

# Alexander J. Ashland

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Viterbo University  
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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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**Viterbo University**  
Assistant Professor of English 2021 – present

## EDUCATION

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**University of Iowa**  
PhD, English 2020

**University of Iowa**  
MA, English 2017

**Marquette University**  
MA, British and American Literature 2013

**Marquette University**  
BA, Writing-Intensive Literature and Creative Writing 2010

**University of Iowa**  
Certificate, Public Digital Humanities 2018

## AREAS OF INTEREST

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C19 and C20 U.S. literature, media and visual studies, critical memory, material textuality, print culture, health humanities, critical theory, digital humanities

## BOOKS

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*The Documentary Turn: U.S. Literature in the Age of Compromise, 1820 – 1877* (under advance contract, Louisiana State University Press)

## PUBLICATIONS

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“Navigating the Textual Currents of Reconstruction in Mark Twain’s *Life on the Mississippi*” (30 pages), *The Mark Twain Annual*, submitted for initial review

“Fugitive Pieces: Herman Melville’s Reconstructive Poetics” (35 pages), *ESQ: A Journal of Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Culture*, submitted for initial review

“The Archival Borderlands of Civil War Testimony,” *The Simms Review* (17 pages), submitted for initial review

“Documenting Novel Sources in Nineteenth-Century U.S. Literature,” *South Atlantic Review*, September 2020, pp. 19-36.

“‘All thy wide geographies’: Reading Whitman’s Epistolary Database,” *The New Walt Whitman Studies*, Cambridge University Press, 2019, pp. 121-143.

“Off the Grid: Zora Neale Hurston’s Racial Geography in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*,” *Iowa Journal of Cultural Studies*, 2017, pp. 76-90.

“Toward a More Perfect Union: Whitman, Ekphrasis, and the Daguerreotype,” *Ekphrasis in American Poetry: The Colonial Period to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, Cambridge Scholars Press, 2015, pp. 51-78.

## INVITED TALKS

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“The Ruins, Relics, and Reshapings of Mark Twain’s Mississippi Memory,” Park Church Summer Lecture Series, Center for Mark Twain Studies, Park Church, Elmira, NY, July 12, 2023.

“‘the melancholy record of our wretchedness’: The Archival Borderlands of Civil War Testimony,” William Gilmore Simms Society, “Simms and Historical Memory,” ALA, Boston, MA, May 25, 2023.

“From Cause to Camp: Illustrating the Photographic Kinship of Union and Confederate Soldiers,” Reconstruction at 150: Amnesty or Internal Combustion, MMLA Civil War Caucus, Minneapolis, MN, November 18, 2022.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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“Reconsidering Compromise: Documentary Aesthetics in Nineteenth-Century U.S. Literature,” American Literature Association (ALA), Civil War Caucus, Chicago, IL, May 24, 2024.

“Poetry in the Wake: Herman Melville’s Reconstructive Poetics,” Modes of C19 Authorship, C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, Pasadena, CA, March 15, 2024.

“Irving and His Afterlives: Sketching the Self in William Wells Brown’s *My Southern Home*,” Washington Irving’s Legacy, American Literature Association (ALA), Chicago, IL, May 26, 2022.

“‘a river fed by many streams’: Recontextualizing William Wells Brown’s Appropriative Aesthetics,” Genre of the Sketch in Long 19th-century American Literature, Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA), Baltimore, MD, March 12, 2022.

“‘figures cannot lie’: Documenting Novel Sources in Antebellum U.S. Literature,” Afterlives of Violence in American Literature and Culture, South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAML), Birmingham, AL, Nov. 4, 2018.

“Making Data Fit: What Digital Repackaging Can Do for the Humanities,” Jakobsen Memorial Conference, University of Iowa, March 24, 2018.

“Animating Whitman’s Correspondence: Pedagogy and Practice,” Walt Whitman in/and the Digital Humanities, American Literature Association (ALA), Boston, MA, Nov. 27, 2017.

“Postwar Appendage: Paratext and Reconstruction in Herman Melville’s *Battle-Pieces and Aspects of the War*,” The Crucible of Calamity: Crisis and Identity Formations, American Studies Association (ASA), Denver, CO, Nov. 18, 2016.

“Aestheticizing the Archive: Documentary Poetics in Charles Reznikoff’s *Holocaust*,” The Holocaust in Contemporary American Jewish Literature organized by the Society for American Jewish Literature, American Literature Association (ALA), San Francisco, CA, May 27, 2016.

