

CURRICULUM VITAE

CURTIS GRUENLER

Hope College
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Revised September, 2015

EMPLOYMENT

Professor of English, Hope College, 1997-present.

Editor, *Comitatus: A Journal of Medieval and Renaissance Studies*, UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, volume 25 (1994).

Managing Editor, *Modern Liturgy*, Resource Publications Inc., San Jose, California, 1986–1990.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., English literature, 1998 University of California, Los Angeles.

M.A., English literature, 1993, University of California, Los Angeles.

A.B. with distinction, English literature, Stanford University, 1985 .

PUBLICATIONS AND PROJECTS

Riddles, Rhetoric, and Theology: Piers Plowman and the Medieval Poetics of Enigma, under submission at University of Notre Dame Press. The fourteenth-century allegorical dream vision *Piers Plowman* is the leading, most self-conscious example of a poetics of enigma latent in a wide range of medieval thinking about the uses of difficult language, which can in turn illuminate in medieval terms much of the era's most ambitious and enduring literature. "*Aenigma*," the usual word for riddles in medieval Latin, was also an important term in rhetoric, where it was defined as an obscure kind of allegory, and gained great theological significance through its use in a much-cited verse, 1 Corinthians 13:12, "We see now through a mirror in an enigma, then face to face" (familiar from the King James Bible's phrase "through a glass darkly"). The poetics of enigma that emerges at this intersection combines playfulness, persuasion through interpretive engagement, and a theology of participation, all of which build a bridge between medieval and modern literary thinking.

"René Girard," article for the *Encyclopedia of Psychology and Religion*, 2nd edition, ed. David A. Leeming et al. Springer, 2013.

"The Point of the Plow: Conceptual Integration in the Allegory of Langland and Voltaire," co-authored with Madeleine Kasten, *Metaphor and Symbol* 26.2 (Spring 2011): 143-151.

"C. S. Lewis and René Girard on Desire, Conversion, and Myth: The Case of *Till We Have Faces*," *Christianity and Literature* 60.2 (Winter 2011): 247-265.

"How to Read Like a Fool: Riddle Contests and the Banquet of Conscience in *Piers Plowman*," *Speculum* 85.3 (July 2010): 592-630.

"Desire, Violence, and the Passion in Fragment VII of *The Canterbury Tales*: A Girardian Reading." *Renascence: A Journal of Values in Literature* 52.1 (Fall 1999): 35-56.

"Dante's Quest for Home." *Christianity and the Arts* 7.1 (Winter 2000): 6-9.

"*Piers Plowman* and the Medieval Uses of Enigma." Ph.D. dissertation (1997).

Review of G. Ronald Murphy, SJ, *Gemstone of Paradise: The Holy Grail in Wolfram's Parzival*, in *Christianity and Literature* 58.1 (Autumn 2008): 105-107.

- Review of Eleanor Cook, *Enigmas and Riddles in Literature in Christianity and Literature*, 56.4 (Summer 2007): 694-699.
- Review of Joan M. Nuth, *God's Lovers in an Age of Anxiety: The Medieval English Mystics in Reformed Review*, Autumn 2002.
- Review of Steven Justice, *Writing and Rebellion: England in 1381* in *Comitatus: A Journal of Medieval and Renaissance Studies* 26 (1995): 118-124.
- Blog: "Writing in the Dust," <https://cgruenler.wordpress.com/>.

