

## Mark S. Ferrara

Department of English, State University of New York  
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### Education:

Ph.D. English (Literary Studies), University of Denver, May 2004  
Dissertation: *Religion and Literary Utopianism*

M.A. English (Literature), Virginia Commonwealth University, May 1995  
Thesis: *The Four-fold Man and Divine Vision in the Prophetic Poems of William Blake*

B.G.S. General Studies, Virginia Commonwealth University, May 1992  
Academic Coursework: "Philosophic and Religious Dimensions in Literature"

### Academic Appointments:

Professor, Department of English  
State University of New York at Oneonta, 2023-present  
(Assistant Professor 2007-2013, Associate Professor 2013-2023)

*Courses taught:*

Composition (COMP 1000)  
Themes in Literature (LITR 1000)  
Introduction to Creative Writing (COMP 2050)  
Introduction Literary Studies (LITR 1050)  
World Literature: Ancient to Medieval (WLIT 2000)  
World Literature: Renaissance to 18<sup>th</sup> Century (WLIT 2001)  
World Novels (WLIT 2015)  
Literatures of the Middle East (WLIT 3041)  
Contemporary Literature (LITR 3044)  
The Bible as Literature (WLIT 3060)  
The Chinese Novel (WLIT 3081)  
Creative Nonfiction Workshop (COMP 3075)  
Writing About Literature (COMP 2045)  
SpTp: Don DeLillo (ALIT 2094)  
SpTp: Blake and the Romantics (ELIT 2094)  
SpTp: Major Author, Orhan Pamuk (WLIT 4094)  
Ancient Religious Writings (WLIT 3015)  
Capstone in English (COMP 4098)

Assistant Professor, Department of English  
Director, Chinese Cultural Exchange Program  
Drake University, August 2004-July 2007

*Courses taught:*

First-Year Seminar: Religion in World Literature (FYS 009)  
Literature and Culture (ENG 20)  
Genre: Utopian Literature (ENG 30)  
Introduction to Linguistics (ENG 80)  
Teaching English as a Second Language (ENG 105)  
Physics and Eastern Thought (HONR 113, co-taught with a colleague in physics)  
*Chinese Cultural Exchange Program:*  
Placed 62 Drake graduates in teaching positions in China, coordinated 18 faculty exchanges, and organized community-based cultural events in Des Moines

Graduate Teaching Fellow, Department of English  
University of Denver, September 1999-July 2004

*Courses taught:*

Critical Reading and Writing (ENG 1111)  
Argument and Research (ENG 1122)  
Reading and Writing about Literature (ENG 1133)  
Everywhere and Nowhere: Explorations in Utopian Literature (ENG 1622)  
Wandering Spirit: Philosophical and Religious Dimensions in Literature (ENG 1622)  
Business Technical Writing (ENGL 2021)

Fulbright Teaching Assistant, Department of International Relations  
Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey, 2001-2002

*Courses taught:*

Communication in International Relations (IR 221 and IR 222)

Lecturer, College Writing Programs

University of California at Berkeley, Summer ESL Program, 2000

*Courses taught:*

English for Specific Purposes: Academic Listening  
English as a Second Language 8

Visiting Professor, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures  
Fudan University, Shanghai, China. February 1998-June 1999

*Courses taught:* undergraduate composition, American Literature

Instructor, Department of English Language and Literature

Kyungnam University, Masan, South Korea. February 1996-February 1998

*Courses taught:* freshman English, undergraduate composition

Publications:

*Books:*

*The Raging Erie: Life and Labor along the Erie Canal*  
New York: Columbia University Press, 2024.

*Living the Food-Allergic Life*  
Jefferson, NC: Toplight Books, 2023.

*American Community: Radical Experiments in Intentional Living.*  
New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2020.

*New Seeds of Profit: Business Heroes, Corporate Villains, and the Future of American Capitalism.*  
Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2019.

*Sacred Bliss: A Spiritual History of Cannabis.*  
Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2016 (paperback edition 2018).

*Palace of Ashes: China and the Decline of American Higher Education.*  
Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2015.

*Barack Obama and the Rhetoric of Hope.* Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2013.

