

JOHN HAY

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APPOINTMENTS

Professor, Department of English, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 2025–present

Associate Professor, Department of English, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 2019–2025

Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 2013–2019

Instructor, Department of English, Columbia University, 2009–2013

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Columbia University, English Literature, 2013

M.Phil. Columbia University, English Literature, 2010

M.A. Columbia University, English Literature, 2008

B.A. University of Pittsburgh, History & Philosophy of Science and English Literature, 2007
Summa cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa

PUBLICATIONS

Books

“The First Person in America: The Identity of the Narrator in the Nineteenth-Century U.S. Novel” [manuscript in progress]

Editor, *The Sea-Wolf and Hints for Beginners*, Vol. 5 of *The Complete Works of Jack London* (Oxford University Press) [in progress]

Editor, *Apocalypse in American Literature and Culture* (Cambridge University Press, 2020) [Cambridge Themes in American Literature and Culture series]

Postapocalyptic Fantasies in Antebellum American Literature (Cambridge University Press, 2017) [Cambridge Studies in American Literature and Culture series]

Reviewed in *American Literature*, *ALH Online Review*, *The Year’s Work in English Studies*, *Choice Reviews*, and *Communication Booknotes Quarterly*

Journal Articles

“The Postapocalyptic Imagination in the American West,” *Pacific Coast Philology* 57.2 (2024): 127–143

“Longfellow’s Echoes,” *Raritan* 43.2 (Fall 2023): 116–134

“The Limits of Recovery: The Failure of James Gates Percival,” *Early American Literature* 55.1 (2020): 111–144

“The American *Mad Max*: The Road Warrior versus the Postman,” *Science Fiction Film and Television* 10.3 (October 2017): 307–327

“Thoreau’s Sound Reasoning,” *Nineteenth-Century Prose* (Special Issue: *Thoreau Bicentennial Essays*, ed. Richard J. Schneider) 44.2 (Fall 2017): 135–154

- “Broken Hearths: Melville’s *Israel Potter* and the Bunker Hill Monument,” *New England Quarterly* 89.2 (June 2016): 192–221
- “A Poet of the Land: William Cullen Bryant’s Moundbuilder Ecology,” *ESQ: A Journal of Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Culture* 61.3 (Summer 2015): 475–511 [winner of the 2016 SLSA Schachterle Essay Prize]
- “Plotting Devices: Literary Darwinism in the Laboratory,” *Philosophy and Literature* (Special Issue: *Evolutionary Aesthetics*) 38.1A (October 2014): A148–A161
- “Narratives of Extinction: James Fenimore Cooper and the Last Man,” *Literature in the Early American Republic* 6 (2014): 245–268

Book Chapters

- “Thoreau’s Privilege,” Chapter 24 of *The Oxford Handbook of Henry David Thoreau*, ed. Kristen Case and James S. Finley (Oxford University Press) [forthcoming]
- “Authors on the Campaign Trail: ‘We Are Politicians Now,’” Chapter 20 of *The Cambridge Companion to Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Politics*, ed. John D. Kerkerling (Cambridge University Press, 2025), 332–347
- “Truth and Fiction: *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* and the Question of Genre,” in *Approaches to Teaching Jacobs’s Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, ed. Lynn Domina (MLA, 2024), 83–87
- (Co-authored with Paul Hay) “The Patriotic Singer: Christopher Pearse Cranch’s American *Aeneid*,” in *The Aeneid and the Modern World: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Vergil’s Epic in the 20th and 21st Centuries*, ed. Joseph R. O’Neill and Adam Rigoni (Routledge, 2022), 113–132
- “Introduction: The United States of Apocalypse,” in *Apocalypse in American Literature and Culture*, ed. John Hay (Cambridge University Press, 2020), 1–14
- “Theme Time: Dylan as DJ,” in *New Approaches to Bob Dylan*, ed. Anne-Marie Mai (University Press of Southern Denmark, 2020), 189–205
- “Topographical Reports of the American Frontier,” Chapter 8 of *The Microgenre: A Quick Look at Small Culture*, ed. Molly C. O’Donnell and Anne H. Stevens (Bloomsbury, 2020), 61–70
- (Co-authored with Jeffrey H. Schwartz) “Darwin in den USA: Wissenschaft und Kreationismus” [“Darwin in the USA: Science and Creationism”], trans. Angela Schwarz, in *Streitfall Evolution: Eine Kulturgeschichte*, ed. Angela Schwarz (Böhlau Verlag, 2017), 186–198
- “Jack London’s Sci-Fi Finale,” Chapter 22 of *The Oxford Handbook of Jack London*, ed. Jay Williams (Oxford University Press, 2017), 355–372

