

SARAH E. DECAPUA
CURRICULUM VITAE

University of Connecticut
Department of English
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EDUCATION

- 2016 PhD, Composition & TESOL
Indiana University of Pennsylvania; Indiana, PA
Dissertation: *Student response to written teacher feedback in First-Year Composition: Defining what students find useful & whether they believe it improves their writing*
- 1993 MAT, Secondary Education (English)
Sacred Heart University; Fairfield, CT
Thesis: *Self-esteem: Helping your students to feel, act, and think like winners*
- 1990 BS, English and Secondary Education
Springfield College; Springfield, MA

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2018- Assistant Professor in Residence, First-Year Writing Program
University of Connecticut – Storrs, CT
Department of English
Courses: ENG 1003 (English for International Writers), ENG 1004 (Introduction to Academic Writing)
ENG 1003 is for multilingual students who are transitioning to primarily English academic discourse, as well as for students who have been placed in the course by standardized test scores and written placement tests. The course provides students more experience writing extended essays for an American university audience.
ENG 1004 is designed to provide students with further experience with expectations of college-level writing in a supportive environment with extra feedback from instructors. The course is designed to guide students in developing their writing practices and to introduce them to meaningful participation in critical conversations.

- 2016-2018 Visiting Assistant Professor, Assistant Director First-Year Composition
Texas Woman's University – Denton, TX
 Department of English, Speech, and Foreign Languages
 Courses: ENG 1013 (Composition I), ENG 1023 (Composition II), ENG 2393 (Introduction to Literature by Women), ENG 6913 (Graduate Independent Study)
 ENG 1013 is theory and practice of written and oral exposition and research in traditional and electronic environments; rhetorical principles and organization in practice. Core Composition requirement.
 ENG 1023 is theory and practice of critical exposition and rhetorical analysis in traditional and electronic environments; composing persuasive and investigative texts based on research. Core Composition requirement.
 ENG 2393 (Online) is an introduction to important works of literature by women. The course can be organized by theme, topic, genre, ethnic group, or nationality.
 ENG 6913 (Online) is an intensive investigation of a literary, rhetorical, or linguistic area. Focus on instructor response to the writing of non-native English-speaking students.
- Assistant Director of FYC duties include mentoring, observing, and evaluating GTAs, adjunct faculty, and dual-credit instructors who teach in the FYC program; participating in programmatic assessments to meet both university and state standards; providing administrative support for the director of FYC; leading professional development workshops; demonstrating continued engagement with current practices and theories in the discipline; and serving on related departmental committees.
- 2017- Adjunct Instructor
North Central Texas [Community] College — Gainesville, TX
 Department of English, Speech, and Foreign Languages
 Courses: ENG 0300/0305 (Fundamentals of English I/II), ENG 1301 (Composition I), ENG 2311 (Technical & Business Writing)
 ENG 0300 provides students the opportunity to practice basic grammar skills, then move to advanced topics, including modifiers and parallelism.
 ENG 0305 students learn to compose unified, well-developed essays with an introduction, a body, and a conclusion. The thesis sentence statement and topic sentences are emphasized.
 ENG 1301 is intensive study of and practice in writing processes, from invention and researching to drafting, revising, and editing, both individually and collaboratively. Effective rhetorical choices, including audience, purpose, arrangement, and style are emphasized. Students focus on writing the academic essay as a vehicle for learning, communication, and critical analysis. I teach this course online.
 ENG 2311 is designed with a focus on writing the types of documents necessary to make decisions and take action on the job, such as proposals, reports, instructions, policies and procedures, e-mail messages, letters, and

descriptions of products and services. Students practice the individual and collaborative processes that are involved in the creation of ethical and efficient documents. I have taught this course both face to face and online.