“Off the Grid: Hurston’s Racial Geography in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*,” Craft Critique Culture (CCC) Conference, University of Iowa, April 8, 2016.

Moderator: “Virtual Bridges: Establishing Digital Connections Between Communities,” Craft Critique Culture (CCC), University of Iowa, April 9, 2016.

“Pedagogies of Pain: An Exploration of Violence and Modernity in David Fincher’s *Seven* and *Zodiac*,” Remediating Violence: Film, Photography, and the Aesthetics of Pain, MadLit 2014, Madison, WI, February 21, 2014.

“Towards a More Perfect Union: Anti-Revolutionary Sentiment in Walt Whitman’s *Leaves of Grass*,” Ekphrasis in American Poetry II, Midwest Modern Language Association (MMLA), Milwaukee, WI, November 8, 2013.

Co-chair, Ekphrasis in American Poetry II, Midwest Modern Language Association (MMLA), Milwaukee, WI, November 8, 2013.

## **CAMPUS TALKS**

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“Mark Twain’s Mississippi and *Life* at Quarry Farm,” Celebration of Faculty Scholarship, Viterbo University, October 27, 2023.

“Irving, Twain, and Brown: The National Literatures of the Nineteenth Century,” Celebration of Faculty Scholarship, Viterbo University, October 28, 2022.

Introduction to Digital Humanities, Marshall University, April 16, 2019 (invited guest speaker).

Digital Humanities Studio Summer Fellowship, panel on “Project Planning and Management,” University of Iowa, June 13, 2018 (invited guest speaker).

“DH Salon: Whitman’s Letters—The Collaboration of the Walt Whitman Archive Correspondence Team,” Digital Scholarship and Publishing Studio, Presented in collaboration

with Ed Folsom, Stephanie Blalock, Stefan Schoeberlein, and Ryan Furlong, University of Iowa, February 12, 2016.

“Exhibiting Correspondence: Gallery Space and the Postal Relay System,” *The Avant-Garde as Media Cultures*, “Actor Networks, (Un-)Intelligible Objects,” University of Iowa, December 8, 2015.

“(Re)mediating the Civil War: Poetics of Reconstruction in Herman Melville’s *Battle-Pieces*,” *Civil War Cultures: Roundtables*, “After Appomattox: A National Imaginary,” University of Iowa, April 29, 2015.

“Visualizing Race in Harriet Beecher Stowe’s *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*,” *American Literature Colloquium*, Marquette University, August 9, 2012.

“Re-membering Ethnicity: Proletarian Literature and the Multicultural Curriculum,” *Twentieth-Century American Literature Colloquium*, Marquette University, May 11, 2012.

“Speaking from the Margins: Parodic Discourse, Subversion and Postmodernism,” *Twentieth-Century American Literature Colloquium*, Marquette University, December 15, 2011.

## FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

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### Fellowships

2024-25 D.B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership	<i>Summer 2024 – Spring 2025</i>
2024 William Gilmore Simms Visiting Research Professorship	<i>Summer 2024</i>
2023 Quarry Farm Fellowship (Center for Mark Twain Studies)	<i>Summer 2023</i>
Ballard Seashore Dissertation Fellowship	<i>Fall 2019</i>
Frederick P. W. McDowell Dissertation Scholarship	<i>Fall 2019</i>
University of Iowa Digital Scholarship & Publishing Studio Fellowship	<i>Summer 2017</i>
Mellon/ACLS Fellowship Incentive Program	<i>Spring 2017</i>

### Awards

Graduate Student Essay Award, South Atlantic MLA (SAMLA)	<i>Fal 2019</i>
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### Grants

Scholar’s Release	<i>Spring 2023</i>
Francis Funds (grant for developing Health Humanities program)	<i>Summer 2023</i>
Faculty Development Grant, Viterbo University (Quarry Farm Fellowship)	<i>Summer 2023</i>
Faculty Development Grant, Viterbo University (ALA)	<i>Spring 2023</i>
Faculty Development Grant, Viterbo University (ALA)	<i>Spring 2022</i>
Faculty Development Grant, Viterbo University (NeMLA)	<i>Spring 2022</i>
U. of Iowa Travel Grant, English Department, South Atlantic MLA (SAMLA)	<i>Fall 2018</i>
Graduate and Professional Student Government, South Atlantic MLA (SAMLA)	<i>Fall 2018</i>
Annette K. Baxter Travel Grant, American Studies Association (ASA)	<i>Fall 2016</i>
U. of Iowa, English Department, American Studies Association (ASA)	<i>Fall 2016</i>
U. of Iowa, English Department, American Literature Association (ALA)	<i>Spring 2016</i>