Review Essay

- Rev. of *The Cambridge Companion to the Literature of the American Renaissance*, ed. Christopher N. Phillips, and *Division and Imagined Unity in the American Renaissance: The Seamless Whole*, by Shawn Thomson, *New England Quarterly* 91.4 (December 2018): 689–697

Academic Book Reviews

- Rev. of *Combating Injustice: The Naturalism of Frank Norris, Jack London, and John Steinbeck*, by Jon Falsarella Dawson, *American Studies (AMSJ)* 63.2 (Summer 2024): 67–68
- Rev. of *The American Sonnet: An Anthology of Poems and Essays*, ed. Dora Malech and Laura

- T. Smith, *ALH Review*, Series XLI, *American Literary History* 36.1 (Summer 2024): 270–273
- Rev. of *Utopia in the Early U.S.: John Lithgow's Equality and Other Writings*, ed. John Mac Kilgore and Richard S. Pressman, *Early American Literature* 58.2 (2023): 557–59
- Rev. of *London in His Own Time*, ed. Jeanne Campbell Reesman, *Studies in American Naturalism* 16.2 (Winter 2021): 206–209
- Rev. of *Modernizing Solitude: The Networked Individual in Nineteenth-Century American Literature*, by Yoshiaki Furui, *Nineteenth-Century Prose* 48.1/2 (Spring/Fall 2021): 218–222
- Rev. of *Infrastructures of Apocalypse: American Literature and the Nuclear Complex*, by Jessica Hurley, *Studies in the Novel* 53.2 (Summer 2021): 187–189
- Rev. of *The Mound Builder Myth: Fake History and the Hunt for a "Lost White Race"*, by Jason Colavito, *ALH Online Review*, Series XXV (December 8, 2020)
- Rev. of *Remembrance of Things Present: The Invention of the Time Capsule*, by Nick Yablon, *Popular Culture Review* 31.2 (Summer 2020): 203–06
- Rev. of *Untimely Democracy: The Politics of Progress after Slavery*, by Gregory Laski, *MELUS* 44.4 (Winter 2019): 220–222
- Rev. of *Approaches to Teaching the Works of Jack London*, ed. Kenneth K. Brandt and Jeanne Campbell Reesman, *Studies in American Naturalism* 11.2 (Winter 2016): 71–75
- Rev. of *Changing Hands: Industry, Evolution, and the Reconfiguration of the Victorian Body*, by Peter J. Capuano, *Configurations* 24.4 (Fall 2016): 558–561
- Rev. of *Walden's Shore: Henry David Thoreau and Nineteenth-Century Science*, by Robert M. Thorson, *Journal of the Early Republic* 34.4 (Winter 2014): 701–704