- 2013–2016 Adjunct Instructor
Southern Connecticut State University — New Haven, CT
 First-Year Experience program and English Department
 Courses: INQ 101 (Introduction to Intellectual & Creative Inquiry),
 ENG 112 (Writing Arguments)
 INQ 101 (Introduction to Intellectual and Creative Inquiry) is a seminar designed to assist first-year students in the process of becoming academically and socially engaged members of the university community. Course topics and themes center around the development of the critical thinking and academic inquiry skills necessary to succeed at the university. Students reflect on their own lives and their reasons for attending college, and think about their future in relation to their interests and educational goals. Teacher responsibilities include academic advising. ENG 112 (Writing Arguments) develops students' analytical reading and writing skills with a focus on intellectually demanding texts, with an emphasis on source-based argument writing.
- 2015–2016 Adjunct Instructor
University of New Haven — West Haven, CT
 Department of English
 Courses: ENGL 1104 (Developmental Writing for International Students),
 ENGL 1110 (Composition and Literature)
 ENGL 1104 is for international students. This course is designed to increase awareness of the structure of English. It includes intensive practice in writing to improve the student's ability to construct effective sentences, paragraphs, and short essays.
 ENGL 1110 is a course which provides students guided practice in textual analysis, synthesis, and more sophisticated research practices.
- 2012–2013, Full-time Instructor
 2010–2011 **Southern Connecticut State University — New Haven, CT**
 First-Year Experience program and English Department
 Courses: INQ 101 (Introduction to Intellectual and Creative Inquiry), ENG 110 (Composition Writing Lab), ENG 112 (Writing Arguments)
 ENG 110 (Composition Writing Lab) offers individual guidance to students in need of intensive training and practice in basic writing skills before taking ENG 112.
- 2009–2010 Adjunct Instructor
Fairfield University — Fairfield, CT
 English Department, Division of Languages

Courses: ENG 11 (Composition and Prose Literature), ENG 12 (Introduction to Literature & the Research Paper)

Southern Connecticut State University — New Haven, CT

English Department, Division of Languages.

Courses: ENG 111 (Composition I), ENG 112 (Composition II)

At both Fairfield University and Southern, course concentrations in ENG 11/ENG 111 include planning, writing, and revising compositions, emphasizing both the development of critical/logical thinking skills, and analytical, evaluative, and persuasive arguments; research and documentation. At Fairfield, ENG 12 is a continuation course, taught in the spring. Focus is on introduction to literature; writing about literature; in-depth research and documentation. At Southern, ENG 112 extends students' abilities to analyze nonfiction and includes a major research and documentation component.

2004–2006

Adjunct Instructor

Pikes Peak Community College — Colorado Springs, CO

English Department, Division of Languages

Courses: ENG 121 (Composition I), ENG 122 (Composition II)

Course concentrations included planning, writing, and revising compositions, emphasizing both the development of critical/logical thinking skills, and analytical, evaluative, and persuasive arguments; research and documentation; writing about literature.

1999–2016

Independent Editor and Author

Project manager for as many as sixty books per year, from initial manuscript to bound book. Line editing, copyediting, and proofreading of fiction and nonfiction titles through various stages of production. Author of more than forty nonfiction books for students at various grade levels, subjects include biography, geography, history, and civics.

1995–1999

Associate Editor

Grolier Children's Publishing, Inc. — Danbury, CT

Editing and production for thirty-six nonfiction series titles per year, from manuscript to bound book. Creation and development of three nonfiction series.

1994–1995

Editorial Assistant

The Millbrook Press, Inc. — Brookfield, CT

All in-house proofreading, copyediting, and tracking of manuscripts through the production process.

1993

Editorial Coordinator

Newfield Publications — Shelton, CT

Organizing and tracking of editorial projects. Editing, researching, and Americanizing selections for the *Young Students Learning Library* encyclopedia.

- 1992–1993 MAT Internship
Shelton High School — Shelton, CT
Teacher, English and American literature
- 1992–1994 Freelance Editor
Greenwood Publishing Group, Inc. — Westport, CT
Proofreading and copyediting of scholarly and professional manuscripts.
- 1990–1992 Tutor
Shelton High School — Shelton, CT
English, grammar, and American literature

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

Across the Disciplines

“Disciplinary Corpus Research for Situated Literacy Instruction.”

