

## Heidi Howell Farrah

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# Curriculum Vitae

## Education

### Master of Fine Arts (Poetry)

George Mason University, Fairfax, VA 22030  
*Fifty Semester Hour Studio/Academic Terminal Degree  
 Including Sixty Writer Reading List (30 major, 30 minor),  
 Oral Examination, Book Length Thesis/Dissertation, and Defense*  
 Primary Advisor: Carolyn Forché  
 GPA 4.0

### Bachelor of Elective Studies (Theatre)

St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, MN 56301  
 Emphases: Theatre Arts, Poetry, French, Philosophy, Human Relations  
 •Phi Kappa Phi  
 •Honors in Liberal Studies  
 •Summa Cum Laude

## Teaching Interests

Creating a student-centered classroom and utilizing process writing techniques (in literature as well as composition classes) are central to my teaching philosophy. I also teach from the perspective that the ultimate value of the humanities generally, and literature/writing specifically, resides in their exploration of what it means to be human. The crucial connection between art and life --not idealized life, but students' daily lives -- is one I seek to make in every class I teach.

My interest and expertise is in the work of women and BIPOC writers, particularly but not exclusively poets, of nineteenth and twentieth century America. I am concerned that traditional curriculums continue avoid these writers, especially in general education classes, and that too often poetry is neglected in favor of the study of short fiction and the novel.

I enjoy teaching early American women's non-fiction writing as well, especially diaries, letters, and conversion narratives, and I have a deep interest in the lives and achievements of the modernist women poets, including the women of the Harlem Renaissance.

A strong background in critical theory ranging from Saussure and Derrida to Irigaray and Kristeva to the Frankfurt School has proven useful to me both in the classroom and with my poetry. Theory has heavily influenced not only some of this country's most important "experimental" (sometimes called "postmodern" or "language" or "New York School") poets but has been an important influence on my own work as well.

Finally, I truly enjoy teaching composition. It is, after all, about the creation of texts, and I use many of the same freewriting and guided writing techniques in composition courses that I do in creative writing courses. For me, as you might expect, all writing is creative. All writing is also, I believe, concerned with persuasion or argumentation, and I include the elements of rhetoric as an integral part of each course I teach.

## **Teaching Experience, 1990-Present**

**NHCC** = North Hennepin Community College, 2001-present (full-time unlimited – tenured -- faculty position)

**SCSU** = St. Cloud State University, 1995-2015 (originally fixed term and then as adjunct faculty)

**The Loft** = The Loft Writers' Center, Mpls, 1994-1997 (creative writing instructor)

**SCTC** = St. Cloud Technical College, now St. Cloud Community and Technical College, 1995-1998 (adjunct faculty)

**ARCC** = Anoka Ramsey Community College, 1994-2001, intermittently (adjunct faculty)

**GMU** = George Mason University, 1990-1993 (Writing Center staff and graduate research assistantship teaching literature and composition courses)

Course materials and student evaluations available upon request.

### **Composition Courses**

#### College Writing I, NHCC

First year college reading and writing, with an emphasis on rhetorical and critical thinking skills

#### College Writing II, NHCC

Research writing for degree-seeking students

#### A Variety of College Composition, Rhetoric, and Research Courses, SCSU

•Fundamentals of composition, critical thinking, argument, analysis, and research writing, including the former 162 and 163 sequence and the current 191 class

Note: Designed the Continuing Studies Online 191 class; also worked regularly with 191 incarcerated students through Continuing Studies in a self-paced correspondence course environment

#### Analytical Writing, SCTC

College level composition and research writing

#### College Reading and Writing, ARCC

Composition studies and research writing for first year students

#### First Year Composition, GMU

•Process based essay and research writing for first year students

### **Developmental Writing Courses**

#### Gateway to College Writing I, NHCC

Accelerated course attached to College Writing I for developing writers

#### Preparation for College Writing I, NHCC

A pre-college class, focusing on sentence and paragraph issues for developing writers

#### Preparation for College Writing II, NHCC

A pre-college class, focusing on essay writing strategies

#### Department of General Studies Writing Courses, SCSU

Similar to the college composition course, but designed for students admitted on academic probation

#### College Transitions, SCSU

Designed to help 1st year students make a successful transition to university life, extensive advising

### Basic Composition, SCTC

Focus on sentences, paragraphs, short essay and preliminary research writing

### Basic Writing, ARCC

Beginning writing for the two-year college student

## Honors Courses

### Honors College Writing II, NHCC

Literary study and research class limited to Honors students

### Honors Seminar, NHCC

Critical thinking and rhetorical analysis, focusing on contemporary, cross disciplinary topics

