

CURRICULUM VITAE

Gerald N. Peters
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EDUCATION: 1982-86: Ph.D., Comparative Literature, University of Illinois,
Urbana, Illinois
General Field: English, German, and French Literature of the
nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
Special Areas: modern drama, critical theory, the Bildungsroman,
and autobiography
1980-82: fulfilled M.A. Requirements, Comparative Literature, Univ. of
Illinois
1979-82: M.A., English Literature, University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Canada
1975-76: Albert-Ludwig Universität, Freiburg, Germany
1971-75: B.A. Honors, English Literature, University of Saskatchewan,
Saskatoon, Canada

DISSERTATION: “The Poetics of Conversion: Salvation and Self-Justification in the
Modern Autobiographical Novel (Defended with distinction, 1986)
I investigate the idea of a secular salvation or conversion experience in a selection
of autobiographical novels from the first half of the twentieth century and
compare the structures these modern conversions with those of earlier religious
works.

LANGUAGES: German: Excellent speaking, writing, and reading ability
French: Good reading knowledge
Spanish: Reading knowledge

ACADEMIC HONORS: U.S.M. Summer Faculty Fellowship, 2013
Weimar Stiftung Summer Stipend, 2012
Hedwig Leser Lectureship, Indiana University, 1992
University of Southern Maine Summer Faculty Fellowship, 1989
Teaching appointment at the University of Regensburg, 1985-86
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Doctoral
Fellowship, 1983-84
Cited for excellence in undergraduate teaching (both for Rhetoric and German
language Instruction) at the University of Illinois, 1983
Awarded membership and presented with book honorarium by the German Honor
Society Phi Delta Alpha, University of Illinois, 1981
D.A.A.D. (German Academic Exchange) Fellowship, Freiburg, 1975-76
Hannon Scholarship, University of Saskatchewan, 1974-75
Mary Mackenzie Award, University of Saskatchewan, 1973-74

Gerald Peters

TEACHING University of Southern Maine, 1987-present

EXPERIENCE: Emergence of the Novel (369)
College Writing (100) on-line
Introduction to Literary Studies (245) on-line
Liberal Studies in the Humanities (340) “Discourses of Self-Determination
(On-line)
College Writing (100)
Enriched College Writing (104)
Reading Literature (140)
Ancient Literature (220)
Introduction to Literary Studies (245)
Performance Genre (264)
Modern Drama (329)
Modern Short Story (327)
Modern Autobiography (322)
Modern Novel (328)
Canadian Literature and Culture (323)
The Novel of Self Development (378)
Contemporary Critical Theory (341)
Topics in Contemporary Theory: Lacan and Freud (342)
Seminar in Comparative Literature (421)
Intermediate German (201/202)
University of Saskatchewan, 1986-87
Introductory English, full-year course
Introductory English, semester course
University of Regensburg, 1985-86
Advanced General Language Course
Essay Writing IV
Vocabulary IV
University of Illinois, 1980-85
World Masterpieces in Western Culture I (Bible to Renaissance)
World Masterpieces in Western Culture II (17th through 20th c.)
Elementary German (101 and 102)
Advanced English Composition (Rhetoric 143)
Intermediate Writing (Rhetoric 133)
Freshman Writing (Rhetoric 105)
Education Opportunities Rhetoric (Rhetoric 104)

PAPERS: “Planting the Seed: Nineteenth-Century Utopianism and the American Social
Imaginary,” English Faculty Lecture Series, USM, November 18, 2015.
“A Geography of Difference and Desire: Nineteenth-Century
“Utopianism” and the American Social Imaginary,” Annual
Conference of the Communal Studies Association, Pleasant Hill,
Kentucky, October, 2015.
“*Wilhelm Meister’s Journeyman Years* and the American Social