With Sarah M. H. Blazer

(In press)

The CEA Forum

“ ‘You are asking me to do more than just read a book’: Student Reading in a General Literature Course”

With Ann N. Amicucci, Michael M. Williamson, John R. Hrebik

(Winter/Spring 2015)

Working Papers in Composition & TESOL

“A Language Learning Journey: Jessie’s Story”

<http://www.english.iup.edu/wpc%26t/issues.htm/V8/SarahDeCapua.pdf>

May 1, 2012

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS

Deconstructing Carefully, Analyzing Critically, Responding Thoughtfully

Sixth Annual Conference of The Consortium for Critical Reading, Writing, and Thinking
(Berkeley College)

With Elena Byrne, Southern Connecticut State University

Forthcoming (October 19, 2018)

Formative Feedback: Consulting with Translingual Writers

Invited by Dr. Jennifer Phillips-Denny, director of The Write Site (Texas Woman’s University)

North Texas Writing Centers Association Spring Conference
April 13, 2018

“But I Don’t Plan to Be an Administrator”: Why You Should Join the WPA and
Subscribe to Its Listserv Anyway

Invited by Dr. Gretchen Busl, director of FYC (Texas Woman’s University)
Focus Friday FYC Program Professional Development
March 2, 2018

Just Because You’re a Writing Teacher Doesn’t Mean You Have to Write:* Strategies for
Effective Formative Feedback

(*on Students’ Drafts)
Invited by Dr. Gretchen Busl, director of FYC (Texas Woman’s University)
Focus Friday FYC Program Professional Development
February 9, 2018

*Learning How to Sail Before Rocking the Boat: Giving First-Year Writing Students the
Skills They Need to Shake Things Up*

Fifth Annual Conference of The Consortium for Critical Reading, Writing, and Thinking
(Berkeley College)
With Elena Byrne, Southern Connecticut State University
October 27, 2017

Janus in the Classroom: Management Tips for the Graduate Teaching Assistant

Invited by Dr. Gretchen Busl, director of FYC (Texas Woman’s University)
Focus Friday FYC Program Professional Development
October 6, 2017

*Are We There Yet?: Maintaining Momentum—and Helping Your Students Do the Same—
Between Spring Break and Summer Vacation*

Invited by Dr. Gretchen Busl, director of FYC (Texas Woman’s University)
Focus Friday FYC Program Professional Development
April 7, 2017

Non-Native English Speakers in the Write Site: A Guide for Writing Center Tutors

Invited by Dr. Jennifer Phillips-Denny, director of The Write Site (Texas Woman’s
University)
Write Site Practicum
February 10, 2017

*Devising Practical Strategies for Introducing Non-Native English Speakers to Academic
Writing*

Fourth Annual Conference of The Consortium for Critical Reading, Writing, and
Thinking (Berkeley College)
With Alexandra DeLuise, Melissa Sloat, University of New Haven
October 28, 2016

Show, Don't Tell, in Writing

Invited by Dr. Gretchen Busl, director of FYC (Texas Woman's University)
Focus Friday FYC Program Professional Development
October 7, 2016

The CJ Project – A Guide to Charitable Giving in FYE

Invited by Nicole Henderson, director of FYE (Southern Connecticut State University)
FYE Teaching Academy
August 21, 2012

Managing Dissertation Research with NVivo

Invited by Composition & TESOL PhD colleagues
With Ann N. Amicucci, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
July 13, 2012

Applying Online Learning to Teaching Practice in Higher Education

Invited by Dr. Kenneth Sherwood, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
ENG 881 – Digital Literacy
May 17, 2012

Creating & Maintaining Blogs for Scholarly Use

Invited by Dr. Michael M. Williamson, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
ENG 881 – Writing Program Administration
February 8, 2012