### University Honors Program World Civilizations Series: Minority and Gender Studies Courses, SCSU

200 level, developed team taught courses (with faculty in philosophy and political science)

## Literature Courses

### Reading Poetry, NHCC

200-level survey of contemporary world poetry

### Reading Plays, NHCC

200-level survey of contemporary and historical plays

### Introduction to Literature, NHCC

100-level exploration of literary works in three genres through the lens of critical theories from New Criticism to Structuralism to Marxism to Post-Colonialism to Deconstruction

### Survey of British Literature II, NHCC

200-level survey class from 1785 to the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Victorian, Romantic, and Modern periods)

### Introduction to Poetry, SCSU

200-level survey of poetic style, form, technique, and content, American and British

### Nature Writing, SCSU

300-level survey of historical and contemporary nature writing for environmental science majors

### 20th Century American Literature, GMU

200-level survey of American literature, emphasis on women and BIPOC writers

## Creative Writing Courses

### Writing Poetry, NHCC

100-level workshop-format class including readings of contemporary and local poets

### Introduction to Creative Writing, NHCC

100-level course in fiction, non-fiction, drama, and poetry writing

### Creative Writing Workshop, SCSU

300-level course reading contemporary poets and poetic theory as well as the production of poetic texts

**Creative Writing Courses (Various), The Loft**

Intermediate to advanced courses in theory, creative writing, collage, and visual poetics

**Experimental Writing Summer Workshop, University of MN: Split Rock Arts Program**

Assistant to Carolyn Forché; experimental poetry/generative writing workshop

**Other Courses**

**Creative Writing for Children, Sartell Community Education**

Beginning fiction and poetry writing for elementary school children

**Journal Writing for Adults, Sartell Community Education**

Exploration of the journal form for self-expression and exploration

***Other Academic Experience***

**Co-Creator of Gateway English, NHCC**

An innovation in developmental education designed to get underprepared students to and through the college level class quickly and efficiently, working to close the achievement gap

**Test-Out Reader for English Composition Courses, SCSU**

•Reading and evaluating first year composition test-out essays; holistic grading

**“Gray Area” Placement Reader for Composition Courses, NHCC**

Placement of students who scored in a gray range on the Accuplacer test through reading and evaluating timed essay writing

**The Writing Center, GMU**

•Tutored individual students and conducted workshops for larger groups on a variety of writing issues

***Advising Experience***

**Academic Advisor for All Non-Declared Honors Students, SCSU**

Responsible for advising roughly 200 new and continuing Honors students

**Academic Advisor to Department of General Studies Students, SCSU**

Responsible for advising students enrolled in college transitions course

**Academic Advisor, SJU**

For first year seminar students in all majors

**Semester Conversion Advising Center, SCSU**

Worked with students and faculty on credit and requirement conversion to semesters

## **Scholarly/Creative Work**

Poems published in *Concision* (with collaborator George Farrah), 2022

Poems published in *SHANTIH*, *The Aesthetic Apostle*, *deluge Literary Journal*, and *Burningwood Literary Journal* (2018)

Poetry published in *Poetry City*, *Projector Magazine*, *The Eastern Iowa Review*, and *Kallisto Gaia* (2017)

Poems published in *Otoliths* (2014)

Poetry published in *s/word*, *la fovea*, and *Psychic Meatloaf* (2012)

Poems written and presented at the Soap Factory in Minneapolis (in response to the installation "Hot off The") as part of the "Talking Image Connection Series" (2010)

"Scraps of Morning" selected by Maria Damon as a winner of the "What Light" poetry contest (2008)

Poetry published in *disturbed guillotine* (1995)

Poetry published in *The Washington Review* \*poems nominated by the Review for a Pushcart Prize (1993)

Poetry published in *French Letters* and *Matrix* (1991)

Poetry published in *So To Speak: A Feminist Journal of Language and Art* (1990)

Poetry published in *Crosscurrents* (1989)

*\*\*Note: Heidi Farrah publishes under her given/birth name Heidi A. Howell*

## **Administrative experience**

### English Department Coordinator (Chair), NHCC

Worked with faculty to design and implement a new college composition sequence  
Created a new course scheduling protocol for faculty  
Began work on the currently running Associate of Fine Arts, Creative Writing program  
(7 years)

