

# REBECCA OTTMAN

Assistant Professor of English  
Department of Liberal Studies  
College of Marine Sciences and Maritime Studies  
Texas A&M University  
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## EDUCATION

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### Indiana University

Ph.D. in English, Rhetoric Concentration, 2021

Dissertation: "Theorizing Eloquence as a Means-Driven Process of Recursive Invention"

Committee: Dana Anderson (co-chair), Katherine Silvester (co-chair), Justin Hodgson, Scot Barnett

### University of Southern Indiana

M.A. in English, Literature Concentration, 2016

### Kentucky Wesleyan College, *summa cum laude*

B.A. English, Spanish, 2014

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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- Assistant Professor of English, Texas A&M University, Galveston, Texas, 2023-Present
- Instructional Assistant Professor of English, Texas A&M University at Galveston, Galveston, Texas, 2021- 2023
- Associate Instructor, Indiana University Bloomington, Bloomington, Indiana, 2016-2021

## RESEARCH AGENDA

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- *Ambiguous Eloquence: A Theory of Rhetorical Stewardship*, book project, manuscript in preparation
- "Ambiguous Eloquence: Asignification as Rhetorical Resistance," manuscript under review with the *Journal for the History of Rhetoric*
- "#xyzbca: Processual Eloquence as Recursive Invention on Protest TikTok," manuscript under revision for resubmission with *enculturation*
- "Review: *A New Handbook of Rhetoric: Inverting the Classical Vocabulary*," November 2022, *Journal for the History of Rhetoric*
- "Attuning Multilingual Students to Multimodal Contexts through Rhetorical Analysis of Multimodal Texts," February 2021, *Journal of Global Literacies, Technologies, and Emerging Pedagogies*
- "The Work of Rhetoric in the Age of Technological Simulacra: Rhetorical Play and the Hyperreal," manuscript in preparation

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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- Research Advisory Council Travel Funding, \$500

- Culbertson Teaching Award, \$500
- Carnegie Travel Award, \$350
- Culbertson Travel Award, \$1,000
- Culbertson Travel Award, \$1,000
- RSA Ivie League Corax and Tisias Award
- Candidacy Comprehensive Exam, passed with distinction
- 2016-2017 American Studies Virginia La Follette Gunderson Award for “Transcultural Locations, Transnational Frameworks, Translingual Practice: Redefining Postcolonial Literature through the Use of Codeswitching in *Brother, I’m Dying* and *The Book of Unknown Americans*”
- Culbertson Dissertation Fellowship, \$20,000
- Outstanding Returning Student Scholarship, University of Southern Indiana, \$1,000

## CONFERENCES

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- “Mythical Intelligence: Generative AI and Rhetorical Metalanguage,” *Rhet AI Center Conference*, Tübingen, Germany, November 2024
- “The Work of Rhetoric in the Age of Technological Simulacra, or Everything is a Copy of a Copy of a Copy,” *Rhetoric Society of America*, Denver, Colorado, May 2024
- “Ambiguous Eloquence: Asignification as Rhetorical Resistance,” *American Society for the History of Rhetoric Symposium*, Denver, Colorado, May 2024
- “An Abundance of Caution: Some Notes on Invention and LLMs in Recent Conversations,” *Conference on College Composition and Communication*, Spokane, Washington, April 2024
- “Make It or Break It: Using Multimodal Experimentation to Augment Rhetorical Awareness in FYC,” *Conference on College Composition and Communication*, Chicago, Illinois, February 2023
- “Transforming Eloquence: TikTok as Eloquent Practice,” *Rhetoric Society of America*, Baltimore, Maryland, May 2022
- “Using Translingual Readings to Teach Rhetorical Sensibility,” *Conference on College Composition and Communication*, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, March 2019
- “Rhizomatic Language: The Translingual Utterance in the Neoliberal Writing Course” Thomas R. Watson Conference, Louisville, Kentucky, October 2018
- “Attuning Multilingual Students to a Multimodal Context” *Computers and Writing*, Fairfax, Virginia, May 2018
- “Translanguaging in the Rhetorical Sphere: Rhetoric as a Guide through a Practice-Based Theory of Translingualism” *Conference on College Composition and Communication*, Kansas City Missouri, March 2018
- Qualitative Research Network Participant, *Conference on College Composition and Communication*, Kansas City, Missouri, March 2018

## ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROGRAMMATIC EXPERIENCE

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- Coordinator, First-Year Composition at Texas A&M University at Galveston, 2022-2023