Zhou, Ruchang. *Between Noble and Humble: Cao Xueqin and Dream of the Red Chamber.*  
Eds. Ronald Gray and Mark Ferrara. Asian Thought and Culture Series, number 62.  
New York: Peter Lang, 2009.

*Book Chapters:*

“Engineering Imagined Futures: Community Building along the Erie Canal”  
*Rethinking Democracy for Post-Utopian Worlds: Alternative Political Projects After the Sovereign State*, Ed. Julia Urabayen and Jorge León Casero, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, (2024), 299–311.

“Religion and the Mental Utopia in Literature”  
*Individual and Utopia: A Multidisciplinary Study of Humanity and Perfection*, Ed. Clint Jones and Cameron Ellis, New York: Ashgate (2015), 315-330.

*Refereed Articles:*

“On Greensickness Peak: Ghosts, Spirits, and the Supernatural Realm in Cao Xueqin’s *Dream of the Red Chamber*,” *Chinese Literature: Essays, Articles, Reviews* 45 (2023), 79-100. University of Wisconsin–Madison.

“The Banality of Power in the Postcolony: Grifters, Tricksters, and Charlatans in Wole Soyinka’s *Jero Plays*,” *Partial Answers: Journal of Literature and the History of Ideas* 21.2 (2023), 257-277. Johns Hopkins University Press.

“The Lone Hut: Migration, Identity, and Twinship in Soyinka’s *The Swamp Dwellers*”  
*Partial Answers: Journal of Literature and the History of Ideas* 19.1 (2021), 61-76.  
Johns Hopkins University Press.

“Peak-experience and the Entheogenic Use of Cannabis in World Religions”  
*Journal of Psychedelic Studies* 4.2 (2021), 2-13. Akadémiai Kiadó.

“(Re)Reading, Reflexivity, and Peak-experiences in Cao Xueqin’s *Honglou meng*”  
*Literature & Theology: An International Journal of Religion, Theory, and Culture* 31.2 (2018),  
87-99. Oxford University Press.

“Bao-yu and the Second Self: Pairing, Mirroring and Utopia in *Honglou meng*”  
*Interdisciplinary Literary Studies: A Journal of Criticism and Theory* 17.2 (2015), 371-395.  
Pennsylvania State University Press.

“‘Rustic Fiction Indeed!’: Jia Yu-cun and *Dream of the Red Chamber*”  
*New Zealand Journal of Asian Studies* 13.1 (2011), 87-99. New Zealand Asian Studies  
Society.

“Blake’s *Jerusalem* as Perennial Utopia”  
*Utopian Studies* 22.1 (2011), 19-33. Pennsylvania State University Press.

“Patterns of Fate in *Dream of the Red Chamber*”  
*Interdisciplinary Literary Studies: A Journal of Criticism and Theory* 11.1 (2009), 12-31.  
Pennsylvania State University Press.

Bao, Liangmei and Mark S. Ferrara, “Infusing Internationalization Across the  
University: A Case Study of a Successful Multicultural Project”  
*International Journal of Multicultural Education* 11.1 (2009), 1-10. Yonsei University  
Institute for Educational Research.

“A Religion of Solidarity: *Looking Backward* as a Rational Utopia”  
*Renascence: Essays on Values in Literature* 59.2 (2007), 83-91. Marquette University  
Press.

“Utopia, Desire, and Enlightenment in *Honglou meng*”  
*Mosaic: An Interdisciplinary Critical Journal* 38.4 (2005), 191-204.  
Johns Hopkins University Press.

“Emptying Emptiness: Kongkong Daoren in *Honglou meng*”  
*Tamkang Review: A Quarterly of Comparative Studies of Chinese and Foreign Literatures* 36.1-2  
(2005), 105-116. Tamkang University Publications.

“Ch’an Buddhism and the Prophetic Poems of William Blake”  
*Journal of Chinese Philosophy* 24.1 (1997), 59-73. University of Hawaii Manoa and Wiley.

*Solicited Articles:*

“Utopian / Dystopian Fiction”  
*Blackwell Encyclopedia of Twentieth Century American Fiction*, Blackwell, 2011.

