading with Danielle Dubrasky and John Belk” (Invited Reading). SUU Poetry Conference, Department of English. Cedar City, October 2022.

“Utah Poetry Festival Headline Reading with Danielle Dubrasky and Nancy Takacs” (Invited Reading). Utah Humanities. Salt Lake City, April 2022.

“Reading with Sunni Brown Wilkinson” (Invited Reading). Utah Humanities. Cedar City, October 2021.

“Poetry Outside the Lines” (Invited Reading). Gerald R. Sherratt Library, Southern Utah University. Cedar City, October 2020.

“Unity & Diversity in Language: How Rhetoric Offers a Way Forward.” (Invited). TEDxSUU. Cedar City, October 2020.

“The Co-Requisite Model: Integrating GE Courses to Promote Equity and Student Success” with Anne Diekema. Featured Presentation, *What is an Educated Person?* Utah System of Higher Education Virtual GE Conference. 2020.

“Teaching a Great GE Class.” New Faculty Workshop, SUU Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. Cedar City. August 2019.

“INFO 1010 / ENGL 2010: The Co-Req Model at SUU.” (Invited) with Anne Diekema. Weber State University. Ogden. August 2019.

“Unlocking Poetry.” (Invited). Faculty Panel, Reading and Discussion. National Poetry Month. Cedar City, April 2019.

“Ars Poetriae: Strategies for Incorporating Poetry in the Composition Classroom.” Conference on College Composition and Communication. Pittsburgh. March 2019.

“Body of Work: OERs in an Integrated Anatomy and First-Year Writing Class.” (Poster Presentation). National Association of Biology Teachers. San Diego. November 2018.

"History and Historiography | Methods and Methodologies." (Invited). Rocky Mountain Rhetoric Symposium. Salt Lake City. October 2018.

"Bread, Roses, Poetry: The Rhetorical Verse of Arturo Giovannitti." Rhetoric Society of America. Minneapolis. May 2018.

"Unlocking Poetry." (Invited). Faculty Panel, Reading and Discussion. National Poetry Month. Cedar City, April 2018.

"Body of Work: OERs in an Integrated Anatomy and First-Year Writing Class." (Invited). SUU OEW Panel. Cedar City. March 2018.

"Body of Work: OERs in an Integrated Anatomy and First-Year Writing Class." Utah: The State of OER. Salt Lake City. February 2018.

"Rhetoric and Philosophy from the pre-Platonics to Aristotle." (Invited). SUU Philosophy Club. Cedar City. 2017.

"Histories and Historiography of Rhetoric." (Invited). Rocky Mountain Rhetoric Symposium. Salt Lake City. October 2016.

"Networking and Professional Communication." (Invited). SUU Impact. Cedar City. September 2017.

"Horace's *Odes* as the 'Hidden Rhetoric' of the Principate, 27 BCE to 14 CE." Rhetoric Society of America. San Antonio. May 2014.

"Aelia Eudokia: An Empress Poet's Contributions to the Rhetorical Tradition." Conference on College Composition and Communication. Indianapolis. March 2014.

"Aristotle, Antistrophos, and Banal Classicism." National Communication Association. Washington D.C. November 2013.

"The Songbird and the Dissident: Stesichorus, Aristotle, and the Fable." Rhetoric Society of America. Philadelphia. May 2012.

"Something to Push Up Against: Using Theory as Creative Pedagogy." Conference on College Composition and Communication. St. Louis. March 2012.

"The Uses and Abuses of (Ancient) History for (Rhetorical) Life." With Debra Hawhee. Arnold Ebit Interdisciplinary Rhetoricians Camp Rhetoric. Pennsylvania State University. February 2012.

"I Can Write Poetry?!: Creative Writing and Translingual Pedagogy." Penn State Conference on Rhetoric and Composition. June 2011.

"Emerging Patterns in Multi-Media Composing with e-Portfolios." Conference on College Composition and Communication. Atlanta. March 2011.

“Martyrdom as Embodied Rhetoric in the Early Christian Church.” Rhetoric Society of America. Minneapolis. May 2010.

