

REvisions:

UNH English Department Newsletter

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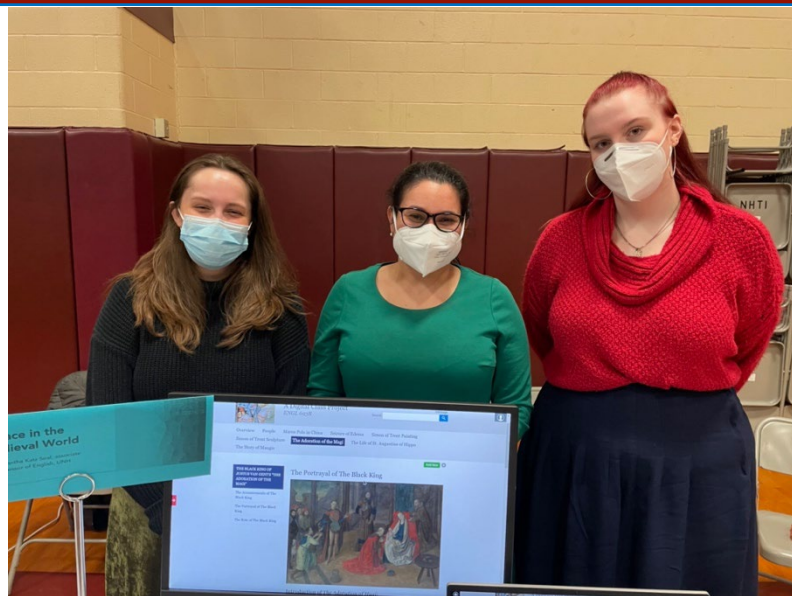
Spring 2022

Students Present Research at “We Hold These Truths” Event

Students in Samantha Seal’s and Krista Jackman’s spring classes shared their original research at the New Hampshire Humanities Collaborative event in Concord

Seal’s and Jackman’s students presented original research at the New Hampshire Humanities Collaborative event on April 8 at NHTI–Concord’s Community College in Concord.

Students’ work was the culmination of a semester in which Professors Samantha Seal and Krista Jackman were awarded “We Hold These Truths Awards” as part of UNH’s Global Racial and Social Inequality Lab (GRSIL) for student research around the award theme. The award, according to the [GRSIL website](#), “promote[s] the exploration of the essential commitment expressed in the [Declaration of Independence](#): ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by



Green, Seal, and Peterson present
“Race in the Medieval World: A Digital Class Project”
Photo by Laura Smith

their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Professor Seal’s students in English 693B: Race in the Middle Ages collaborated on a website, [Race in the Medieval World: A Digital Class Project](#). Several students from the class presented at the event, including Kami Peterson and Corilie Green. They shared their work, “The Black King of Justus van Gent’s ‘The Adoration of the Magi,’” in which they analyze art and literature to consider the intersection of race and religion in the medieval world. They displayed their webpage on large monitors and talked to attendees about their work.

Across the exhibit space, Professor Krista Jackman’s English 401: First-Year Writing students, Sarah Grace Barba and Joshua Hidalgo, discussed their work, projecting websites of resources related to their research topics.

Joshua Hidalgo’s website of his research project describes the debate around gene editing. Hidalgo, a Business Administration: Accounting major, was inspired



Barba, Jackman, and Hidalgo share research
from English 401: First-Year Writing
Photo by Lindsay Hobbs, courtesy of Krista Jackman

by a dystopian science fiction film he had seen in high school, *Gattaca* (1997), and had thought about ever since.

“Gene editing is normalized” in the movie, Hidalgo said, raising important bioethical questions. “It’s still a controversial topic, and even more relevant now than it was then,” Hidalgo explained. In his research, Hidalgo described the technology and key arguments around the topic.

Classics major Sarah Grace Barba conducted her research on discrimination against the Asian American Pacific Islander community, projecting her website onto a screen to point to a timeline of legislation as well as images of propaganda from World War II and cartoons from the coronavirus pandemic.

“I learned a lot about the historical aspects of Asian discrimination and what’s currently happening. It’s

history repeating itself in a sense,” Barba said. To convey the results of her research, Barba spent time researching a variety of sources, from historic images to video and cartoons. “Finding the right images to convey what I wanted to say was crucial,” she explained.