“The Reign of Xiaozong: 1488-1505.”  
*Great Events from History: 1454-1600* Salem Press, 2005.

“The Reign of Shizong: 1521-1567.”  
*Great Events from History: 1454-1600* Salem Press, 2005.

*Essays:*

“What has Really Changed: Reflections on September 11th.”  
*Utopus Discovered* Spring 2002: 10-11.

*Book Reviews:*

“Assignment at Vanishing Point: Jane Satterfield”  
*Double Room: A Journal of Flash Fiction and Prose Poetry* 4 (Spring-Summer 2004)

Conference Papers:

“Green Consciousness: Contemplative Practices and Expressions of Eco-Spirituality at EcoVillage Ithaca”  
Ecological Spiritualities Conference, Harvard Divinity School, April 2022

“Mulberry Family Commune: Creating Inclusive Community in the American South”  
Triennial Conference of the International Communal Studies Association, Camphill Communities in Hudson, New York, July 2019

"Serpents in the Mire: Migration, Acculturation, and Identity in Wole Soyinka's *The Swamp Dwellers*"  
International Conference of the World Confederation of Institutes and Libraries for Chinese Overseas Studies, Cornell University, New York, September 2018

“The University as Heterotopia”  
Society of Utopian Studies, Charleston, South Carolina, November 2013

"Distinguishing Truth and Fiction: Jia Bao-yu and Zhen Bao-yu in *Dream of the Red Chamber*"  
Society of Utopian Studies, Toronto, Canada, October 2012

“Barack Obama’s Prophetic Persona”  
Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association, Boston, April 2012

“Race, Gender, and Ethnicity in Obama’s Vision of Globalization”  
Visions and Perspectives: Global Studies in the 21st Century. Nanjing, China, 2011

“Teaching Philosophy in *Story of the Stone*”  
Northeast Modern Language Association, Montreal, Canada, April 2010

“SINO-US Exchanges: A Case Study of Drake University’s Chinese Cultural Exchange Program” Hawaii International Conference on Education, Honolulu, January 2008

“The Superman and Ivan-the-Fool: Contrasting the American and Russian Literary Hero” (with Nikolai Pavlyuk, Plekhanov Russian Academy, Moscow)  
Annual Colloquium in Comparative Literature, University of Denver, May 2001

“Blake’s Critique of Miltonic Reason in Paradise Lost”  
South Central Renaissance Conference, Texas A&M University, April 2001

### Presentations (selected):

“Untold Stories of the Erie Canal” (August 2024)  
Waterford Historical Museum and Cultural Center, New York

“Interdisciplinary Approaches to Cannabis Studies,” Panelist (October 2023)  
University of Connecticut, Individualized and Interdisciplinary Studies Program

“Contingent Academic Organizing,” Panelist (April 2022)  
United University Professions, New York

“Experimenting with Intentional Living in New York State” (November 2021)  
Friends of the Village Library of Cooperstown, New York

“Global Convergence and the Decline of American Higher Education” (March 2015)  
University of California at Berkeley, Humanities and Social Sciences Association

“Interpreting William Blake’s *Marriage of Heaven and Hell*” (May 2011)  
Fudan University, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, China  
Nanjing University, School of International Studies, China

“Global Issues in Higher Education: China,” Dialogue Leader (September 2006)  
Excellence in Learning and Development Program, Drake University

“Western Perceptions of *Honglounmeng*” (June 2005)  
Department of English, Beijing Languages and Cultures University

“Grants and Funding for Scholars and Creative Writers,” Panel Member (May 2003)  
Graduate Student Association, University of Denver

“China: History and Culture” (May 2002), Foreign Policy and International Relations  
Association, Middle East Technical University, Turkey

“Communicating Across Cultures,” Panel Member (March 2000)  
International Living and Learning Program, University of Denver

“Introduction to Modernist Poetry” (May 1999)  
Foreign Languages and Literatures Student Association, Fudan University, China

“William Blake: Poet and Painter” (October 1996)  
School of Humanities Lecture Series: Kyungnam University, South Korea

### Media Articles and Interviews:

“Amid the Isolation of New Motherhood, I found Solace in the Communes of TikTok”

*Fast Company*, May 6, 2022

“Dr. Mark Ferrara on the Peak Experiences of Cannabis and Spirituality”

*The Lex Files Podcast*, Episode 14, Sep 7, 2020

“The Chinese Threat to American Higher Education,”

*History News Network* (George Washington University), May 26, 2019

“留学生成“摇钱树” 学者：别再迷信美国大学”

*Ta Kung Pao* (大公报), May 30, 2016

“Which Country Has Better High Ed System—China or the USA?”