PAPERS PRESENTED AND INVITED ADDRESSES

- "The Poetics of Enigma and the Theology of Participation in the Fifth Vision of *Piers Plowman*," International *Piers Plowman* Society, University of Washington, July 2015.
- "Mimetic Theory Meets the Oxford Inklings: Girard, Lewis, Tolkien, Williams, and Barfield," annual meeting of the Colloquium on Violence and Religion, St. Louis University, July 2015.
- "Langland as Reformist Agent of Secularism: An Account from Girard's Mimetic Theory," International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, May 2015.
- "Eschatological Imagination and the Medieval Poetics of Participation in Langland's *Piers Plowman*," annual meeting of the Colloquium on Violence and Religion, Freising, Germany, July 2014.
- "Enigma in the Medieval Curriculum: Langland's Reading Lesson," annual meeting of the Medieval Academy of America, April 2013.
- "A Dark Speakyng': English Translations of 1 Corinthians 13:12 and What We Can See in Them," celebration of the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible, Hope College, March 2012.
- "The Tearing of the Pardon, the Tearing of the Temple Veil, and Enigmatic Authority," Fifth International *Piers Plowman* Conference, Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, April 2011.
- "Enigma as Conceptual Blend," Workshop on Cognitive Allegory, University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, June 2009.
- "C. S. Lewis and René Girard on Myth: The Case of *Till We Have Faces*," annual meeting of the C. S. Lewis and Inklings Society, Grand Rapids, March 2009.
- Joint lecture on Wendell Berry's *The Unsettling of America* with Steve Bouma-Prediger, Valparaiso University, February 26, 2009.
- Lectures on medieval mysticism for Prof. Chris Kaiser's course on the Life and Witness of the early and medieval church, Western Theological Seminary, November 2001, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010.
- "Fantasy and Violence: C. S. Lewis vs. René Girard," annual meeting of the Colloquium on Violence and Religion, Riverside, CA, June 2008
- "Making Riddles out of Scripture: The Poetics of Enigma in Langland's Commentary on First Corinthians 13," Fourth International *Piers Plowman* Conference, University of Pennsylvania, May 2007
- Three lectures on Dante's *Divine Comedy* for the Hope Academy of Senior Professionals, April 2007.
- "The Medieval Poetics of Enigma and Christian Imagination," The World and Christian Imagination, Baylor University, Nov. 2006
- "Girardian Themes in Arthurian Literature," International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, May 2006.
- "Wendell Berry, Marilynne Robinson, and the Refiguring of Reality," Festival of Faith and Writing, Calvin College, April 2006.
- "A Theology of Imagination in the Liberal Arts at Hope College," Hope College Department of Philosophy series on the Liberal Arts, Sept. 29, 2005.

- “The Tearing of the Pardon and the Poetics of *Piers Plowman*,” University of Texas at Austin, May 2005.
- Invited respondent at “Jewish and Christian Mysticism: Convergences and Divergences,” the third annual conference of the West Shore Committee for Jewish/Christian Dialogue, Nov. 2004, GVSU Grand Rapids.
- “Medieval Philology Meets Modern Linguistics in the Oxford Inklings,” 18th International Conference on Medievalism, St. Louis University, Oct. 2003.
- “The Enigmatic Mode in Pseudo-Dionysius, *The Cloud of Unknowing*, and Julian of Norwich,” 36th International Congress on Medieval Studies, WMU, May 2001.
- “The Uses of Enigma in Middle English Lyrics: From Reading Right to Making Meaning,” 35th International Congress on Medieval Studies, WMU, May 2000.
- “Culture out of Noise: *The House of Fame* and Cybernetics,” Sewanee Mediaeval Colloquium, March 2000.
- “Violence and the Passion in Chaucer and René Girard,” Arts and Humanities Colloquium Series, Hope College, February 22, 2000.
- Response to “Langland’s Syncategoremic Imagination” by Christopher Cannon, Second International *Piers Plowman* Conference, Asheville, North Carolina, July 1999.
- “Enigmatic Discourse in the Banquet Scene of *Piers Plowman*,” International Medieval Congress, Leeds, England, July 1999.
- “‘Til I have Piers the Plowman’: Langland’s Enigmatic Apocalypticism,” Sewanee Mediaeval Colloquium, March 1999.
- “Owen Barfield: Prophet of Postmodernism?” C. S. Lewis Centenary Celebration, Wheaton College, July 1998.
- “Fragment VII of Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales*, Violence, and the Theory of René Girard.” Annual meeting of the western section of the Conference on Christianity and Literature, Santa Clara University, May 1998.
- “Augustine’s Hermeneutics of Enigma and the Historical Criticism of Medieval Literature.” The annual meeting of the Medieval Association of the Pacific, Honolulu, March 1997.
- “The Poetics of Chaos: Emergent Systems in Two Medieval Allegories.” The annual conference of the Society for Literature and Science, New Orleans, Nov. 1994.