Popular Book Reviews

- "Past Is Prologue," Rev. of *Fire*, by George R. Stewart, *Alta* (December 16, 2024)
- "An Arena for Anarchy," Rev. of *The Heart in Winter*, by Kevin Barry, *Review 31* (June 28, 2024)
- "Dog Eat Dog," Rev. of *The Vegan*, by Andrew Lipstein, *Review 31* (August 3, 2023)
- "From Minutemen to Infinite Men," Rev. of *The Transcendentalists and Their World*, by Robert A. Gross, *Los Angeles Review of Books* (March 6, 2022)
- Rev. of *Love Letter to Who Owns the Heavens*, by Corey Van Landingham, *DIAGRAM* 22.1 (2022)
- "Winding Down," Rev. of *Desert Notebooks: A Road Map for the End of Time*, by Ben Ehrenreich, *Desert Companion* (August 2020): 19–20
- "Slow Apocalypse," Rev. of *Notes from an Apocalypse: A Personal Journey to the End of the World and Back*, by Mark O'Connell, *Los Angeles Review of Books* (May 20, 2020)
- "Untangling the Tracks," Rev. of *The Bootleg Series Vol. 14: More Blood, More Tracks*, by Bob Dylan, *Politics/Letters Live* (February 25, 2019)
- "Darwin's Early Adopters," Rev. of *The Book that Changed America: How Darwin's Theory of Evolution Ignited a Nation*, by Randall Fuller, *Public Books* (April 5, 2017)
- "Shakespeare off the Grid," Rev. of *Station Eleven*, by Emily St. John Mandel, *Public Books* (April 1, 2015)
- "Love among the Ruins," Rev. of *The Dog Stars*, by Peter Heller, *Public Books* (Feb. 22, 2013)
- "Turn, Turn ...," Rev. of *The Age of Miracles*, by Karen Thompson Walker, *Public Books* (October 4, 2012)

Other

Editor-in-Chief, *Las Vegas Review of Books* (2022–present)

“Learning by Blundering: Margaret Fuller and the Pedagogy of Conversation,” *#TeachingC19* (July 1, 2025)

“A Year for the Garbage Truck,” *Humanities Heart to Heart*, Nevada Humanities (January 11, 2021)

“Apocalypse Then and Now,” *FifteenEightyFour: Academic Perspectives from Cambridge University Press* (May 12, 2020)

“American Literature,” *World Book Encyclopedia* (2019), Vol. A, pp. 414–428

“‘A White-Hot Spread of Unblinking Sea’: A Reconsideration of the 1956 Film Adaptation of Herman Melville’s *Moby-Dick*,” in *Sing, Goddess: Essays on World Literature*, ed. Jarret Keene (Norton Custom, 2019), 88–94

“Jack London’s Distinctive Irony,” *The Call: The Magazine of the Jack London Society* 29.1 (Spring/Summer 2018): 5–10

“Entering Utopia,” Reflection on Teaching *Equality: A Political Romance* (1802), *Just Teach One* (Spring 2017, no. 10)

“Jack London’s Popular Naturalism,” in *Gale Researcher: Colonial Era to the 19th Century in American Literature*, ed. Laura A. Leibman (Gale, 2016)

GRANTS, AWARDS, AND HONORS

Co-PI (with David Fott), “Expanding Engagement with Transformative Texts,” Teagle Foundation/NEH “Cornerstone: Learning for Living” grant for UNLV Great Works Academic Certificate (\$150,000), 2021–2023

Barrick Scholar Award, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (\$2,500), 2021

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Stipend (2 months; \$6,000), 2020

William Morris Award for Excellence in Scholarship, UNLV College of Liberal Arts (\$1,000), 2018

American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Fellowship (6 months; \$33,400), 2016

SLSA Schachterle Essay Prize (for “the best new essay on literature and science written in English by a nontenured scholar”) for “A Poet of the Land” (\$250), 2016

Lillian Gary Taylor Visiting Fellowship, University of Virginia Library (1 month; \$1,800), 2016

W. M. Keck Foundation Fellowship, Huntington Library (1 month; \$3,000), 2014

Bancroft Dissertation Award, Columbia University (\$7,500 publication subvention), 2013

Marjorie Hope Nicolson Fellowship, Columbia University, 2007–2013

Varsity Letter, Men’s Baseball, University of Pittsburgh, 2004

Chancellor’s Scholarship, University of Pittsburgh, 2003–2007

INVITED TALKS

“Christopher Pearse Cranch’s American *Aeneid*,” Department of Classics, Hampden-Sydney College, Virginia, April 2022

“The Postapocalyptic Imagination in the American Southwest,” Plenary Address, Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association Annual Conference, Las Vegas, NV, November 2021

“Jack London and the Sea,” School of Foreign Studies, Nanjing University, China, July 2021