### Academic Affairs and Standards Committee (member, Vice-Chair, and Chair), NHCC

Represented English (including during the composition curriculum change process) as a member  
Scheduled and guided committee meetings as vice-chair and chair  
(8 years)

### Director, University Honors Program, SCSU

Duties include academic planning and advising, and curriculum development (75% faculty release)  
(2 years)

### Director, Synchronized Skating Teams; St. Cloud Figure Skating Club

Manage, coach, and budget for the synchronized skating teams

### Test Manager; Little Falls Figure Skating Club

Testing all skating levels (Basic 1 through Freestyle 6)

### Director, Basic Skills Program; St. Cloud Figure Skating Club

Class arrangement, personnel, testing, communications for SCFSC's basic skills program

### Director in Residence; The Central Minnesota Children's Theatre

Direct and supervise 18 children in *Raggedy Ann and Andy*, and 45 children in a *The Wizard of Oz*

## ***Membership in Professional Organizations***

•The Modern Language Association; •The Associated Writing Programs; •The National Council of Teachers of English; •The Minnesota Council of Teachers of English; •The Conference on College Composition (And subscription holder to their various publications, such as *College English* and *The ADE Bulletin*)

## ***Professional Writing/Editing.***

Professional and Technical Writing for the St. Cloud Figure Skating Club  
Writing weekly and monthly newsletters detailing testing procedures, proper equipment, etc.

Freelance Professional Editing and Proofreading  
Editing for Julia Lupton, author of a guide to a computer program designed to cast astrological charts

*So To Speak: A Feminist Journal of Language and Art*: Editing  
Editorial circle member, non-fiction specialist for scholarly journal, George Mason University

Citizens for a Sound Economy, Washington DC: Editing and Proofreading  
Editing and proofreading press releases, brochures, fundraising letters, and grant applications

## ***Other College and University Service***

Search committee service for administrators (vice president and dean), English faculty, and various other staff and faculty positions, NHCC

Scholarship application reader, NHCC

IFO Committee on the non-tenure track working conditions at SCSU

The University Curriculum Council (Honors representative)

Strategic Planning Sub-Committee: Academic Distinction

Commission of the Status of Women, SCSU

Also, faculty judge: Eagle Awards (Residential Life) and Homecoming Royalty  
and faculty advisor to the Honors Club, SCSU

## ***Professional Development***

SEED, NHCC

Participated in a year-long training in diversity and anti-racism

COMP TALKS, NHCC

Organized and led monthly teaching discussions for English faculty

English Faculty Readings, NHCC

Regular participation in the yearly campus reading series as well as readings for special groups, like the Student Support Services/TRIO program

Educator of the Year, NHCC

Won for teaching and service to the union

English Department Faculty Showcase, SCSU  
Read poetry

National Honors Conference, SCSU  
Brought two Honors students to the National Conference in Orlando, Florida

Associated Writing Programs Conference, NHCC and SCSU  
Regular attendance at this national writer's conference

MN Council of Teachers of English Conference, NHCC and SCSU  
A workshop on integrating experimental poetry with mainstream work in the teaching of creative writing

Midwest Regional Honors Council Conference; Whitewater, WI, SCSU  
Took a group of 12 Honors students to attend conference events

20th Century Literature Conference; Louisville, KY, SCSU  
Presented: "Presently Rapturous Rooms of Her Own: An Exploration of the Third Section of Gertrude Stein's Tender Buttons."

St. Cloud State University: DISK on KVSC, 88.5FM, Public Radio  
Reading for and helping to organize a series of student and faculty recordings of poetry for campus radio

St. Cloud State University: Honors Conference at Camp Friendship  
Participation in an evaluative retreat involving Honors students, alumni, and current Honors faculty

St. Cloud State University: Workshop on Experimental Writing  
Presented a workshop on integrating non-traditional forms of writing into the composition classroom

## ***References***

Dr. Leanne Zainer: English Faculty, NHCC

[lzainer@nhcc.edu](mailto:lzainer@nhcc.edu)

763-424-0784; 612-379-0900

Dr. Judy Dorn, English Faculty, SCSU

[jadorn@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:jadorn@stcloudstate.edu)

320-308-5432

Dr. Suellen Rundquist, Dean of Liberal Arts and Global Education (direct supervisor at NHCC since 2008,  
former chair and associate dean at SCSU) -- retired from NHCC December 2014

[smrund@gmail.com](mailto:smrund@gmail.com)