

# Thomas Girshin

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## Education:

Ph.D. English, Emphasis in Rhetoric and Composition, 2012

*Binghamton University, State University of New York*

Dissertation: "Post-Positivist Heuristics: Reclaiming Invention and the Self for Writing Studies"

Committee: Kelly Kinney (chair), David Bartine, Pamela Gay, Rebecca Moore Howard

M.A. English, General Literature and Rhetoric, 2006

*Binghamton University, State University of New York*

B.A. English, 2003

*University at Albany, State University of New York*

## Academic Appointments:

Associate Professor, English. 2019-present. California State University, San Bernardino.

Advanced First-Year Composition (ENG 107)

Expository Writing for English (ENG 306)

Assistant Professor (Tenure Eligible), Writing. 2014-19. Ithaca College. Promoted to Associate Professor with tenure, 05.2019.

[Higher Education Opportunity Program \(HEOP\) Summer Institute](#)

Academic Writing I (WRTG 10600)

Lies, Cheats, and Plagiarisms (ICSM 10800)

The Frontier in Fiction and Film (ICSM 10800)

Truth and Lies in the Age of Fake News (ICSM 10800)

Argument (WRTG 20100)

Personal Essay (WRTG 20500)

Writing for the Workplace (WRTG 21100)

Peer Tutoring Theory and Practice (EDUC 21500)

Public Essay (WRTG 32000)

Language, Literacy, and Writing Studies (WRTG 36000)

Writing Migration and Exile (WRTG 41000)

History, Memory, and Writing (WRTG 41000)

Senior Project (WRTG 41500)

Writing Center Faculty Tutor

Assistant Professor (Non-Tenure Eligible), Writing. 2012-14. Ithaca College.

Academic Writing I (WRTG 10600)

Lies, Cheats, and Plagiarisms (ICSM 10800)

[Ignorance and Inquiry \(WRTG 19402\)](#)

Argument (WRTG 20100)

Writing for the Workplace (WRTG 21100)

Senior Project (WRTG 41500)

Writing Center Faculty Tutor

Teaching Assistant, English. 2008-12. Binghamton University, SUNY  
Coming to Voice (WRIT 111)  
Flattery?—Or Civility? (ENG 289)  
The American Essay (ENG 300)  
Writing Your Way into Graduate School (WRIT 381)

Visiting Lecturer, Writing and Rhetoric. 2010-11. Syracuse University  
Academic Writing I (WRT 105)  
Academic Writing II (WRT 205)  
Civic Writing (WRT 301)  
Professional Writing (WRT 307)

Instructor, English as a Foreign Language. 2007-2008. British-American Language Centre, Samara, Russia  
English as a Foreign Language (multiple levels)

Adjunct Professor, English. 2006-2007. Youngstown State University  
Introduction to College Writing (ENG 1540)  
Writing I (ENG 1550)

Teaching Assistant, English. 2005-2006. Binghamton University, SUNY  
Critical Literacies (ENG 115)

**Administration:**

Writing Intensive Program Coordinator. 2019-present. California State University, San Bernardino.  
Work with tenure- and non-tenure-line faculty, with administration, and with students to develop and implement a strategic mission and vision for the Writing Intensive Program  
Develop and facilitate impactful development opportunities on a wide range of relevant topics for all faculty across campus who teach or want to teach with writing, taking advantage of both face-to-face and distributed learning modalities  
Work with faculty, administration, and students to design and implement faculty-driven continuous assessment, using a range of research methods  
Provide opportunities for and promote faculty-designed teacher research (action research) as highly effective faculty development  
Develop a Writing Enriched Curriculum, which supports individual departments in developing a faculty-driven approach to supporting effective and relevant writing and writing instruction within an undergraduate and/or graduate curriculum  
Promote an innovative, effective, multifaceted, and evolving writing pedagogy in conversation with disciplinary best practices  
Collaborate with counterparts at peer institutions  
Ensure program visibility across campus  
Engage in research activities related to WAC/WID/WI  
Lead WI faculty in teacher research opportunities to gather and interpret data, to present findings, and to make policy suggestions based on the findings  
Nurture a culture of writing at CSUSB

Director of First-Year Writing. 2018-2019. Ithaca College  
Supervise and mentor all part-time faculty who teach Academic Writing  
Design and conduct faculty orientations and workshops for all faculty teaching composition  
Oversee course design for new part-time faculty  
Review teaching materials (such as syllabi and sample course assignments), grading practices, and student evaluations of new part-time faculty

- Conduct in-class observations of and provides formative feedback to all part-time faculty who teach composition
- Conduct regular assessment of First-Year Composition for both internal and external audiences
- Prepare materials and aggregate resources related to the teaching of First-Year Composition
- Maintain the First-Year Composition webpage
- Interview candidates for part-time faculty positions and make hiring recommendations
- Serve as a point of contact for faculty and student concerns about First-Year Composition
- Serve as Chair of the Composition Committee

Director of the Writing Center. 2015-16. Ithaca College

- Administer and coordinate the Writing Center
- Represent the department in outreach to other departments
- Promote long-range planning
- Recruit, train, supervise, and evaluate student tutors
- Schedule student and faculty tutors
- Coordinate and maintain schedule and facilities
- Manage and oversee administrative tutors
- Manage and oversee Writing Center annual budget
- Maintain and update the Writing Center Website
- Evaluate and approve student time cards
- Update Writing Center operation to reflect current trends in the field
- Perform other relevant administrative duties
- Provide conflict resolution, e.g., difficult tutoring experiences, scheduling conflicts
- Accommodate special populations (ESL, LD, special referrals)
- Assess Writing Center operations and produce an annual report for the department chair

Assistant Director of First-Year Writing. 2009-2010. Binghamton University, SUNY

- Evaluate, design, and revise Writing 111 course design
- Compile day-to-day schedule of the common first-year writing syllabus
- Revise all Writing 111 classroom materials in order to introduce a more consistent lexicon, thereby providing a language to emphasize learning goals that are consistent throughout each of the individual assignments
- Co-authored an online handbook for teaching assistants and instructors of FYC, *Coming-to-Voice*
- Organize the Writing Initiative's Writing Studies in the New Humanities Speaker Series, which has hosted distinguished speakers from universities around the country—speakers such as Richard E. Miller, Derek Owens, John Ruskiewicz, and Victor Villanueva
- Run weekly pedagogy group meetings for first-year writing instructors
- Assist in new instructor orientation
- Support the day-to-day functions of the writing program

**Current Projects:**

*The Creative Argument*. Under contract with Hackett Publishing. A combination textbook/anthology. Each chapter proceeds as the study of an extraordinary published argument, arranging texts according to a major concept in argumentation. Thus, the book would provide students simultaneously with a theoretical framework and an essay that exemplifies and, often, subverts that framework.

*Trump's University: Race, Rhetoric, and Teaching in the "Post-Fact" Era*. With Tyrell Stewart-Harris. Monograph exploring the intersection of rhetoric and the racialized and racist history of our current era of "fake news." Under review at Rowman & Littlefield.

*Letters from the Gulag: Rhetoric and Censorship in the Stalinist Soviet Union*. The project analyzes the rhetorical strategies of Soviet gulag prisoners in their letters home, drawing on a vast collection at the National

Library of Russia in St. Petersburg. Research has been partially funded by an Ithaca College Academic Challenge Grant.

### Publications:

- “Trump’s University: Argument and Pedagogy in the ‘Post-Fact’ Era.” With Tyrell Stewart-Harris. *Literacy in an Age of Misinformation and Disinformation*. West Lafayette, IN: Parlor Press. Working and Writing for Change series. Forthcoming.
- Review of *Resounding the Rhetorical: Composition as a Quasi-Object* by Byron Hawk. *Composition Forum* 41 (2019). <http://compositionforum.com/issue/41/girshin-review-hawk.php>
- Review of *Inside the Subject: A Theory of Identity for the Study of Writing* by Raul Sanchez. *Composition Studies* 46.2 (2018): 227-229.
- “Students’ Use of Summary in a Writing about Writing Class.” *Open Access Library Journal* 5.11 (2018): 1-21. [10.4236/oalib.1104648](http://dx.doi.org/10.4236/oalib.1104648)
- “Ignorance and Inquiry.” *Syllabus Journal* 6.1 (2017): 1-10. <http://syllabusjournal.org/syllabus/article/view/208>
- “My Father’s Walls: Invention after Exile.” *Writing on the Edge* 24.2 (2014): 89-95.
- “The Third Turn toward the Social: Nancy Welch’s *Living Room*, Tony Scott’s *Dangerous Writing*, and Rhetoric and Composition’s Turn toward Grassroots Political Activism. With Kelly Kinney and Barrett Bowlin. *Composition Forum* 21 (2010): n. pag. Web. <http://compositionforum.com/issue/21/third-turn-social.php>
- Coming-to-Voice: A Guide to First-Year Writing Pedagogy*. Coedited with Wendy Stewart. Binghamton University. Spring 2010. < <http://www2.binghamton.edu/writing/first-year-writing/coming-to-voice/index.html> >
- “Preserving the Body of Earth: An Ethic of Intercorporeality in Morrison’s *Beloved*” *Atenea* 26.1 (2006): 151-66. Special issue on Humans and the Environment.

### Professional Conferences:

- “Teaching Under Trump: The Racist Precedents of the ‘Post-Fact’ Era.” Conference on College Composition and Communication. Pittsburg, PA 03.2019. Accepted.
- “Letters from the Gulag: Rhetoric and Censorship in the Stalinist Soviet Union.” Rhetoric Society of America Biennial Conference. Minneapolis, MN 06.2018.
- “‘Post-Fact’ Politics and the Rhetoric of Racism under Trump.” Rhetoric Society of America Biennial Conference. Minneapolis, MN 06.2018.
- “Using a Dialogue Project to Foster Threshold Concepts in FYW.” SUNY Council on Writing Conference. Syracuse, NY 09.2017.
- “Assessing Success in the Writing Classroom.” Panel organizer. SUNY Council on Writing Conference. Syracuse, NY 09.2017.
- “Change to Hope For: Post-Racial America as Utopia.” With Tyrell Stewart-Harris. Rhetoric Society of America Biennial Conference. Atlanta, GA 05.2016.
- “Carnavalesque Pedagogy: Susan Miller and the Politics of FYW.” Conference on College Composition and Communication. Houston, TX. 04.2016.
- “What Protest Affords the Neoliberal University.” SUNY Council on Writing Conference. Albany, NY 03.2016.
- “When the Tail Wags the Dog: External Assessment in the Writing Classroom.” SUNY Council on Writing Conference. Syracuse, NY 09.2014.
- “Engagement in Writing about Writing: Attitudes and Practices.” Conference on College Composition and Communication. Indianapolis, IN. 03.2014.
- “Neurorhetorics: The Brain as a Technology of Persuasion.” SUNY Council on Writing Conference. Buffalo, NY 03.2013.
- “Positivism, Relativism, and the Crisis of Knowledge in First-Year Writing.” Conference on College Composition and Communication. St. Louis, MO 03.2012.
- “My Father’s House, Or, The Artist in Exile.” Conference on College Composition and Communication. Atlanta, GA 04.2011.

- “Between Genius and Craft: Enlivening Academic Discourse in 21st Century.” SUNY Council on Writing. Binghamton, NY 03.2011.
- “Rethinking Creativity: A Holistic Approach to Invention.” Conference on College Composition and Communication. Louisville, KY 03.2010.
- “De-Linking the Divide: Eurocentric Modernity, Revolution, and Utopia” Modernist Studies Association 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. Tulsa, OK 10.2006.
- Organizer and founder. Conference on Science and Literature. Binghamton University. Binghamton, NY 10.2005.
- “From Objectivity to Sustainability: A Post-Positivist Ethic of Coevolution” Stony Brook University Annual Conference. Manhattan, NY 02.2005.

**Faculty Development Workshops and Invited Lectures:**

- “Responding to Writing by Responding to Learning: Giving Effective Feedback.” California State University, San Bernardino. 03.24.2020; 04.02.2020.
- “How Does Writing Work in the Disciplines?” Professional Development Faculty Learning Community. California State University, San Bernardino. 09.18.2019-03.01.2020.
- “Antiracist Writing Assessment.” California State University, San Bernardino. Multiple dates.
- “Beyond Outcomes: Threshold Concepts and What We Really Value in Writing Rubrics.” California State University, San Bernardino. Multiple dates.
- “‘Strangers in Strange Lands’: Helping Students Adapt to Varieties of Discourse.” California State University, San Bernardino. 02.11.2020.
- “Borrowing and Innovating: Designing ‘Plagiarism Proof’ Writing Projects.” California State University, San Bernardino. 01.22.2020.
- “Writing to Learn in the Sciences.” California State University, San Bernardino. 11.20.2019.
- “Russian Culture and Business Communications.” Cornell University. 4.13.2017.
- “Managing Research with Zotero and Mendeley.” The Ithaca College Writing Center and the Ithaca College Library. 4.19.2016.
- “APA Style.” Introduction to Strategic Communication. Ithaca College. 01.29.2016.
- “Intertextuality: Borrowing in Academic Discourse.” Ithaca College. 10.20.2015.
- “Source Use in Research across Disciplines.” Chemistry as Humanity. Ithaca College. 10.21.2013.

**Webinars**

- [“The Purpose of Feedback.”](#) Writing Intensive Program. California State University, San Bernardino.

**Service:**

California State University, San Bernardino

- University Writing Advisory Board (founding chair, 2020-present)
- University High-Impact Practices Committee (2019-present)
- University Quarter-to-Semester Syllabus Development Committee (2019-present)
- College of Arts and Letters Curriculum Committee (2019-present)
- English Department Curriculum Committee (2020-present)
- English Department Lecturer Review Committee (2020-present)

Ithaca College

- Committee on College-Wide Requirements, Writing Intensive Sub-Committee (2019)
- Writing Department Personnel Committee (2018-2019)
- Writing Department Assessment Committee (2016-present; chair 2016-2017)
- Writing Department Curriculum Committee (2014-2018; chair 2016-2018)
- School of Humanities and Sciences Strategic Taskforce #3 (Spring 2018)
- Writing Department Faculty Development Committee (2014- 2016)
- Writing Department First-Year Composition Committee (2014-present; chair 2018-2019)
- School of Humanities and Sciences General Education Committee (2014)

Integrated Core Curriculum Assessment Rubric Team (2012- 2013)  
Major Adviser (2013-present)  
Whalen Symposium Faculty Mentor (Spring 2019)  
Whalen Symposium Guest Judge (Spring 2015)  
Bomber Blitz Invitational Mock Trial Judge (01.2016)  
Faculty Adviser  
*The Stoa* (2012-13)  
HiFashion Studios (2015-2019)  
Ithaca College Chess Club (2018-2019)

Syracuse University

Major/Minor Committee  
Liberal Arts Core Committee  
Upper Division Course Committee  
Major Adviser

**Awards and Grants:**

Center for Faculty Excellence Instructional Development Grant. Ithaca College. 2019.  
Dean's Level Merit. Ithaca College. 2018.  
Academic Challenge Grant. Ithaca College. 2018.  
Ithaca Seminar Course Development Grant. Ithaca College. 2017.  
Academic Challenge Grant. Ithaca College. 2014.  
Ithaca Seminar Course Development Grant. Ithaca College. 2013.  
Binghamton University Dissertation Year Fellowship. Binghamton University. 2012.

**Mentored Student Research:**

Emerson Humanities Collaboration Award. Summer Research Project on Gulag Letters by Alisha Tamarchenko. Ithaca College. Summer 2019.  
Translation project. Caroline Tippett. Franklin & Marshall College. Summer 2019.  
"Voices of the Gulags: An Analysis of Soviet Censorship." Poster presentation by Jane Alkhazov. James J. Whalen Academic Symposium. Ithaca College. Spring 2019. Judges Prize Award Winner.  
"Gender and Sexual Identity in the Black Pentecostal Church." Scholarly thesis by Jasmine Gayle. Senior Project. Ithaca College. Spring 2017.  
"How to Be a Human Being." Nonfiction collection on technology by Olivia Smialek. Senior Project. Ithaca College. Spring 2017.  
"Parking Lots: and Other American Essays." Nonfiction collection on LGBT representation in contemporary corporate culture by Rocco Praderio. Senior Project. Ithaca College. Fall 2015.  
"Anywhere but Here." Collection of personal essays by Brandon Kahler. Senior Project. Ithaca College. Spring 2015.

**Languages:**

Russian, fluent; Ancient Greek, proficient; French, beginner; Spanish, beginner

**Related Work Experience:**

Editor, *Binghamton Writes: A Journal of First-Year Writing*  
Editor and President, *Crossings: A Counter-disciplinary Journal*  
Interim Managing Editor/Contributing Writer, *Richfield Springs Mercury*