“Slam Rhetoric? Performance Poetry in the Composition Classroom.” Conference on College Composition and Communication. Louisville. March 2010.

## Teaching

---

2015-Present: *Southern Utah University*

Introduction to Academic Writing: English 1010

Introduction to Academic Writing: English 1010 & Anatomy/Physiology: Biology 1020, Integrated

Foundations of Honors: Honors 1040

Intermediate Writing, Writing About Technology: English 2010

Intermediate Writing, Writing About Poverty: English 2010

Jumpstart: English 1010 and 2010, Integrated Learning Experience

Introduction to Creative Writing, Multi-Genre: English 2020

History and Theory of Rhetoric: English 3860

Labor Rhetoric, Special Topic in Rhetoric: English 4160

Grant and Technical Writing, Semester in the Parks: English 3120

Independent Study: The History of Rhetoric as a Teaching Tradition: English 4510

2007-2015: *Pennsylvania State University, University Park*

Rhetoric and Composition: English 015

Rhetoric and Composition: English 015A

Introduction to Creative Writing, Multi-Genre: English 050

Business Communication: English 202D

Creative Writing, Introduction to Poetry: English 213

Advanced Technical Writing: English 418

Teaching Assistant for Business in the Liberal Arts: Liberal Arts 200 with Jack Selzer

## Administrative and Professional Experience

---

2015-present:

Writing Program Director, Southern Utah University

2016-present:

Associate Chair, Department of English, Southern Utah University

2010-2011

Coordinator, Graduate Writing Center, Pennsylvania State University under Jon Olson

2009-2011

Graduate Assistant, Program in Writing and Rhetoric, Pennsylvania State University under Stuart Selber

2008-2010

English 5 Tutor, Pennsylvania State University under Jon Olson

2004-2007

College Reading and Learning Association Level III Writing Consultant, Texas A&M University Writing Center under Valerie Balester

2005

Editor and Web Developer for the Texas A&M University Career Center

## Professional Development

---

2022

Facilitator, Multi-day workshop for graduate TAs teaching Developmental Writing, Idaho State University

Facilitator, "Poetry and Music," round table discussion at Utah Poetry Festival

2020

Co-Facilitator, "GE For Student Success," with Krystal McCoy, General Education Learning Community, Southern Utah University Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning

2019

Co-Facilitator, "BridGE: Connecting Our Students to the World," with Krystal McCoy, General Education Learning Community, Southern Utah University Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning

Facilitator, "Teaching an Awesome GE Course," New Faculty Orientation Workshop, Southern Utah University Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning

Facilitator, Curriculum Innovation Grant Workshop: Writing-Intensive Pedagogy, Southern Utah University Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning

Participant: Rhetoric Society of America Summer Institute, College Park, MD

*Designing and Delivering Rhetorical Education* (Ratcliffe, Jensen)

Project: Rhetorical Education and Writing Program Administration

2018

QPR Suicide Prevention Trainer Certification Workshop, Southern Utah University



Participant: What is an Educated Person? Conference, Midway, UT.

Redefining Masculinity Reading Circle, Southern Utah University Care and Support Team

Department Chair's Reading Circle, Southern Utah University

2017

Curriculum Innovation Grant Workshop on Open Educational Resources, Southern Utah University

Allies on Campus I & II Trainings, Southern Utah University

Care and Support Team Trainings, Southern Utah University

2016

Faculty Collaboratives Focus Group, Southern Utah University, Dixie State University, Snow College

Participant: Council of Writing Program Administrators Summer Workshop, Raleigh, NC

2015

New Faculty Program, Center of Excellence for Teaching and Learning, Southern Utah University

Participant: Rhetoric Society of America Summer Institute, Madison, WI

*The War of Words* (Jensen, Selzer, Ratcliffe)

Project: Kenneth Burke and The Harvard Summer School Conference for the Defense of Poetry

2013

Participant: Rhetoric Society of America Summer Institute, Lawrence, KS

*Historiography and the Archives* (Jarratt, Romano, Gold, Houck)

Project: Rhetorical Verse: Persuasion in Early Twentieth-Century American Poetry

*The Ends of Words: Mystic Practice and Rhetorical Limit Experience* (Doyle)