- Imaginary,” NeMLA, Toronto, April, 2015.
- “Goethe and the Shakers,” 33rd Annual Meeting of the Society for Utopian Studies, Portland, October, 2008.
- “Lacan contra Goethe: Feminine ‘jouissance’ in Goethe’s ‘Confessions of A Beautiful Soul,’” Mapping the Nation, (Northeast American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies), Portland, October, 2000.
- “The “Belle Ame” and 18th Century Mysticism’: The Case of Susanna von Klettenberg,” The Poetics of Space, SUNY at Binghamton, March, 2000.
- “First Person Plural: Autobiography and Multiple Subjectivity,” First Person Singular: Autobiography Past, Present, and Future, Hofstra University, March, 1994
- “Art and Salvation in Rilke’s Notebooks,” Hedwig Leser Lecture, Indiana University, 1992, (travel expenses and \$500 stipend)
- “Representing the Multiple Personality: Chronotopic Fictions in Ailsa Mathiesen’s Swallowing is a Very Private Thing,” The Canon and Marginality, SUNY at Binghamton, May, 1991
- “In the Image of Thoth: Authorizing the Self in Joyce’s Portrait,” Twelfth International James Joyce Symposium, Monaco/Monte-Carlo, June, 1990
- “Sketching ‘La Dame’s la Licorne’: The Ideology of Sexual Identity in Rilke’s Notebook,” Lacan, Culture, and Sexual Identity, Kent State University, May 24-27, 1990
- “In the Plaster-Cast Maker’s Shop: The Role of the Mirror Stage in the Formation of Rilke’s Other Self,” The Subject of Autobiography, University of Southern Maine, September 1989
- “The Human Flip-Flop: Enantiodromia in Orwell’s 1984 and in the Story of St. Paul,” The Critic in Society, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1984; (Also delivered at University of Illinois Comp. Lit. Colloquium, 1984).
- “Lacanian discours and the Establishment of Authority,” The Critic in Society, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1984

PUBLICATIONS:

Articles and Reviews

- “Goethe’s Educational Mission: The Liminality of Performance in Wilhelm Meister’s Apprenticeship.” International Journal of the Humanities, 2:1, 2004.
- Essay Review of True Relations: Essays on Autobiography and Autobiography and the Postmodern. Eds G. Thomas Couser and Joseph Fichtelberg, Westport: Greenwood, 1998 in Biography: An Interdisciplinary Quarterly 23:1 (Winter), 1999.
- Review of Peter A. Dorsey’s Sacred Estrangement: The Rhetoric of Conversion in Modern American Autobiography, Penn.

State Univ. Press, 1993 in Rocky Mountain Review (RMMLA) Spring, 1995.
“Autobiography as Masquerade: Lacan, Bosch and the Spectacle of Rilke’s Other Self,” MOSAIC: A Journal for the Interdisciplinary Study of Literature, 25:1(Winter), 1992
“The Freudian Campaign: Lacanian “discours” and the Conquest of Language,” The Maine Scholar 2(Autumn), 1989.
“The Rhetoric of Conversion,” New Humanist 97:2(Summer)1982.
Review of Hans Harder’s No Strangers in Exile, trans. A. Reimer, Mennonite Life 34:4 (December), 1979.
Review of Dietrich Neufeld’s A Russian Dance of Death, trans. A. Reimer, Mennonite Life 34:4(December), 1979.

Books

The Educational Journey: Nineteenth-Century Utopianism and the American Social Imaginary, Rahaline Utopian Series, Peter Lang (under consideration).
Rereading Goethe, Rethinking Culture, Champaign, Ill: Common Ground Publications, 2014.
Autobiography and Postmodernism, co-editor, Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1994.
The Mutilating God: Authorship and Authority in the Narrative Conversion, University of Massachusetts Press, 1993,
Diary of Anna Baerg 1916-1921, edition and translation from German with extensive commentary, Winnipeg: C.M.B.C. Publications, 1985; reprinted 1990.

ACADEMIC SERVICE:

Reader for University of Virginia Press, 2003
Reader for Common Ground Publication, 2002
National Conference on Student Retention, Washington D.C., 1997.
Reader for University of Massachusetts Press, 1994-95
Core Curriculum Revitalization Project, University of Southern Maine, 1991
Co-organizer of national conference “The Subject of Autobiography,” University of Southern Maine, September 1989.
Co-writer of Maine Autobiography Project, Maine Humanities Council Grant, 1990.
“The Autobiographer as Con-Artist: Memory and Restoration in Geoffrey Wolff’s Duke of Deception,” delivered for the Maine Library Association in conjunction with the Autobiography Project, September 1989.
“E.B. White and the Autobiographical Tradition,” delivered for the Maine Library Association and the Maine State Library, April 1988.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE:

Chair, Department of English, University of Southern Maine, 2016-2018
Member of Faculty Senate, 2016-2018
Summer Chair, Department of English, 2007-2011, 2013-18
Chair of Personnel Committee, Department of English, 2007/8, 2011-15
Chair of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages
and Literatures, 2002-2006.
Director of Advising in English, 1994-2001
Member of Committee for Students with Disabilities, 1998-2001
Chair of Special Committee on Student Advising, 1997
Member of Sub-committee on Student Advising, 1996-98
Member of Provost's Committee on Student Retention, 1996-2000
Member of Department of English Personnel Committee, 1989-2001, 2007-
present
Member of University of Southern Maine Faculty Senate, 1990-91