## COURSES TAUGHT

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### Viterbo University

ENGL 242: Individual Author

- Mark Twain (upcoming Fall 2024)

ENGL 488: Independent Study

ENGL 392: Advanced Writing Tutorial

VUSM 260: Multicultural American Literature

- Taught in-person and asynchronous

ENGL 250/350: Topics in American Literature

- *A River Runs Through It: Water and the American Literary Imagination* (Spring 2024)
- *The Spirit of Fiction: Ghosts, Hauntings, and the Afterlives of American Literature* (Spring 2023)
- *U.S. Literatures of Enclosure* (Spring 2022)
- *Documentary Literature in the U.S.* (Fall 2021)

ENGL 255: Intro to Literary Studies

ENGL 253: Genre Matters: Poetry, Fiction, Drama, and the Essay

ENGL 218: Journalism Experience

ENGL 103: Reading, Writing, and the Elements of Argument I

- Taught both in-person and hybrid/blended

ENGL 104: Reading, Writing, and the Elements of Argument II

### University of Iowa

ENGL 2010: Foundations of the English Major

ENGL 1200: The Interpretation of Literature

### Marquette University

ENGL 103: Rhetoric & Composition I

ENGL 104: Rhetoric & Composition II

## TEACHING

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Assistant Professor of English, Viterbo University

*Fall 2021 – present*

Visiting Assistant Professor, University Iowa

*Fall 2020 – Spring 2021*

Teaching Assistant, University of Iowa (Writing Center)

*Spring 2016 – Spring 2018*

Teaching Assistant, University of Iowa (Literature)

*August 2014 – May 2015*

Adjunct Instructor, Marquette University

*August 2013 – May 2014*

Teaching Assistant, Marquette University

*August 2012 – May 2013*

## RESEARCH

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Post-Doctoral Research Assistant, University of Iowa

*The Walt Whitman Archive*, Editor

*Fall 2020 – Spring 2021*

Research Assistant, University of Iowa

*The Walt Whitman Archive*, Editor

*Spring 2020*

## SERVICE AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

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Reinhart Institute Advisory Council	Summer 2024 – Spring 2025
Developed Health Humanities program and certificate	Summer 2023
English Department Undergraduate Academic Program Review	Spring 2023
Created, designed, and maintained Viterbo's <a href="#">English Department Newsletter</a>	2023 – present
Initiated recruitment, retention, and outreach strategies for the English Department	2022 – present
The <i>Lumen</i> student newspaper website revision and redesign	2022
Advisor for Viterbo University's student newspaper, the <i>Lumen</i>	Spring 2022 – present
Viterbo English Department website revision and redesign	2022
Job search committee for Creative Writing faculty, Viterbo University	2021
Reviewer, SAMLA Graduate Student Essay Award Committee	2020
Hiring consultant for the Digital Scholarship and Publishing Studio's Editorial Assistant position, University of Iowa	2016, 2017

## MEDIA

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Interview, "[Campus Connection: At Viterbo, teachers are big on learning, too.](#)" *La Crosse Tribune*, Nov. 20, 2023.

## DIGITAL HUMANITIES

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<i>Whitmap</i> , Project Creator and Lead Developer	2016 – present
<i>Whitmap</i> , Digital Exhibit featured at the Whitman Bicentennial, University of Iowa	Summer 2019
Public Digital Humanities Certificate	Spring 2018
Digital Scholarship & Publishing Studio Fellow University of Iowa	Summer 2017

## DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP

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"[Making Data Fit: What Digital Repackaging Can do for the Humanities.](#)" Digital Scholarship & Publishing Studio, 2017.

[“Periodizing Big Data: Reintroducing Punctuation Back Into Corpus Analysis,”](#) Digital Scholarship & Publishing Studio, 2017.

[“DH Salon Recap: ‘Whitman’s Letters—The Collaboration of the Walt Whitman Archive Correspondence Team,’”](#) Digital Scholarship & Publishing Studio, University of Iowa, in collaboration with Ed Folsom, Stephanie Blalock, Stefan Schöberlein, and Ryan Furlong.

[“Flux Year Box 2,”](#) Fluxus Collection, script writer and voiceover, University of Iowa.

“Night Unfolding Ever into Night,” *ZO Magazine*, 2015.

## **MEMBERSHIPS AND COMMITTEES**

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American Literature Association (ALA)

Modern Language Association (MLA)

C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists (C19)

Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA)

Midwest Modern Language Association (MMLA)

South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAMLMA)