

Michaella Thornton

ENGLISH INSTRUCTOR *
INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGNER

CONTACT

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📍 St. Louis, Missouri

i michaellathornton.com

EDUCATION

U of ARIZONA
MFA, Creative Nonfiction

U of MISSOURI-COLUMBIA
BJ, Journalism (*cum laude*)
BA, Anthropology

AWARDS

ARTIST SUPPORT GRANT
Regional Arts Commission,
2019

EXCELLENCE in TEACHING
Regional Award Winner,
2018

FINALIST
World's Best Short-Short Story
Contest, The Southeast Review
2016, 2015

NEH TEACHING FELLOW
Early American Women's
History, 2015

ABOUT ME

I'm an award-winning (former) English professor who works with business-school faculty to move away from coverage-based models of teaching to think critically and creatively about how to design dynamic and objective-driven lessons that “stick” long after a course has ended.

In my free time, you can find me writing flash fiction or researching longform essays, kayaking, and readying my backyard for Easter Egger chickens.

EXPERIENCE

Washington University in St. Louis, 2018 – present

Instructional Designer, Center for Digital Education (August 2019 – present)

Staff Writer, *The Common Reader* (August 2018 – July 2019)

Consult with Olin Business School faculty on teaching with technology, backward design, pedagogy, andragogy, student engagement, authentic assessment, rubrics, and writing across the curriculum. Support faculty-led design of online and hybrid courses in prescriptive and predictive analytics, data analysis for brand management, deep learning, financial markets, accounting, and more. Project manager extraordinaire.

St. Louis Community College, 2014 – 2018

Assistant Professor, English (served as an adjunct from 2009-2014)

Taught first-year composition, introduction to fiction, fiction and nonfiction writing workshops, and interdisciplinary studies. Organized a class-wide service learning project centered on creating legacy narratives for hospice patients and their loved ones. Won Most Outstanding New Faculty Member from the Two-Year College English Association : Midwest (2016) as well as an Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award in 2018. Laid off with 18 junior tenure-track faculty members in May 2018.

Saint Louis University, 2012 – 2014

Assistant Director for Instructional Design

Research learning and faculty development best practices to improve educational performance. Identify, write, and submit grants, including securing a “Bringing Theory to Practice” grant from the Association of American Colleges and Universities. Develop, deliver, and assess programming that assists faculty members in the design, development, and modification of courses. Manage programming budget and supervise a staff of three instructional designers.

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EXPERTISE

Teaching Composition & Literature
Online Writing Instruction Synchronous & Asynchronous Writing Tutoring
Service Learning
Authentic Assessment
Instructional Design
Universal Design
Backward Design

SKILLS

Providing Constructive Feedback
Research & Library Skills
Teamwork
Project Management
Podcasting
Writing
Social Media
Content Creation
WordPress
Zoom
Slack

INTERESTS

Kayaking
Baking
Gardening
Bourbon

EXPERIENCE continued

Purdue University Global, 2009-2012

Resource Specialist, Writing Center

Plan and present synchronous online student-centered writing workshops, create a long-term planning document for collaborative resource development and design, project management of the online writing center's teaching and learning resources, provide feedback to students in synchronous and asynchronous tutoring sessions, collaborate with other departments to create student and faculty satisfaction surveys, and develop dynamic learning objects to enrich student learning.

University of Missouri-Columbia, 2007-2009

Lecturer, Education

Assist education professor Dr. Jane Howland with the evaluation of graduate students' writing and participation in: 9440: Learning with the Internet; 7368: Technology Across the Curriculum; and 9458: Technology and Assessment. Provide constructive feedback and LMS support to graduate students and Missouri Teaching Fellows.

University of Arizona, 2004-2006

Graduate Assistant in Teaching, English

Served as the instructor of record for first-year composition (English 101, textual analysis, and English 102, introduction to rhetoric. Taught two full-time courses every fall and one full-time course in the spring.

Teach for America, Eaton-Johnson Middle School, 2000-2002

Sixth Grade Teacher

Taught language arts and social studies to 120 middle-school students. Created and sponsored the Students Making ART (SMART) after-school program after art classes were cut. Organized a sixth-grade wide field trip to the Morehead Planetarium and Science Center at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

REFERENCES

DR. JEFFREY SCHNEIDER
Chair, English Department
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MAXINE BEACH
Assistant Professor,
English
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NINA KIM
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Center for Digital
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