Project: Rhetoric, Poetry, and Mysticism

2011

Teaching Practicum, Business Writing, Pennsylvania State University

Participant, Rhetoric Society of America Summer Institute, Boulder, CO

*Digital Humanities and the History of Rhetoric* (O'Gorman, Haskins, Lamp)

Project: The Songbird and the Dissident: Stesichorus, Aristotle, and the Fable

*Nonrational Rhetorics* (Hawhee, Davis)

Project: Martyrdom as Embodied Rhetoric in the Early Christian Church

2009

Participant, Rhetoric Society of America Summer Institute, State College, PA, 2009

*Rhetoric and Race* (Gilyard, Villanueva, Browne, Ore)

Project: Rhetoric, Poetry, and the Black Arts Movement

## Service

---

### NATIONAL

2021, Chair, Weber State University Board of Regents Program Review, WSU English Department  
2018-present, Reviewer for *Rhetoric Review*  
2016-present, Advisory Board, Rocky Mountain Rhetoric Symposium  
2011, Conference Assistant to Suresh Canagarajah, Penn State Conference on Rhetoric and Composition "Rhetoric and Writing Across Language Boundaries"

### UNIVERSITY

#### *Southern Utah University*

2017-present, Technical Writing Certificate Committee member  
2016-present, Exploratory Committee on Library/English Integration member  
2016-present, Allies on Campus member  
2016-present, Care and Support Team member  
2016-present, Faculty Advisor, Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society  
2015-present, General Education Committee member  
2015-present, General Education Assessment *ad hoc* workgroup member  
2015-2017, Chair, Technical Writing Certificate Committee

### DEPARTMENTAL/COLLEGE

#### *Southern Utah University*

2020, Search Committee member for Asst. Prof. of English, Fiction  
2020, Search Committee member for Asst. Prof. of English, Creative Nonfiction  
2019, Chair, Search Committee for Asst. Prof. of English, Rhetoric and Writing  
2018, Search Committee member for Asst. Prof. of English, Fiction  
2018, Chair, Search Committee for Lecturer of English  
2018, Search Committee member for Administrative Assistant  
2017, Search Committee member for Visiting Asst. Prof. of English, Fiction  
2017-present, Chair, Department Recruitment Committee  
2017, Chair, Search Committee for Lecturer of English  
2017, Search Committee member for Administrative Assistant  
2016, Chair, Search Committee for Lecturer of English  
2015-present, Chair, Writing Program Subcommittee  
2015-present, Department Curriculum Committee member

#### *Pennsylvania State University*

2013-2015, Center for Democratic Deliberation Faculty Affiliate  
2010-2013, Outside E-Portfolio Evaluator for newly implemented Rhetoric and Civic Life course  
2010-2011, English Graduate Student Organization Officer  
2010-2011, Teaching Mentor, Program in Writing and Rhetoric  
2009-2010, Composition Committee Member

## Consulting

---

2020-present

Red Rock Recreation Consulting

2014-2016

Freelance Copywriter for Southern Illinois University Press,

2010-2016

Textbook Reviewer, Bedford/St. Martin's, Macmillan Learning

2009-2010

Technology Consultant for *The Harbrace Guide to Writing*, Cengage Learning,  
Assisted with the composition of a technology chapter in *The Harbrace Guide to Writing*  
Worked closely with Cheryl Glenn and the editorial staff at Cengage learning

Technology Advisory Board, Cengage Learning

Provided feedback on Cengage's proposed changes to its online writing management software

Held advisory meetings at Cengage's Boston offices

Brainstormed suggestions for improving educational software

## Certifications

---

QPR Suicide Prevention Trainer

Completed extensive training in QPR protocols

Run yearly QPR Suicide Prevention Trainings

College Reading and Learning Association: Level Three Writing Consultant

Consultant has a minimum of 75 hours tutoring

Consultant has a minimum of 10 hours of training

Consultant has passed first two levels of training, including extensive peer observation

## Professional Affiliations

---

National Council of Teachers of English

Conference on College Composition and Communication

Rhetoric Society of America

American Society for the History of Rhetoric

Association of Writers and Writing Programs