CONFERENCE PAPERS

- “William Dean Howells and the Art of Puppetry,” Civil War Caucus, MMLA (Midwest Modern Language Association), Milwaukee, WI, 2025 [upcoming]
- “Oliver Wendell Holmes, Rebecca Harding Davis, and the Origins of American Literary Naturalism,” Civil War Caucus, MMLA, Chicago, IL, 2024
- “Narration as Revelation,” C19 (Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists), Pasadena, CA, 2024
- “Jack London’s Influence on Herman Melville,” Jack London Society Symposium, San Marino, CA, 2023
- “Voyeuristic Narration in the Postbellum Novel: From Eavesdroppers to Spies,” Civil War Caucus, MMLA, Minneapolis, MN, 2022
- “Spiritual Theatricality: Dramatic and Divine Approaches to Narrative Vantage in Epes Sargent’s *Peculiar* (1864) and Henry Ward Beecher’s *Norwood* (1867),” C19, Coral Gables, FL, 2022
- “James Fenimore Cooper’s Rapid Writing,” MLA (Modern Language Association), Seattle, WA, 2020
- “John Lloyd Stephens’s Transnational American Archaeology in the 1840s,” SLSA (Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts), Irvine, CA, 2019
- “Thinking through the American Frontier, 1843–1854,” SLSA, Toronto, 2018
- “Theme Time Out of Mind: Dylan as DJ,” New Approaches to Bob Dylan, Denmark, 2018
- “John C. Frémont’s Rocky Temporalities,” C19, Albuquerque, NM, 2018
- “‘Haunting My Memory Still’: The Interminable Echo of Longfellow’s ‘My Lost Youth,’” MLA, New York, NY, 2018
- “Edgar Allan Poe’s Cosmic Clock: Nonhuman Time in *Eureka*,” SLSA, Tempe, AZ, 2017
- “The American Mad Max,” FWPCA (Far West Popular Culture Association), Las Vegas, 2017
- “Thoreau’s Sound Reasoning,” SLSA, Atlanta, GA 2016
- “Jack London’s Distinctive Irony,” Jack London Society Symposium, Napa, CA, 2016
- “The Failure of James Gates Percival,” C19, State College, PA, 2016
- “The Postapocalyptic History of the Erie Canal,” MLA, Austin, TX, 2016
- “Has America Lost Its Mind? Precarious Nationalism at Sacvan Bercovitch’s New Historicist Turn,” ACLA (American Comparative Literature Association), Seattle, 2015
- “Adventures in Geo-Archaeology: The Lasting Marks of Ambrose Bierce’s ‘For the Ahkoond,’” SLSA, Dallas, 2014
- “Romantic American Archaeology: John Lloyd Stephens in Central America,” C19, Chapel Hill, NC, 2014
- “Autumn Closing In: Bob Seger’s Classic Rock as Cultural Memory,” FWPCA, Las Vegas, 2014
- “The Postapocalyptic Hero: Attending (to) Class in Jack London’s *The Scarlet Plague*,” ACLA, Toronto, 2013
- “The Death of the Narrator: Darwin’s Denial of Teleology and the Road to Realism,” SLSA, Milwaukee, 2012
- “Uncanny Historicism: Thoreau’s Strange New World,” Futures of American Studies Institute, Dartmouth College, 2012

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Formal Teaching Assignments

Graduate Seminars

- ENG 787: Studies in Comparative Literature: “The Nineteenth-Century Female Bildungsroman” (Spring 2024)
ENG 760: Studies in Literary Genres: “Apocalypse in American Literature” (Spring 2022)
ENG 760: Studies in Literary Genres: “19th-Century American Nonfiction Prose” (Fall 2017)
ENG 743: Studies in Later American Lit: “American Literary Realism” (Fall 2014, Fall 2024)
ENG 742: Studies in Early American Literature: “The Early American Novel” (Fall 2019)
ENG 700: Bibliography and Methods (Fall 2018, Fall 2023)