“In nearly every [writing] conference I’ve held with students recently, [students have] made comments about how they can ‘see their research’ in their minds as they’re drafting their alphabetic argument essays...that the visual aspect of their multimodal compositions has really helped them to understand how their research ‘fits together,’” Jackman said. “In my opinion, digital technology has become a central aspect of higher education, inherently affecting so many aspects of a student experience and many times, their engagement as well.”

Creating a Curriculum: Conversational English Instructor Keelan MacKenzie Shares Insights with Members of “ESL Curriculum, Materials and Assessment”

“Do you know the levels of proficiency of the [English language learning] students before the class begins? And if everyone is at different levels, how do you accommodate the lessons so that it is supporting everyone?” wondered members of English 716/816: ESL Curriculum, Materials, and Assessment before their visit with guest speaker Keelan MacKenzie.

MacKenzie (UNH ’21), a graduate student pursuing his MA in Spanish, this past fall taught a seven-week conversational English class for English language learners on UNH’s housekeeping staff. He spoke with Professor Soo Kim’s English 716/816 on Thursday, Feb. 17 to describe the mission of the conversational English class as well the considerations in creating a curriculum for his students.

MacKenzie met with housekeeping supervisors to learn about the group, whose members had different levels of English language proficiency. To meet their varied needs and interests, he worked to find “‘real world’ examples” for use in the class and enacted Merrill Swain’s “output hypothesis” of language learning, which emphasizes the importance of speaking and writing to language learning. MacKenzie’s talk and Powerpoint presentation also included examples of conversational activities, such as a scavenger hunt, designed with his students in mind.



Keelan MacKenzie presents “Creating a Curriculum” to English 716/816: ESL Curriculum, Materials, and Assessment
Image courtesy of Soo Kim

“As my class had been exploring the steps involved in doing environment and needs analyses for ESL curriculum development, I thought it would be a good idea to have them hear from Keelan who had gone through a similar process in order to implement the ESL curriculum he had designed,” Professor Kim explained via email. She learned about MacKenzie’s work through the COLA Dean’s Office as well as a *UNH Today* article, “[Many Thanks for Your Words](#),” and “reached out [...] to see if he’d be open to sharing his experience” with members of English 716/816, which prepares pre-service English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers.

“Students enrolled in this course usually share a common interest in language learning and teaching but

often have a variety of situations they're preparing for (e.g., teaching EFL abroad in countries like Spain or Japan, teaching ESL in K-12 schools)," Professor Kim explained. "With this variation in mind, the course is designed to provide insight into the process of second language acquisition along with an introduction to the approaches/methods that are used to teach languages in various circumstances. We work on curriculum design, lesson planning, task sequencing, and assessment throughout the semester."

MacKenzie welcomed questions from members of the class, who are thinking about putting their own ESL studies into practice. "Do you think an ESOL teacher should be able to speak their students' L1 [first language]? What do you find to be the pros and cons?" and "What is your #1 tip when it comes to teaching English language learners?" students asked.

Afterward, Elementary Education graduate student Grace Morelli noted, "I think something that really resonated with me was how Keelan uses real-world examples and samples for activities with the students."

"He centered the course on what the students asked to learn about, and I think that is a good way to make sure the students are getting the most from the course," said MFA student Sebs Corrigan.

Professor Kim hopes members of English 716/816 will be able to visit MacKenzie's class when it's offered again this spring.

Interested in Teaching English as a Second Language? Learn about fall 2022 courses:

English 715/815: Teaching English as a Second Language: Theory and Methods

English 791/891: English Grammar

Soundbites & Snapshots from Hamilton Smith: In the Linguistics Lab



Linguistics majors Brenda Mendoza and Mia Paveglio work with language consultant Jarin Tasmin, UNH Paul College, in the new Linguistics lab in Hamilton Smith's first floor office suite.

(Image courtesy of Rachel Burdin)

Members of Professor Rachel Burdin's English 779/879: Linguistic Field Methods use the lab to record language samples as part of their work to study a language that's unfamiliar to them. Students speak with a language consultant to analyze the language's grammar, including its syntax (sentence structure), phonology (sound structure), and lexicon. This spring, students are analyzing Bengali, an Indo-Aryan language spoken in Bangladesh and India, as well as throughout the world in diaspora communities.

This past fall, students in English 793/893: Phonetics and Phonology used the space to record

themselves speaking to create diagrams of their vowels spaces. The space also hosts participant interviews conducted by students in this spring's English 719/819: Sociolinguistics Survey for their final projects.

