

TJ BEITELMAN

Creative Writing Department, Alabama School of Fine Arts
1800 Rev. Abraham Woods Jr. Blvd, Birmingham, AL 35203

EDUCATION

M.F.A., Creative Writing, University of Alabama, 2001

M.A., English, Virginia Tech, 1996

B.A., English, Virginia Tech, 1993

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Department Chair, Creative Writing Department, Alabama School of Fine Arts,
June 2015 – present

Instructor, Creative Writing Department, Alabama School of Fine Arts,
August 2002 – present

Editor, *Alabama Heritage*, University of Alabama Press, January 2002 – August 2002

Associate Editor, *Alabama Heritage*, University of Alabama Press, May 2001 – January 2002

TEACHING

Creative Writing Department, Alabama School of Fine Arts (ASFA)

Department Chair, 2015 – present

Instructor, 2002 – present

Scope of Duties

In addition to teaching advanced writing workshops, literary forms courses, and literature surveys, I also direct year-long senior thesis projects and serve on senior thesis committees for Creative Writing majors in a statewide specialty magnet school. My supervisory duties include evaluating and mentoring three full-time Creative Writing department faculty members. I also oversee departmental admissions and outreach activities, and I collaborate with administration in the areas of recruiting, fundraising, and managing multiple departmental budgets.

Advanced Creative Writing Courses

Fiction Workshop

Poetry Workshop

Creative Nonfiction Workshop

Writing for Film

Lyrical Forms: Words + Sounds + Images

Lyrical Forms: Prosody

Narrative Forms: The Art & Science of Storytelling

Narrative Forms: Breaking Narrative Boundaries

Creative Writing Senior Thesis

Creative Writing Senior Practicum

Advanced Literature Courses

Contemporary Poetry Survey
Contemporary Fiction Survey
Contemporary Nonfiction Survey
Special Topics: 21st Century Challenges
Special Topics: Writing America
Special Topics: Writing in the Digital Age

English Language Arts

8th Grade English
7th Grade English

The Write Mindfulness Project

Founding Director, 2021 – present

Scope of Duties

Write Mindfulness is a ten-week sequence of writing workshops and an accompanying book-length guidebook designed to help writers of all backgrounds develop a sustainable and sustaining writing practice.

Department of English, University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB)

Adjunct Instructor, Fall 2003

Undergraduate Course

English Composition I

Department of English, University of Alabama

Teaching Assistant (Instructor of Record), Fall 1997 – Spring 2000

Undergraduate Courses

Composition: Expository Writing
Composition: Writing About Literature
Introduction to Creative Writing
Introduction to World Literature
Intermediate Poetry Workshop

Department of English, Virginia Tech

Teaching Assistant (Instructor of Record), Fall 1994 – Spring 1996

Writing Center Tutor, Summer 1995

Undergraduate Courses

Composition: Expository Writing
Composition: Modes of Inquiry

EDITING

Manuscript Consultant, Black Lawrence Press, 2015 – present

First Reader, Black River Chapbook Competition, Black Lawrence Press, 2012

Founding Editor, *Red Mountain Review*, Alabama School of Fine Arts, 2004 – 2009

Series Editor, *Red Mountain Review* Chapbook Contest, Alabama School of Fine Arts,
2004 – 2009
Bookfair Exhibitor (*Red Mountain Review*), AWP Conference & Bookfair, Austin, TX, 2006
Editor-in-chief, *Alabama Heritage*, University of Alabama Press, 2002
Associate Editor, *Alabama Heritage*, University of Alabama Press, 2001
Editorial Assistant, *Alabama Heritage*, University of Alabama Press, 1999 – 2001
Editor-in-chief, *Black Warrior Review*, Program in Creative Writing, University of
Alabama, 2000 – 2001
Exhibitor (*Black Warrior Review*), Kentuck Arts Festival, Northport, AL, 1999, 2000
Bookfair Exhibitor (*Black Warrior Review*), Deep South Festival of Writers,
University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Lafayette, LA, 2000
Managing Editor, *Black Warrior Review*, Program in Creative Writing, University of
Alabama, 1999 – 2000
Bookfair Exhibitor (*Black Warrior Review*), AWP Conference & Bookfair, Albany, NY,
1999
Assistant Fiction Editor, *Black Warrior Review*, Program in Creative Writing,
University of Alabama, 1999 – 2000
Assistant Poetry Editor, *Black Warrior Review*, Program in Creative Writing,
University of Alabama, 1997 – 1999