SERVICE

Common Read Essay Contest Mentor – Texas Woman's University (2018)
Common Read Selection Committee – Texas Woman's University (2017, 2018)
Core Assessment Rater – Texas Woman's University (2017, 2018)
English Program Assessment Committee – Texas Woman's University (2017, 2018)
FYC Essay Contest Judge – Texas Woman's University (2017, 2018)
Write Site Summer Writing Camp – Texas Woman's University (2017)
Composition Committee – Texas Woman's University (2016, 2017, 2018)
Fulbright Scholarship Review Committee – Texas Woman's University (2016)
FYC Program Norming Group Leader – Texas Woman's University (2016, 2017, 2018)
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee – Texas Woman's University (2016, 2017, 2018)
New Haven Public Schools/Southern Connecticut State University Institutional
Alignment/Assessment Project (2015)
Adjunct Faculty Representative – Southern Connecticut State University (2014-2015)
Norming/Assessment Project for *Automated Essay Evaluation and the Computational
Paradigm: Machine Scoring Enters the Classroom* – Dissertation by Catherine
Barrett (2014)
Common Read Selection Committee – Southern Connecticut State University (2013,
2014, 2015)

Second-Semester Advising Group – Southern Connecticut State University (2012-2013)

SELECTED NON-FICTION PUBLICATIONS

Lerner Publishing Group

America in the 1950s (with Edmund Lindop, *The Decades of Twentieth-Century America*, ©2010)

Finland in Pictures (Visual Geography Series, ©2010)

The Netherlands in Pictures (Visual Geography Series, ©2010)

Malawi in Pictures (Visual Geography Series, ©2009)

Scholastic, Inc.

A Governor's Job (True Books: Civics, ©2004)

How People Immigrate (True Books: Civics, ©2004)

Making a Law (True Books: Civics, ©2004)

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial (Cornerstones of Freedom, ©2003)

Becoming a Citizen (True Books: Civics, ©2002)

Paying Taxes (True Books: Civics, ©2002)

Running for Public Office (True Books: Civics, ©2002)

Serving on a Jury (True Books: Civics, ©2002)

Voting (True Books: Civics, ©2002)

Cherry Lake Publishing

Andrew Carnegie (Life Skills Biographies, ©2008)

Marshall Cavendish, Inc.

Sandra Day O'Connor (Leading Women, ©2013)

The Choctaw (Junior Lifeways, ©2009)

The Shoshone (Junior Lifeways, ©2008)

The Shawnee (Junior Lifeways, ©2008)

The Comanche (Junior Lifeways, ©2007)

The Cheyenne (Junior Lifeways, ©2007)

The Cherokee (Junior Lifeways, ©2006)

The Iroquois (Junior Lifeways, ©2006)

Peru (Discovering Cultures, ©2004)

Colombia (Discovering Cultures, ©2004)

Dominican Republic (Discovering Cultures, ©2004)

The Child's World, Inc.

The Tuskegee Airmen (Journey to Freedom, ©2004)

The Virginia Colony (Spirit of America: Our Thirteen Colonies, ©2004)

Abolitionists (Journey to Freedom, ©2003)

Irish Americans (Spirit of America: Our Cultural Heritage, ©2003)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Conference on College Composition and Communication
Council of Writing Program Administrators
National Council of Teachers of English
Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (Full Member)
TESOL

AWARDS & HONORS

2016	Southern Connecticut State University J. Philip Smith Award for Outstanding Teaching nominee
2015	IUP C&T Program Promising Future Research in Composition Award
2015	Southern Connecticut State University J. Philip Smith Award for Outstanding Teaching nominee
2015	Southern Connecticut State University Athletic Department Faculty Appreciation Series honoree (four times)
2014	Southern Connecticut State University Athletic Department Faculty Appreciation Series honoree (three times)
2013	Southern Connecticut State University J. Philip Smith Award for Outstanding Teaching nominee
2013	Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society
2012	IUP C&T Program Patrick M. Hartwell Memorial Scholarship
2012	IUP Foundation Doctoral Fellowship
2011	Southern Connecticut State University J. Philip Smith Award for Outstanding Teaching nominee
2010	Fairfield University Faculty Appreciation Series honoree
2005	KOAA (Colorado Springs) Teachers First Award nominee