

KATE LECHLER

850-445-6393 (c)

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., English Literature, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 2014
Editing & Publishing Certificate

MA, English Literature Andrew University, Berrien Springs, MI 2007

BA, English Literature Union College, Lincoln, NE 2004

EMPLOYMENT RECORD

Instructor, Department of English, University of Mississippi, *Fall 2014-present*

- Teach a spectrum of literature classes to diverse student populations across three campuses, online and in person
- Plan lessons, design classroom materials, give comprehensive feedback on students' written work, and conference with individual students
- Assess & advise TAs based on observation & student response data
- Create collaborative critical thinking teaching handbook for faculty & TAs
- Coordinate MFA Admissions process with over 180 applicants

Freelance Editor, Nautilus Publishing Company and private clients, *2013-2021*

- Gave developmental, line, and copyediting feedback to fiction and non-fiction authors in an instructive, supportive manner
- Created indexes and bibliographies according to MLA, APA, and Chicago style guides

Teaching Assistant, FSU English Department, *2009-2013*

- Designed & taught composition & English literature courses
- Planned & led two experience-based English literature courses onsite in London, UK

Research Assistant, FSU English Department, *2009-2013*

- Managing editor of *Journal of Early Modern Cultural Studies*, guiding authors, manuscripts, & editors through all steps of peer-review process
- Created indexes for completed academic manuscripts & located primary source materials for ongoing research projects
- Reorganized & expanded the official Oxford Press website for Thomas Middleton

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Inclusive Teaching Learning Community 2023

- Participate in a faculty cohort to learn & implement Inclusive Teaching Practices in online and in-person classes in fulfillment of a year-long FACT Institute grant.

Theatre Oxford 2019-2022

- Served 1 year as secretary and 2 years as president for board of local community theater non-profit

- Produced a wide range of marketing content for social media and for dissemination to local media outlets
- Oversaw a team of creatives managing the successful production of four mainstage shows a year, along with playwriting workshops, kids' camps, and fundraising events
- Co-wrote several successful local and state-wide grants

Ten-Minute Play Contest and Festival

2019-2023

- Organized up to 260 submissions per year and managed 20+ volunteer readers
- Co-produced an annual festival of up to 8 short plays

SKILLS

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| • Highly developed written & oral communication skills | • Advanced interpersonal & conflict-resolution skills |
| • Experience research & editing | • Proficiency with Microsoft Office suite, Google Workspace, Slack, & Canva |
| • Experience completing complex projects on deadlines | • Community Arts Organizing |
| • Leadership, handling simultaneous needs & abilities of dozens of students & contributors | • Published in fiction, non-fiction, & poetry |

WORK SAMPLES (abridged)

- Religious blog, "[Bodhisattva Vow](#)," *Instagram*, December 2022
- Personal essay, "[The Thing that Doesn't Disintegrate](#)," *The Deadlands*, June 2021
- Fiction, "[How to Haunt Your Local Forest](#)," *Fireside Fiction*, June 2021
- Journalism, "[Hidden Treasures](#)," *Invitation Oxford*, March 2016
- PhD Dissertation, [Thomas Middleton in Performance 1960-2013: A History of Reception](#), May 2014

May 22, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I was delighted to see an opening for a comparative religion script writer for Complexly. I am an enthusiastic, self-motivated writer, editor, and educator currently teaching at the University of Mississippi where I've worked for almost a decade teaching English literature. In addition, I spent the last eight years writing and publishing fiction and nonfiction, as well as editing fiction, non-fiction, and academic manuscripts. I am positive that my many years of writing and experience in higher education will make me a strong contributor to the team at Complexly.

I have been passionate about the subject of religion since I was young. I grew up Seventh-day Adventist and spent 10 years in Adventist education, 8 years of which religious education was mandatory. In these classes, in addition to SDA doctrine, I learned about the history of the early Christian church, the Protestant Reformation, the Second Great Awakening in the United States, and the major differences between Adventists and other American Protestant denominations. I haven't identified as an Adventist--or as a Christian--for over a decade now but my interest in religion as a source of spiritual fulfillment and an (almost universal!) human phenomenon continues. I currently attend a Unitarian Universalist congregation, a non-creedal liberal religious denomination which draws on faith traditions from all over the world. As I've learned about these traditions, I have incorporated Buddhist, Shinto, and western European pagan elements into my personal spiritual practices.

One of the most important elements in any kind of communication is the audience. When I teach--or write--I constantly consider my position as a communicator, making sure I have a thorough grasp of my audience, their familiarity with the content, and the tone that will be most likely to interest, not alienate, them. For instance, how I structure the research and textual analysis I deliver in the classroom at the University of Mississippi is important to the success of my lecture. Too much dense information too quickly can turn a student--or a reader--off, while a perfectly chosen anecdote or real-world example can spark interest and curiosity. One of the questions I would have as a script-writer for Complexly would be about the demographic you are reaching. Who are they, and how can I best communicate with them?

My career has been built on my ability to collect, organize, and communicate information. I'm fascinated by storytelling and information delivery in multiple modes and as an educator, I know first-hand the impact that the right words can have. I'm confident that I can do excellent work with Complexly. I'd welcome the opportunity to contribute my writing, editing, and research skills to your team.

Sincerely,

Kate Lechler (they/them)
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