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

President, Board of Directors, Alabama Writers' Cooperative, 2019 - present
Member, Board of Directors, Alabama Writers' Cooperative, 2016 – present
Vice President, Board of Directors, Alabama Writers' Forum, 2020 – present
Member, Board of Directors, Alabama Writers' Forum, 2019 – present
Co-Chair, Long-Range Planning Committee, Alabama Writers' Cooperative, 2016 –
2019
Peer Reviewer, Applications Review Committee, Literary Organization Grants for
FY-2015, Alabama State Council on the Arts, 2014
Peer Reviewer, Applications Review Committee, Literature Fellowships for FY-2011,
Alabama State Council on the Arts, 2010
Arts Education Program Coordinator, Gorham's Bluff Institute, 2005 – 2009
Final Judge, Jack Murphy Memorial Award, National Federation of State Poetry
Societies, 2009
Final Judge, Literary Magazine Contest, Alabama Scholastic Press Association, 2007
Final Judge, Literary Magazine Contest, Alabama Scholastic Press Association, 2004
Peer Reviewer, Applications Review Committee, Literary Organization Grants for
FY-2003, Alabama State Council on the Arts, 2002

CAMPUS & DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Alabama School of Fine Arts

Co-Curator, Ron Casey Visiting Writers' Series, 2015 – present
Director, Creative Writing Outreach and Summer Programs, 2015 – present
Member, Leadership Committee, 2015 – present
Member, Scholarship Committee, 2007 – 2008, 2010 – 2012, 2014 – 2016, 2020 - present

Editor/Webmaster, *CW @ ASFA* weblog (*asfa-cw.org*), 2009 – 2020
 Coordinator, Aspiring Minds Regional High School Poetry Contests, 2015 – 2018
 Coordinator, Alabama Young Writers' Literary Awards, 2009 – 2018
 Faculty Advisor, *Cadence* (student literary magazine), 2015 – 2016
 Chair, Hiring Committee (Creative Writing Instructor), 2015
 Member, Strategic Planning Committee on Curriculum & Instruction, 2014 – 2015
 Sponsor, YWCA Heritage Panel to Promote Diversity and Inclusivity, 2013, 2015
 Member, Hiring Committee (Director of Curriculum & Instruction), 2005
 Member, Hiring Committee (College Advisor), 2005
 Chair, Strategic Planning Committee on Student Support, 2003 – 2004

University of Alabama

Member, Hiring Committee (Assistant Director of Student Media), University of Alabama, 2002
 Member (ex officio), Media Planning Board, 1999 – 2001
 Curator, M.F.A. Reading Series, Program in Creative Writing, University of Alabama, 1998

WORKSHOPS, PRESENTATIONS, & INVITED TALKS

Instructor (Zoom), "Tell It Slant: Real Life as Raw Material for Good Fiction," Hampden Writers' Group, October 20 – November 10, 2021 (four sessions)
 Invited Talk (Zoom), "Teaching Creative Writing in a Specialty Magnet School," ENGL 4540: Teaching Creative Writing, Utah State University, 2021
 "Good Gig? Teaching Creative Writing in Secondary Schools," Associated Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) Annual Conference, Portland, OR, 2019
 "Something There Is that Doesn't Love a Wall: The Permeable Boundaries Between Poetry and Prose," Alabama Writers' Cooperative Annual Conference, Hoover, AL, 2017
 "The Alpha and Omega of Stories: Why Beginnings and Endings Are So Important," Alabama Writers' Conclave Annual Conference, Birmingham, AL, 2016
 Instructor, Sand Mountain Scholars Reading Group, Gorham's Bluff Institute, Pisgah, AL, 2015
 Instructor, Young Adult Poetry Workshop, Homewood Public Library, Homewood, AL, 2015
 Invited Talk, Homewood High School AP English Classes, Homewood, AL, 2015
 Invited Talk/Poetry Reading (Zoom), ENGL 6883: Graduate Poetry Workshop, Utah State University, Logan, UT, 2015
 Instructor, Creative Writing Pedagogy, Montevallo Literary Festival, University of Montevallo, Montevallo, AL, 2011
 Keynote Speaker, Writing Our Stories: a project of the Alabama Department of Youth Services and the Alabama Writers' Forum, Adele Goodwyn McNeel School, Birmingham, AL, 2010
 Invited Talk, "The Landscape of Contemporary Literary Publishing," English 223: Creative Writing, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, 2009
 Instructor, Hands on Art Workshops (Creative Writing), Birmingham Youth Leadership Forum, Birmingham, AL, 2008

