

Curriculum Vitae

Sara Whitestone

Lecturer in English

John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York

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Education

Degrees

B.S. in Elementary Education, San Diego Christian College, 1986

M.Ed. in English, Tulane University, 1989

Continuing education

Johns Hopkins Conference on Craft, 2012

Chautauqua Writers' Center, Chautauqua Institute, 2010

Baltimore Writers' Conference—Towson University, 2010

Creative Writing Nonfiction graduate course—Johns Hopkins University, 2009

Creative Writing for Children graduate course—Shenandoah University, 1994

Storytelling graduate course—Penn State University 1988

Current Professional Teaching Appointment

2013 to present: Full-time Lecturer in English, John Jay College of Criminal Justice (John Jay), a senior college of the public City University of New York (CUNY)

Teaching/Courses Taught at John Jay

Composition courses

Through a variety of delivery methods (face-to-face, online, and hybrid), I have taught all levels of Composition—English 101, English 201, and English for Academic Purposes (EAP) for ESL students.

Portfolio course for adults

This course is for adults who are returning to college after an extended absence.

Creative writing courses

Because I also write creatively myself, I have enjoyed teaching Creative Nonfiction, Expressive Writing, and Introduction to Creative Writing to John Jay students.

Children's Literature course

My background as an elementary teacher enhances my work in this Introduction to Children's Literature course, as I prepare future teachers to ignite young people with a passion for reading.

Independent studies at the 300 and 400 level

I have mentored students in long forms of creative writing, such as a poetry chapbook, a travel writing series, and a novella. I have also been a faculty advisor to students in their research of best practices for teaching those with ADHD, propaganda and its effects on the idea of the American Dream, and expressive writing and its therapeutic effects on victims of abuse.

Previous Professional Teaching Appointment

2007 to 2013: Full Time Instructor in English and ESL, Shenandoah University (SU), a private accredited university

Highlights

Online and hybrid courses for international students, teaching reading, writing, and public speaking

I was one of the first at SU to bring multi-modal delivery options to students.

Curriculum development

I developed and taught wide variety of courses for ESL students that were then paired with standard English courses.

Service at my current appointment of John Jay College

Service at the department level

Composition

I assist the John Jay College writing program by participating in outcomes assessment at least once per year. I have also worked with colleagues to ensuring English for Academic Purposes (EAP) courses are aligned with the rest of the writing program. I have provided training for writing tutors in the SEEK department (for at risk students), the EAP program, and the John Jay Writing Center. Along with these, I have also presented to English faculty at-large on the academic trajectory of ESL students. My current presentations to faculty include how to help students learn to self-evaluate and also how to teach reflective writing in English 201. For this 201 course, I developed a video series that explains to students how to write different disciplines. This [YouTube series](#) is available to all English faculty. In each semester, I have also observed the classes of adjunct and new faculty hires and then provided the mentoring and support needed to help these instructors grow as professionals.

Creative Writing

I co-authored a creative writing autobiography course, which is now being taught in our Creative Writing minor as a 300 level course titled *Autobiography: An Eye on the Self*. Collaborating with students, I have created a website for John Jay Creative Nonfiction called [JJayCreation](#). I also prepared several students in my Creative Nonfiction class to present posters of their work during John Jay's annual Research and Creativity week.

John Jay English Department Awards

I am the coordinator for the annual awards for best papers produced by students from English courses. This includes all levels of entries, from freshman composition to senior seminar.

Service at the college level

Committee work

I helped create the Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) program through policy setting and curriculum design, and I served on the John Jay Strategic Planning committee to strategize how to best prepare students for success after graduation.

Service at the university level

Committee work

For three years I represented John Jay on the CUNY-wide ESL Discipline Council committee.

Academic Publications from 2008 to Present

"Remembering the English Language Learning Trajectory of L2 Students in ENG 101," teaching article in [NYS TESOL Journal](#), Volume 3, Issue 1: ESL in Higher Education, January 2016, Online

[Read it here](#)

"Finding the Form and with it the Freedom: Creative Writing with ESL College Students," teaching article in [Humanising Language Teaching](#), October 2015, Online

[Read it here](#)

"Fearless: An Interview with Novelist Adam Berlin," in [Word Riot](#), August 2014, Online, acceptance rate 2%

[Read it here](#)

"The Graciousness of Muslim Women," an essay in the anthology *Finding the Islam of Tomorrow*, published by the CUNY Dispute Resolution Center, John Jay College, July 2014, Print

[Read it here](#)

“Freedom and Power: A Talk with Zelda Lockhart,” an interview with novelist Lockhart, [North Carolina Literary Review](#), Summer 2012, Print
[Read it here](#)

“How One Tutoring Experience Changed My Teaching,” teaching article, [Humanising Language Teaching](#), February 2012, Online
[Read it here](#)

“Fishing for Hearts,” teaching article, *Essential Teacher*, September 2008, Print
[Read it here](#)

Invited Lectures, Readings, Presentations, and Workshops from 2008 to Present

At John Jay College

Invited reading, John Jay College, September 11, 2017

I read an original prose poem at the John Jay Ceremony to remember those from the John Jay community who were lost in the 9/11 attack.

“The Trajectory of ESL Students” lecture for John Jay Faculty Development Day, August 25, 2015

I spoke to several faculty from different disciplines about how to understand ESL student growth in writing as they progress into higher levels of academics.

“Show Them How and Then Get Out of the Way” workshop on student self-evaluation for Faculty Development Day, John Jay College, January 2014

For this faculty development I spoke on why student efficacy is so important to learning.

At other institutions/venues

Invited workshops for Western Connecticut State University’s MFA program; ongoing. Most recently a reading from my novel *Wandering* and a craft talk in Dublin, Ireland, October 2022.

Invited workshop at the Chautauqua Institute, NY, June 27 to July 1, 2016

The 5-day workshop, titled *Expressive Writing: Words that Heal*, was based largely on the book of the same name by psychologist James Pennebaker and educator John Evans.

Named Guest Writer for the 2016 Johns Hopkins MA in Writing Conference on Craft in Annapolis, Maryland, June 19 to 21, 2016

I lead writing exercises for students in both conference courses, Reading the Sea and On the Bay, and I delivered a lecture titled, "An Exploration in Memory: Can We Really Write Truth?"

Invited author talk for the MA in Writing Program, Johns Hopkins Conference on Craft, Nature, Place, and Environment: Mountain Immersion in the Shenandoah National Park, Virginia, June 12, 2015

Prior to my arrival, Johns Hopkins writing students read and analyzed my [“Nature of Fear”](#) essay. When I was onsite they asked me questions they had prepared about my writing process. I then served on a panel that discussed writing and publishing and also workshopped several students’ creative works.

Invited author reading at New World Stages, New York City, November 16, 2014

I was invited by the Dramatic Adventure Theatre to read my Travel/Nature Essay, [“Patina,”](#) from the anthology, *On Foot: Grand Canyon Backpacking Stories*.

[“Creative Nonfiction Online,”](#) lecture in Dr. Michelle Brown’s Online Genres in Creative Writing course, Shenandoah University, Winchester, VA September 2014

Two workshops entitled [“Why Women Need to Write”](#) and “Why Young Women Need to Write,” Winchester, VA, June and August 2014

[“How Writing Brings Healing,”](#) lecture in Dr. Michelle Brown’s Trauma Narratives course, Shenandoah University, Winchester, VA April 2014

“Our Story: A Model of Student and Teacher Collaboration,” co-presented with international student Joaquin Gonzalez at the Southeast Teachers of English as a Second Language (TESOL) conference, September 2012

“Finding the Form and with It the Freedom,” a reading of this creative-nonfiction essay on craft at the Ohio University’s conference on Experimental Creative Writing, sponsored by the literary journal, *Quarter After Eight*, October 2010

“Piloting ESL Support Programs in the University Writing Center,” co-presented with Dr. Doug Enders at the Southeast TESOL conference, September 2008

Selected Published Creative Writing and Photography from 2008 to Present

Writer’s Biography

Sara Whitestone is a novelist-in-progress, an essayist-in-practice, and an un-tortured-poet-in-process. Whitestone has presented at New World Stages, Chautauqua, Johns Hopkins Conference on Craft, and other venues where external beauty and internal words merge. Whitestone is a contributing editor at *GFT Press*, and her works have appeared in *The Portland Review*, *Word Riot*, *Literary Traveler*, *SLAB*, *Rock and Sling*, and elsewhere. Whitestone’s current project is a fictional autobiography titled *Wandering*. To learn more

about Whitestone's inner and outer adventures, visit sarawhitestone.com and follow her on Twitter @sarawhitestone.

"Thanksgiving," creative nonfiction, *States of Mind* essay #9, in [GFT Press](#), Nov 2017, Online
[Read it here](#)

"Why Fantasy Novels Should Be on Your Reading List," invited essay in *Rock and Sling*, written with Nicolas White, Oct 2017, Online
[Read it here](#)

"Reality," prose poem presented at the 9/11 ceremony at John Jay College, City University of New York, along with Captain Michael Nigro of the FDNY, September 11, 2017
[Read the transcript here](#)

"Patina," creative nonfiction, *States of Mind* essay #8, in [GFT Press](#), Sept 2017, Online
[Read it here](#)

"Paddling the Sea," photograph in the [Tishman Review](#), July 2017, Print and E-Book
[View it here](#)

"Transitions," creative nonfiction, *States of Mind* essay #7, in [GFT Press](#), July 2017, Online
[Read it here](#)

"Released," poem in the *Along the Shore* anthology by [Lost Tower Publications](#), Spring 2017, Print and Kindle
[Read it here](#)

"Searching for Mahalo," creative nonfiction essay in [GFT Press](#), Spring 2017, Print
[Read it here](#)

"Integrity," creative nonfiction, *States of Mind* essay #6, in [GFT Press](#), May 2017, Online
[Read it here](#)

"Bare Branches," photography in [Nimrod International Journal of Prose and Poetry](#), Spring 2017 issue titled *Leaving Home, Finding Home*, Print
[View it here](#)

"Mountains and Water," creative nonfiction, *States of Mind* essay #5, in [GFT Press](#), March 2017, Online

[Read it here](#)

“The Web,” creative nonfiction essay in [Rock and Sling](#), for a special post-election edition titled *Vox*, Winter 2017, Print, acceptance rate 5.5%

[Read it here](#)

“Reaching for Beauty,” lyric essay, guest post for [Rock and Sling](#), February 2017, Online [Read it here](#)

“Snow Barn,” photography featured on the [GTF Press](#) poetry homepage, January 2017, Online

[View it here](#)

“Boats,” creative nonfiction, *States of Mind* essay #4, in [GFT Press](#), January 2017, Online

[Read it here](#)

“Fountains” creative nonfiction, *States of Mind* essay #3, in [GFT Press](#), November 2016, Online

[Read it here](#)

“The Surprise of the Unknown,” creative nonfiction essay in [GFT Press](#), Fall 2016, Print

[Read it here](#)

“Roots,” creative nonfiction, *States of Mind* essay #2, in [GFT Press](#), September 2016, Online

[Read it here](#)

"Innocence," creative nonfiction essay in [GFT Press](#), July 2016, Online

[Read it here](#)

(This is the first in the series titled *States of Mind*, to be published bi-monthly.)

"The Nature of Fear," creative nonfiction essay in [GFT Press](#), Spring 2016, Print

[Read it here](#)

(A previous version first appeared online in *Wilderness House Literary Review* in 2013.)

Preflight," flash fiction in [Riding Light](#), Spring 2016, Print and Online

[Read it here](#)

"H2O," poem in [SLAB: Sound and Literary Artbook](#), Issue 11, Spring 2016, Print

[Read it here](#)

“The Passion of Ballooning in the Blue Ridge,” cover story photo essay, in *The Piedmont Virginian*, Fall 2014, Print

[Read it here](#)

“Patina,” creative nonfiction essay in the anthology, *On Foot: Grand Canyon Backpacking Stories*, published by Vishnu Press, September 2014, Print

[Read it here](#)

“Only a Moment,” poem, in *The Voices Project*, April 2014, Online

[Read it here](#)

“The Silencer,” fiction, excerpt from novel-in-progress by same name, in *The Portland Review*, Summer 2013, Print, acceptance rate 2%

[Read it here](#)

“Honesty Laid Bare,” lyric essay, in *Prime Number Magazine*, Issue 31.2, January-March 2013, Online, acceptance rate 5%

[Read it here](#)

“Powerful Presence,” photo essay, in *Piedmont Virginian*, Spring 2013, Print

[Read it here](#)

“The Question of Pigs,” opinion essay, in *Foliate Oak Literary Magazine*, March 2013, Online

[Read it here](#)

“James Joyce and the Golden Gate of Pula,” travel essay, *Literary Traveler*, February 2013, Online

[Read it here](#)

“On Tragedy, Hope, and Love: Stories from Two Italian Castles,” travel essay, *BootsnAll*, December 2012, Online

[Read it here](#)

“Elections, Eels, Castles, and Cathedrals: On My Student’s Own Turf in Nantes, France: Part 2,” travel essay, *BootsnAll*, October 2012, Online

[Read it here](#)

“On Their Own Turf: How My Students Became My Teachers in France,” travel essay, *BootsnAll*, September 2012, Online

[Read it here](#)

“Daniel,” creative nonfiction essay about Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and AIDS, *Summerset Review*, Spring 2012, Online, acceptance rate 3%

[Read it here](#)

“Reality,” prose poem, *Chiron Review*, Spring 2011, Print

[Read it here](#)

Other Past Teaching Experience

2000 to 2007: All Ways Learning (AWL), a 501 (c) 3 non-profit educational organization

1998-2000: 2nd grade teacher Boyce Elementary, a public school in Boyce VA

1988-1998: Private Tutoring, self-employed/government contractor

1986-1988: 5th and 5th grade teacher, Mt. Nittany Christian School, a private school in State College, PA

References

Professor Livia Katz, current Director of the Writing Center, John Jay College

Email: jgates@jjay.cuny.edu

Dr. Valerie Allen, previous English Dept. Chair, John Jay College

Email: vallen@jjay.cuny.edu

Dr. Allison Pease, previous English Dept. Chair, John Jay College

Email: apeace@jjay.cuny.edu