Undergraduate Courses

- ENG 495A / AAS 491: Early African American Literature: “African American Fiction, 1850–1920” (Spring 2025)
ENG 473A: Early American Novel: “*Moby-Dick* and Friends” (Spring 2015, Spring 2018)
ENG 452B: American Literature, 1800–1865: “The Transcendentalists” (Fall 2015, Spring 2021)
ENG 452A: American Literature, 1620–1800: “The American Enlightenment” (Spring 2017)
ENG 451B: American Literature II (survey), 1865–Present (Spring 2014)
ENG 451A: American Literature I (survey), Beginnings–1865 (17 sections, 2013–2024)
ENG 429C: Literature of the American West: “Nineteenth-Century Frontier Travel Narratives” (Spring 2016)
ENG 422A / GWK 300: Topics in Literary Theory: “The Enlightenment” (Spring 2019)
ENG 303: Introduction to Literary Theory and Criticism (3 sections, 2014–2018)
ENG 298: Writing about Literature (Summer 2017, Spring 2021)
ENG 231: World Literature I (Fall 2021)
GWK 100: Introduction to Great Works of Philosophy and Literature (Fall 2022)
HON 410: The Darwinian Revolution (Fall 2019, Spring 2023)

Informal Teaching Assignments

- ENG 796: Independent Study: “African American Fiction, 1850–1920” (Fall 2018, with Tajanae Barnes); “American Gothic” (Spring 2019, with Carly Hunter); “Eighteenth-Century American Women Writers” (Fall 2020, with Alexis Brooks); “Rebecca Harding Davis” (Fall 2021, with Nanette Hilton); “Imagining Utopia” (Spring 2022, with Clement Gelly); “The Salem Witch Trials” (Fall 2022, with Madison Kooba); “Edgar Allan Poe” (Spring 2024, with James Gordon); “Female Bildungsroman” (Summer 2024, with Elysha O’Brien); “Late Henry James” (Fall 2024, with Michael Fonash); “The Great American Novel” (Fall 2024, with Annie Livingston)
ENG 499: Independent Study: “American Writers on Writing” (Fall 2014, with Matt Hernandez); “Henry James” (Spring 2015, with Willie Sosa); “Nathaniel Hawthorne” (Spring 2016, with Justine Levy); “Robert Lowell and Confessional Poetry” (Fall 2017, with Jeremy Freeman); “Thomas Pynchon” (Spring 2018, with Lucas Thomas); “Mark Twain” (Summer 2019, with Michael Wanek)

Graduate Student Advising

PhD Dissertation Director: Nanette Hilton (2023); Leah Olson, Michael Fonash

PhD Committee Member: Erika Hylton (2019); Joe Milan (2020); David Mowatt (2020); Peter Steffensen (2020); Tajanae Barnes (2021); Carly Hunter (2021); Jesse Cook (2024); Carlos Tkacz; Shannon Salter; Matthew Dentice; Heather Peterson

MFA Thesis Committee: Clement Gelly (2024); Annie Livingston (2025); Clarice Cuda (Art Department)

MA Thesis Advisor: Jesse Cook (Spring 2016) [winner of the UNLV Outstanding Thesis Award]; Willie Sosa (Fall 2020); Madison Kooba (Spring 2023); Madison Browne (2024) [Winner of the UNLV Outstanding Thesis Award]; Mauricio Ortiz Zaragoza (2024)

MA Thesis Committee Member: Tamar Peterson (Spring 2020); Jeremy Freeman (Spring 2021); Renee Maalouf (Spring 2021); Alex Valle (Summer 2021); Alexis Brooks (Fall 2022); Evelyn Alegria; Elysha O'Brien

MA Exams Committee Member: Paul Tatum (Spring 2017); Cade Hagen (Spring 2018); Krystal Litt (Fall 2019); Kevin Blume (Spring 2022); Kevin Boyle (Spring 2022); Sara Tausendfreund (Spring 2022); Elizabeth Isaac (Fall 2022); Steve Hayes (Spring 2023); Rhianon Waters (Spring 2025); Faisal Osman; Kyle Dwyer

Columbia University

ENGL W3711: American Literature Seminar: "The American School of Catastrophe, 1820–1850" (Spring 2013)

AMST W3920: American Studies Senior Project Colloquium (Fall 2012)

ENGL C1011: University Writing: Readings in American Studies (Fall 2012)