Instructor, Literary Magazine Workshop, Alabama Scholastic Press Association Convention, Tuscaloosa, AL, 2007

Instructor, Writing Memoir and Creative Nonfiction, Gorham’s Bluff Institute, Pisgah, AL, 2007

Instructor, Literary Magazine Workshop, Alabama Scholastic Press Association, Regional Tour, Auburn, AL, 2004

Instructor, Literary Magazine Workshop, Alabama Scholastic Press Association, Regional Tour, Huntsville, AL, 2003

Instructor, Literary Magazine Workshop, Alabama Scholastic Press Association, Summer Conference, Tuscaloosa, AL, 2003

“Editorial Autonomy in Student Publications,” Alabama Scholastic Press Association Summer Conference, Tuscaloosa, AL, 2003

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

Individual Awards

Individual Artist Grant (Fiction), Cultural Alliance of Greater Birmingham, 2007

Fellow in Literature (Nonfiction), Alabama State Council on the Arts, 2002

Teaching/Writing Fellow, Program in Creative Writing, University of Alabama, 1999

Organizational Projects

Project grant for the Ron Casey Visiting Author’s Series (\$1,150), Alabama Humanities Foundation, 2020

Arts Education grant for the Ron Casey Visiting Authors’ Series, Alabama State Council on the Arts (\$2,500), 2017

Arts Education grant for the Ron Casey Visiting Authors’ Series, Alabama Humanities Foundation (\$2,000), 2017

Operational support for Gorham’s Bluff Institute, Daniel Foundation of Alabama (\$7,500), 2010

Performing Arts Organization grant for Gorham’s Bluff Institute/Alabama Ballet (“Dance Discovery”), Alabama State Council on the Arts (\$2,200), 2009

Visual Arts Organization grant for Gorham’s Bluff Institute (Visual Arts Residency), Alabama State Council on the Arts (\$2,500), 2009

Literary Organization grant for *Red Mountain Review*, Alabama State Council on the Arts (\$3,150), 2009

Community Arts Organization grant for Gorham’s Bluff Institute (Sunday Performance Series), Alabama State Council on the Arts (\$5,250), 2008

Project grant for Gorham’s Bluff Lecture Series, Alabama Humanities Foundation (\$1,988.69), 2007

Community Arts Organization grant for Gorham’s Bluff Institute (Performances, Lectures, and Workshops), Alabama State Council on the Arts (\$7,500), 2007

Community Arts Organization grant for Gorham’s Bluff Institute/Alabama Ballet (Summer Residency), Alabama State Council on the Arts (\$3,000), 2007

Performing Arts Organization grant for Gorham’s Bluff Institute/Alabama Ballet (Summer Residency), Alabama State Council on the Arts (\$5,910), 2006

Operational support for Gorham’s Bluff Institute, Daniel Foundation of Alabama (\$15,000), 2005

Operational support for Gorham’s Bluff Institute, Alabama Civil Justice Foundation (\$2,000), 2005

Literary Organization grant for *Red Mountain Review*, Alabama State Council on the Arts (\$4,200), 2005

Literary Journal Institute for *Black Warrior Review*, Council of Literary Magazines and Presses (workshop tuition and travel costs), 2000

PUBLICATIONS

Books

This is the Story of His Life— (poems), New York: Black Lawrence Press, 2018

Communion (stories), New York: Black Lawrence Press, 2016

Americana (poems), New York: Black Lawrence Press, 2015

John the Revelator (a novel), New York: Black Lawrence Press, 2014

In Order to Form a More Perfect Union (poems), New York: Black Lawrence Press, 2012