GRANTS, HONORS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Hope College Andrew W. Mellon Scholars Program Mentoring Award, 2014
- Hope College Jacob Nyenhuis summer grants for student-faculty collaborative research, 2013, 2015
- Lilly Fellows Program grant, 2011
- New Directions Initiative grant, Great Lakes Colleges Association, 2011
- Hope College CrossRoads Project summer grants for student-faculty collaborative research, 2007, 2009, 2011
- Hope College Faculty Development Grants, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2006, 2008
- Sluyter Fellowship, Hope College, 2000-1
- Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Grant, The Huntington Library, Summer 1999
- Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, 1996-7
- Lynn White, Jr., Fellowship, UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, 1996-7
- Friends of English, Daniel G. Calder Memorial Dissertation Fellowship, UCLA, 1995-6
- Collegium of University Teaching Fellows, UCLA, 1995-6

TEACHING FIELDS

- English Literature to 1800, History of the English Language, Western Culture to 1500, Christianity and Literature, Literary Theory, J. R. R. Tolkien, Composition

COURSES TAUGHT

Hope College, Department of English, 1997–present

Engl 113: Expository Writing I (topic: Technology and Society)
Engl 231: World Literature I: Ancient to Renaissance
Engl 248: Introduction to Literature
Engl 270: British Literature to 1800
Engl 371: Arthurian Literature
Engl 371: Medieval Visionary Literature
Engl 373: J. R. R. Tolkien and Medieval Literature
Engl 373: Chaucer: *The Canterbury Tales*
Engl 375: The History of the English Language
Engl 395: English Internship Practicum Seminar
Engl 480: Introduction to Literary Theory
Engl 495/Rel 369: Theology and Literary Theory in Dialogue
Engl 490: Independent studies on the essay, devotional poetry, and Chaucer's early works
IDS 100: First-Year Seminar
IDS 171: Literature, History, and Philosophy in Antiquity and the Middle Ages
IDS 402: Christianity and Literature (interdisciplinary senior seminar)

University of California, Los Angeles, Department of English, 1991–1995

Composition and Rhetoric
Critical Reading and Writing
Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales* (assistant)
English Literature 800–1660 (assistant)
English Literature 1660–1832 (assistant)
Shakespeare for non-majors (assistant)

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE (SELECTED)

Director of General Education, 2013-present
Director of Cultural Heritage Program, spring 2006 to present
Wrote and received a grant from the Lilly Fellows Network to organize a series of faculty discussions called Cultivating Hope and Other Virtues, 2011-12
Organized summer program for students and faculty doing collaborative research in the humanities and social sciences, summer 2009, 2010, and 2012-14
Faculty fellow of Center for Ministry Studies, 2012 to present
Chairperson of Administrative Affairs Board, fall 2011 to spring 2014
Member of Mellon Scholars Committee, spring 2010 to present
Member of CrossRoads Advisory Board, 2009-11
Interim co-director of CrossRoads Project, summer 2009 to summer 2010
Member of Academic Affairs Board, fall 2009 to spring 2010
Member of Assessment Committee, fall 1999 to spring 2003 (secretary 2001-3) and fall 2009 to spring 2010
Mentor in the college's program for mentoring younger faculty, 2005-6, 2008-10, 2011-present
Chairperson of Campus Life Board, fall 2004 to spring 2008
Member of Religious Life Committee, fall 2004 to spring 2008