The lab, with its acoustic wall paneling and recording equipment, allows Linguistics students and faculty to make high-quality recordings. The lab was made possible thanks to English Department gift funds and established through the work of Professor Rachel Burdin and English Department Administrative Assistant Jen Dube.

Interested in Linguistics? Check out the fall course offerings:

English 405: Introduction to Linguistics

English 605: Intermediate Linguistics

English 718/818: Morphology

English 728/828: Language and Gender

English 793/893: Phonetics and Phonology

Write your own story:

Join the UNH English major



“Begin in story and end with the truths science generates”:

Shetty Publishes Chapter on Physician-Writer Mukherjee

Professor Sandhya Shetty recently published "Tending and Extending: The Long and Short of Siddhartha Mukherjee" as a chapter in [*Contemporary Physician-Authors: Exploring the Insights of Doctors Who Write*](#), edited by Nathan Carlin (November 2021).

Shetty's essay describes Pulitzer Prize-winning physician-writer Siddhartha Mukherjee, the author of many well-known books, including *The Emperor of Maladies: A Biography of Cancer* (for which he won a Pulitzer) and *The Gene: An Intimate History*. Filmmaker Ken Burns directed documentary series based on both books for PBS.

Professor Shetty's work also contributes to UNH's Medical Humanities, Society and Ethics minor.

Read the abstract of “Tending and Extending: The Long and Short of Siddhartha Mukherjee”:

To follow Siddhartha Mukherjee's arc as a writer is to pass beyond oncology clinic and laboratory onto the varied terrain of (very) long books and short essays that begin in story and end with the truths science generates. Along the way, history of medicine, biography, family genealogy, and literature complicate and invigorate science writing. Highlighting cultural and historical dimensions of Mukherjee's *oeuvre*, the chapter also foregrounds his often-venturesome decisions around form and composition, as in *The Gene* where the evolution of genetic science is traced in a novelistic mode of narration. As doctor and scientist, Mukherjee displays a craftsman's sense of the heft and tint of words, especially those (such as "tenderness" or "aesthetics" or "beauty") he recruits to leverage thinking between (and about) medicine and literature. Such gardener-like tending to key words and reflectiveness about the function of writing in our time produces prose which, for all its 'literariness,' stays close to its medico-biological home. In Mukherjee's best writing, several disciplinary languages (genetics, history, medicine, and literature) successfully modulate into mutually intelligible dialects that explicate scientific arcana in ways that refresh our everyday modes of knowing and responding to the human condition.

Learn more about the Medical Humanities, Society and Ethics minor here:

<https://cola.unh.edu/interdisciplinary-studies/program/minor/medical-humanities-society-ethics>

NH Literacy Institutes



Registration for our summer courses and non-credit workshops now open!

Come join us for the chance to work with our wonderful faculty, the camaraderie, the support, the laughter, and the sense of UNH literacy history.



*Building Community Through
Writing, Teaching, and Learning*
cola.unh.edu/nhliteracy



University of
New Hampshire

Learn more about UNH English Department's SUMMER course offerings!

English 401: First-Year Writing
English 502: Professional and
Technical Writing
English 565: Literary Dublin: Short-
Term Study Abroad
English 720: Journalism Internship

as well as the

[New Hampshire Literacy Institutes](#)

And see UNH English's course offerings for FALL 2022:

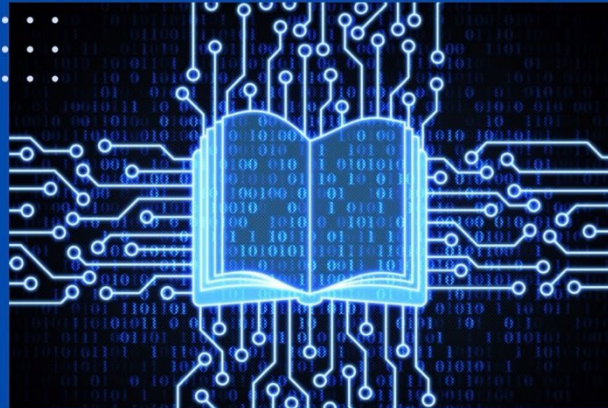


Write your own story:
Join the UNH English major



DIGITAL HUMANITIES

Fall 2022
ENGL 510



Melinda White
TR 3:40-5 | HS 105

Digital methods can greatly intensify our understanding of literary works, non-fiction writing, film and many other modes of expression in the humanities.