*History News Network* (George Washington University), May 17, 2016

“The Right Lessons”

*China Daily*, March 9, 2016

“Author Discusses New Book Arguing that China's Universities are Rising While America's are in Decline” *Inside Higher Ed*, November 12, 2015

“Pride of Place” *China Daily US Edition*, May 13, 2014

“Secrets of Red Mansions” *China Daily*, December 22, 2009

### Editorial Positions and Freelance Editing:

Guest Editor, *Tamkang Review* Double Issue: *Honglou meng*, Winter 2005.

Consulting Editor, *Academic Exchange Quarterly*, May 2002-June 2003.

Copy Editor, M. Fatih Tayfur. *Semiperipheral Development and Foreign Policy: The Cases of Greece and Spain*. Hampshire: Ashgate Publishers, 2003.

Copy Editor, Imoto, Chosuke. *Mumon-Kan (Zen Barrier Without a Gate)*. Akine Minami-Machi: Japan, 1997.

### Ad Hoc Reviewer:

*PLMA (Publications of the Modern Language Association)*

*Interdisciplinary Literary Studies: A Journal of Criticism and Theory*

*Canadian Review of Comparative Literature*

*Journal of Psychedelic Studies*

### College and Professional Service:

Vice President for Academics, Oneonta UUP Chapter (2021 to Present)

Chief Negotiator, Oneonta UUP Chapter (2018-Present)

Member, Oneonta UUP Executive Board (2014-Present)

Member, Statewide UUP Contingent Employees Committee (2015-2023)

Alden Scholar Series Committee, Milne Library (2022-2023)

Member, Ad-Hoc English Department Program Committee (2020-2021)

Contingent Concerns Officer, Oneonta UUP  
SUNY Oneonta (2015-2019)

Member, English Department Professional Committee (2017-2019)

Founding Member, Ancient Studies Group  
SUNY Oneonta (2009-2016)

Membership Director, Oneonta UUP  
SUNY Oneonta (2014-2015)

Member, College Best and Brightest Committee  
SUNY Oneonta (2011-2014)

Member, English Graduate Committee  
SUNY Oneonta (2010-2013)

Member, Global Connectedness Committee  
SUNY Oneonta (2011-2013)

Library Liaison, College Library Committee  
SUNY Oneonta (2009-2013, 2023-present)



Member, College Library Allocations Sub-committee  
SUNY Oneonta (2011-2013)

Member, English Curriculum Committee  
SUNY Oneonta (2010-2011 and 2020-2021)

Member and Chair, English Technology Committee  
SUNY Oneonta (2009-2011)

Member, Classicist Search Committee, Department of English  
SUNY Oneonta (October 2010-March 2011)

Coordinator, English Honors Program  
SUNY Oneonta (August 2008-August 2010)

Member, English Department Instruction Committee  
SUNY Oneonta (2008-2009, 2022-Present)

Senator, College Senate  
SUNY Oneonta (2008-2009)

Member, Coordinating Council on International Initiatives  
Drake University (August 2005-July 2007).

Member, Center for Global Citizenship Campus Advisory Board  
Drake University (March 2005 to July 2007)

Member, Search Committee, Department of Philosophy and Religion  
Drake University (November 2004-February 2005)

Alumni Facilitator, Fulbright Enrichment Seminar, Denver, CO  
(February 27-March 3, 2003)

### Awards and Honors:

Visiting Scholar, Department of English,  
University of California at Berkeley (Spring 2015)

Fulbright Fellowship, Middle East Technical University,  
Ankara, Turkey (2001-2002)

Graduate Teaching Fellowship, University of Denver (1999-2004)