Self-Helpless: A Misfit’s Guide to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness (memoir), San Francisco: Outpost 19, 2012

Chapbooks

Pilgrims: A Love Story (poems), Pittsburgh/New York: Black Lawrence Press, 2010

Thirteen Curses and Other Love Poems, Aptos, CA: Dream Horse Press, 2009

Short Fiction in Periodicals/On-line

“Seconds Before the Meteor,” *subTerrain* (forthcoming in 2021)

“Joy,” *Blackbird*, vol. 15, no. 2, 2016

“The Scrivener,” *Bop Dead City Review*, Issue 13, 2015

“Manna,” *Bellevue Literary Review*, vol. 10, no. 2, 2010

“Arctic Circle,” *Staccato*, no. 18, 2010

“Another Sunless Winter Day at the Top of the World,” *Staccato*, no. 19, 2010

“Ruin,” *Yalobusha Review*, vol. 13, 2008

“Hope, Faith, and Love,” *THE2NDHAND*, 2007

“Strange Bedfellows,” *Quarter After Eight*, vol. 11/12, 2005

“Resident,” *Quarter After Eight*, vol. 11/12, 2005

“Tiresias the Seer,” *New Orleans Review*, vol. 31, no. 1, 2005

“Blackface,” *Indiana Review*, vol. 26, no. 2, 2004

“Rumination,” *Willow Springs*, no. 54, 2004

“Yoi, Hajime,” *Permafrost*, vol. 24, 2002

“Rooster,” *Quarterly West*, no. 47 (Pushcart Prize nominee), 1998

Selected Poetry in Periodicals/On-line

“Broken Hymn for Babel,” “Broken Hymn for the Better Part of Valor,” “Broken Hymn That Is a Eulogy,” “Broken Sonnet as Epitaph for Straight Talk,” “Broken Abecedarian on the Occasion of an Impromptu Middle-School Field Trip to Kelly-Ingram Park, Birmingham, Alabama, c. 2019,” and “Deoxyribonucleic Acid,” *Posit* (forthcoming in 2022)

“[The story of his life: *Math and Science*],” “[The story of his life: *Art in the Park*],” and “[The story of his life: *The Dream of Flight*],” *Posit*, Issue 10, 2016

- “[The story of his life: *Event Horizon: Oedipus*],” “[The story of his life: *Event Horizon: Metastasis*],” “[The story of his life: *The Talk with Talk of Sport*],” “[The story of his life: *Event Horizon: The Muse*],” and “[The story of his life: *Hairshirt*],” *4ink7: An Unction from the Holy One*, Issue 1, 2015
- “Upon the Thirtieth Anniversary of Hank Aaron Surpassing Babe Ruth as All-Time Homerun King,” reprinted by *Verse Daily*, September 21, 2015
- “Matrushka,” *Waccamaw*, Fall Issue, no. 12, 2013
- “[The story of his life: *He Would Know Just Enough to Get Himself Hanged*],” “[The story of his life: *Angel Said Father I’ve Married the Falconer*],” and “[The story of his life: *Angel Said Father I’ve Married the Wolfman*],” *DIAGRAM* 13.3, 2013
- “[The story of his life: *What Catches His Interest Will Not Hold His Interest*]” *Black Warrior Review* (on-line), 40th Anniversary Feature, 2013
- “The New Religion,” reprinted by *Verse Daily*, December 13, 2012
- “[The story of his life: ...*he read figure as fugue*—],” *Cavalier Literary Couture*
- “Muse: Nikita Khrushchev,” *491 Magazine*, issue 3, 2011
- “The Inciting Incident,” reprinted by *Verse Daily*, September 25, 2010
- “In Order to Form a More Perfect Union,” *Copper Nickel*, vol. 13, 2009
- “Why I Love a City,” *International Poetry Review*, Spring Issue, 2009
- “Curse #1: The Accursed Takes the Form of a Cat in the Cold,” *Birmingham Arts Journal*, vol. 5, no. 1, 2008
- “Curse #9: The Accursed Spied from 40,000 Feet” and “Curse #13: The Curse That Is Not a Curse,” *Tusculum Review*, vol. 4, 2008
- “Upon the Thirtieth Anniversary of Hank Aaron Surpassing Babe Ruth as All-Time Homerun King,” *Birmingham Weekly*, Poetry Issue, vol. 10, no. 37, 2007
- “Upon Charley’s Marriage to a Girl from Idaho” and “Upon the Birth of Mike’s Daughter, Some Unsolicited Advice Regarding Love and Other Such Vagaries,” *Harpur Palate*, Winter Issue, 2006
- “A Poem in Which I Grow Old with the Woman of My Dreams,” *Ascent*, Spring Issue, 2004
- “[She drinks celery soup...],” *Oxford Magazine*, vol. 16
- “11,” *DIAGRAM* 2.3, 2002
- “Make Believe Maestro,” *Colorado Review*, vol. 29, no. 1, 2002
- “Very Like a Whale,” *Sycamore Review*, Fall/Winter Issue, 2002
- “7,” “9,” and “17,” *DIAGRAM* 1.5, 2001
- “Bluebirds,” *Third Coast*, Spring Issue, 2000
- “Lullaby” and “Ground,” *Whirligig*, vol. 1, no. 1, 2000

Poetry in Anthologies

- “Matrushka,” *Slash Pine Anthology 2011*, Patti White & Lucas Southworth, eds. Tuscaloosa, AL: Slash Pine Press, 2011
- “The World Peace Poem,” *Whatever Remembers Us: An Anthology of Alabama Poetry*, Sue Brannan Walker & J. William Chambers, eds. Mobile, AL: Negative Capability Press, 2007
- Three poems (“7,” “9,” and “11”), (*Some from*) *DIAGRAM*, Ander Monson, ed. Washington, DC: Del Sol Press, 2003

Poetry Broadside

- “Elegy for the Boy Sent to Live Among the Fishes,” New Michigan Press, 2001

Essays & Articles in Periodicals/On-line

- “Summer Library Series: The Mother of Libraries,” What She Might Think (www.erinpringle.com), 2012
- “A Timeless Tale Turns Fifty: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Celebrating a Lasting Legacy,” *Portico*, April Issue, 2010
- “Jason LaBresh: Tider Down Under,” *Alabama Alumni Magazine*, vol. 82, no. 4, 2002
- “Changing the ‘Heart of Darkness’: Sheppard and Lapsley in the Congo,” *Alabama Heritage*, no. 63, 2002
- “Demopolis, City of the People,” with Stuart Flynn, *Alabama Heritage*, no. 59, 2000
- “Daniel Cram’s Mexican War Sketches,” with John McCall, *Alabama Heritage*, no. 56, 2000

Interviews & Reviews

- Interview, “500 Words (More) or Less: Michelle Burke,” Red Mountain Blog (redmountainblog.blogspot.com), 2008
- Interview, “500 Words (More) or Less: Michael Martone,” Red Mountain Blog (redmountainblog.blogspot.com), 2007
- Interview, “500 Words (More) or Less: Ander Monson,” Red Mountain Blog (redmountainblog.blogspot.com), 2007
- Interview, “500 Words (More) or Less: Katie Ford,” Red Mountain Blog (redmountainblog.blogspot.com), 2007
- Review, *Lawrence Booth’s Book of Visions* (poems) by Maurice Manning, *New Orleans Review*, vol. 27, no. 2, 2001
- Interview with poet Bob Perelman, *Sunday Magazine*, WUAL 91.5 (Alabama Public Radio), 1999

Media Coverage

- “Book Review: *This Is the Story of His Life* by TJ Beitelman,” reviewed by Robert Bullard, Alabama Writers’ Forum On-line (writersforum.org), 2018
- “*Communion*: Fiction by TJ Beitelman,” reviewed by Mackenzie Hamilton, New Pages (newpages.com), 2017
- “*Communion* by TJ Beitelman,” reviewed by Ray Barker, Full Stop (full-stop.net), 2017
- “National Short Story Month – Mini-interview: TJ Beitelman,” Emerging Writers Network (emergingwriters.typepad.com), 2017
- “[Review] *Communion* by TJ Beitelman,” reviewed by Jonathan Duckworth, Pank (pankmagazine.com), 2017
- “Book Review: *Americana* by TJ Beitelman,” reviewed by Jim Murphy, Alabama Writers’ Forum On-line (writersforum.org), 2016
- “Man of the Hour: TJ Beitelman,” See Jane Write Magazine (seejanewritemagazine.com), 2014
- “Review: *John the Revelator*,” reviewed by Stephen McClurg, Eunoia Solstice (eunoiasolstice.com), 2014
- “*John the Revelator* by TJ Beitelman,” reviewed by Zack Kopp, The Examiner (examiner.com), 2014
- “Interview: TJ Beitelman,” Eunoia Solstice (eunoiasolstice.com), 2013

“*In Order to Form a More Perfect Union* (review),” reviewed by Phil Constable, New York Journal of Books (*nyjournalofbooks.com*), 2012

“TJ Beitelman’s *Pilgrims: A Love Story*,” reviewed by Molly Gaudry, Big Other (*bigother.com*), 2011

“*Pilgrims: A Love Story* (review),” reviewed by Phil Constable, New York Journal of Books (*nyjournalofbooks.com*), 2010

“TJ Beitelman: The TNB Self Interview,” The Nervous Breakdown (*thenervousbreakdown.com*), 2010

“National Poetry Month Spotlight: TJ Beitelman,” Black Lawrence Press News (*blacklawrence.wordpress.com*), 2010

HONORS & AWARDS

Longlist, Dzanc Books Prize for Fiction, 2021

Notables list, *2011 Best American Nonrequired Reading* (ed. Dave Eggers) for “Manna,” from the Fall 2010 *Bellevue Literary Review*

Winner, Black River Poetry Chapbook Competition, 2008

Winner, Dream Horse Press Poetry Chapbook Competition, 2008

Finalist, Tupelo Press Snowbound Series Chapbook Award in Poetry, 2004

Finalist, Tupelo Press Dorset Prize in Poetry, 2003

Pushcart Prize nomination for “Rooster” in *Quarterly West*, no. 47, 1998

Finalist, C. P. Chermiside Award for Best Graduate Independent Study, Department of English, Virginia Tech, 1996

INVITED READINGS

The University of Montevallo, Montevallo, AL, April 5, 2017

Pure Products Reading Series, Tuscaloosa, AL, February 4, 2016

Nitty Gritty Magic City Reading Series, Birmingham, AL, October 16, 2015

Alabama Book Festival, Montgomery, AL, April 19, 2014

TurnRow Book Company, Greenwood, MS, April 12, 2014

The Indian Springs School, Indian Springs, AL, April 7, 2014

The Loft at Falls Park, Greenville, SC, October 28, 2013

Trobar Ric Reading Series, Oxford, MS, October 11, 2013

Devil’s Lake & Black Lawrence Press AWP Off-Site Reading, Boston, MA, March 7, 2013

The Montevallo Literary Festival, Montevallo, AL, April 15, 2011

The Slash Pine Writers Festival, Tuscaloosa, AL, April 1, 2011

The Slash Pine Press 20/59 Poetry Collision, Birmingham, AL, September 12, 2009

Greencup Books Inaugural Bookfair, Birmingham, AL, November 12, 2008

THE2NDHAND @ Art Walk 2007, Birmingham, AL, September 7, 2007

Alabama Writers’ Symposium, Monroeville, AL, May 4, 2007

NATIONAL CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

AWP Conference & Bookfair, 1999 (Albany), 2006 (Austin), 2013 (Boston), 2015 (Minneapolis), 2017 (Washington, D.C.), 2019 (Portland, OR)

Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference (contributing participant), Middlebury, VT, 2008

Centrum Foundation Autumn Writers' Intensive (contributing participant), Port
Townsend, WA, 2008
Council of Literary Magazines and Presses (CLMP) Literary Journal Institute,
Minneapolis, MN, 2000

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Association of Writers & Writing Programs
Alabama Writers' Cooperative
Alabama Writers' Forum