ENGL C1010: University Writing (three semesters, 2009–2011)

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Professional Organizations

Member, Advisory Board, Jack London Society, 2018–present

Member, Membership Committee, C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, 2024–present

Member-at-Large, Executive Board, Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts, 2017–2019

Site Coordinator, Jack London Society, 14th Biennial Symposium, UNLV, 2018

Editorial and Review Activities

Panelist, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowships Program, 2023

Academic Advisor:

Broadview Anthology of American Literature, 2020

Poetry Criticism (Gale/Cengage), 2018

Book Manuscript Reviewer:

Cambridge University Press, 2023, 2024

University of Massachusetts Press, 2023

Lexington Books, 2022

Article Referee:

J19, 2024

Studies in American Naturalism, 2021, 2022

Arizona Quarterly, 2021

American Art, 2021

Texas Studies in Literature and Language, 2021

ESQ: A Journal of Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Culture, 2020

Studies in American Fiction, 2017

Utopian Studies, 2016

ANQ: A Quarterly Journal of Short Articles, Notes, and Reviews, 2016

Age, Culture, Humanities: An Interdisciplinary Journal, 2016

Entry Reviewer: *World Book Encyclopedia*, 2018

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Director of Graduate Studies, English Department, 2022–2024

Director, Great Works Academic Certificate Program, 2018–2019

Chair, English Department Bylaws Committee, 2020–2022, 2025–present

Chair, English Department Graduate Studies Committee, 2022–2024

Chair, English Department Research Resources Committee, 2014–2016, 2017–2018

Member, University Barrick Scholar Award Committee, 2023–2024

Member, College of Liberal Arts Forum Lecture Series Committee, 2022–present

Member, College of Liberal Arts William Morris Award Committee, 2019–2022

Member, College of Liberal Arts Bylaws Committee, 2020–2022

Member, College of Liberal Arts Grant Coordinator Search Committee, 2021

Member, Graduate College Graduate Course Review Committee, 2024–present

Member, Graduate College Graduate Awards Committee, 2023–2024

Member, Graduate College Graduate Program Review Committee, 2022–2023

Member, Great Works Program Committee, 2014–present

Member, Great Works Program Postdoc in Political Science Search Committee, 2021–2022

Member, Great Works Program Postdoc in English Search Committee, 2021

Member, Americanist Colloquium, 2014–present

Member, Honors College Faculty Peer Review Committee, 2021

Member, English Department Advisory Committee, 2017–2019, 2020–present

Member, English Department Literary Nonfiction Search Committee, 2022–2023

Member, English Department Research Resources Committee, 2014–2019

Member, English Department Bylaws Committee, 2014–2015, 2019

Member, English Department Early Modern Literature Search Committee, 2018–2019

Member, English Department Native American Literature Search Committee, 2017–2018

Member, English Department Literary Nonfiction Search Committee, 2016–2017

Member, English Department Undergraduate Committee, 2013–2016

Faculty Marshal, University Commencement, Fall 2015, Spring 2017

Article Referee, *Spectra* (UNLV undergraduate research journal), 2025

Columbia University

Editorial Advisory Board, *The Morningside Review* (undergraduate writing journal), 2013

Coordinator, Americanist Colloquium, 2012–2013

Advisor, American Studies Program, 2009–2013

Member, English Department Graduate Student Council, 2009–2011

Consultant, University Writing Center, 2010

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Modern Language Association (MLA)
C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists (C19)
The Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA)
Jack London Society
Margaret Fuller Society
Ralph Waldo Emerson Society
The Thoreau Society

PUBLICITY

Annie Nova, “[How Doomsday Preppers Made Gold and Silver Precious End-of-the-World Assets](#),” *CNBC.com* (March 14, 2024)
Kim Golubev, [Episode #4](#) of *Post-Podcast* (November 29, 2023)
Matt Seybold, “[Politics & The Paracademy](#),” Episode #8 of *Criticism LTD*, Season Eight of *The American Vandal Podcast* (September 23, 2023)
Scott Dickensheets, “[End Times: Everything Falls Apart](#),” *Desert Companion* 15.10 (October 2017): 14–15