- Developing and scaffolding curriculum, policies, and guidelines related to undergraduate writing within the context of first-year composition. Ensuring that first-year composition syllabi incorporate field-supported best practices, recent scholarship, campus needs, and alignment with the university's strategic vision. Designing training materials, onboarding procedures, and mentoring for incoming instructors of the course, while also providing professional development opportunities based upon emergent needs and best practices in rhetoric and composition.
- Research Assistant, Digital Rhetorics and Media Project for Professor John Arthos, Indiana University, Summer, 2020
  - Conducted independent research on online communities, digital education, search engine optimization, and marketing for a humanities-based website. Built a database of resources and samples for the site and constructed a mock site based on discussions with Professor Arthos.
- Assistant Director, Indiana University Composition Program, 2019-2020
  - Assisted in curriculum design, organized orientation for new instructors, and provided workshops for veteran instructors. Observed courses, coached new instructors, and provided support for all instructors in the program.
- Program Assistant, Indiana University Program for Multilingual Writers, 2018-2019
  - Served as teaching coach to new and veteran instructors of first-year writing for multilingual students, designed curriculum, offered implementation strategies for new curriculum, organized, and executed workshops on a variety of writing skills and best practices.
- Research Assistant, IU Libraries Curriculum Grant, Indiana University Program for Multilingual Writers, 2017-2018
  - Worked closely with a team of researchers engaged in issues and challenges facing multilingual and international students as part of a curriculum grant. Collected and catalogued literature in the fields of composition and second language writing, conducted interviews with international students about their experiences in first-year writing at Indiana University, analyzed and coded reflective essays written in those courses, and actively sought out venues to build a database for potential publication of findings.

## COURSES TAUGHT

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- Maritime Studies 489: Special Topics
  - Special Topic: Rhetorics of the Internet
    - Advanced undergraduate course focusing on using theoretical frameworks from digital rhetoric and classical rhetoric to investigate the ways in which we, as simultaneous internet creators and audiences, are rhetorically situated in connection with the algorithms, social media environments, and digital tools that shape our communication strategies in various internet spaces.

- Maritime Studies 485: Directed Study
  - Special Topic: Exploring Law through Classical Rhetoric
    - Directed study course focusing on developing student awareness of the relationships between classical rhetoric—particularly Aristotelian ethics and Ciceronian invention—and contemporary legal studies and movements.
- English 203: Writing about Literature
  - Special Topic: Literary Horror
    - Literary writing course focusing on acclimating students to genre conventions, theories, and critical skills necessary to identify and analyze significant works of literature with a special focus on the manifestation of horror across literary texts.
- English 104: Composition and Rhetoric
  - First-year writing course focusing on the development of students' writing processes through building skills such as critical reading, analytical writing, and research. Course also cultivates rhetorical awareness through engagement with campus Common Reader text and corresponding Culture Discourse attribute.
- English 210: Technical and Professional Writing Online
  - Professional writing course focusing on applying student knowledge of rhetorical situation to workplace writing and procedural documents through assignments focused on traditional workplace genres, from corporate press releases to instructional guides to collaborative workplace project proposals. Course facilitated in an online format.
- English R209: Topics in Rhetoric and Public Culture
  - Special Topic: Canceled! Cancel Culture and the Ancient Rhetorical Canons
    - Rhetoric and public culture course focusing on reading the contemporary cases of cancel culture through the lens of the ancient rhetorical canons (invention, arrangement, style, memory, and delivery). Students critically analyzed both ancient and contemporary examples ranging from Plato and Cicero to political Twitter accounts in order to study the rhetorical nature of cancellation.
- English W231: Professional Writing Skills
  - Professional writing course focusing on developing writing skills needed in a professional environment. The course emphasized effective document design, reading job advertisements, and positioning a variety of materials, from resumes and cover letters to project proposals and reports, rhetorically.
- English W131 Multilingual: Analytical Reading, Writing, & Inquiry
  - First-year writing course specially tailored to and focusing on the unique language needs of multilingual students. Students learn to read and analyze a variety of texts such as essays, multimodal advertisements, and photographs. The theme of this course considered the rhetorical nature writing genres with special emphasis on translingual texts and codemeshing.

- English W131: Analytical Reading, Writing, & Inquiry
  - First-year writing course focusing on building analytical skills in reading and writing. Students analyzed texts that ranged from essays to films to music videos. The theme of this course is centered on linguistic violence and othering.

## DEPARTMENTAL TALKS AND WORKSHOPS

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- Invited Speaker, “Rhetoric and Eloquence,” Maritime Studies 240, Fall 2024
- Invited Speaker, “Dissoi Logoi, Rhetoric, and Logic,” Nexus Student Organization, Fall 2021
- Invited Correspondent, English Prospectus Workshop, Spring 2020
- Invited Correspondent, “Negotiating Conferences as a Graduate Student,” Spring 2019
- Invited Speaker, “Working with Multilingual Students in First-Year Composition,” Fall 2018

## SERVICE

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- Chair, Common Reader Committee, Department of Liberal Studies, Texas A&M at Galveston, 2021-Present
- Student Success Initiative Committee, Texas A&M University at Galveston, 2021-Present
- CARE Team, Texas A&M University at Galveston, 2022-2023
- Commencement Committee, 2022-2024
- Internal Communications Committee, 2022-Present
- Civic Literacy, Inclusion, Diversity & Equity Committee, 2022-2023
- Copy-editor, *Enculturation*, 2020-Present
- Reviewer, *Xchanges*, 2024-Present
- Transcriber, Global Rhetorics Podcast, 2020-Present (on hiatus)
- Vice President, Graduate Student Advisory Committee at Indiana University, 2020-2021
- Mentoring and Brown Bag Coordinator, Graduate Student Advisory Committee at Indiana University, 2019-2020
- Pedagogy Committee Member, Graduate Student Advisory Committee at Indiana University, 2018-2019
- Co-President, Ivie League-Rhetoric Society of America Chapter at Indiana University, 2017- 2018
- Graduate Student Peer Mentor, 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020

## LANGUAGES

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- English-native language
- Spanish-Proficient

## REFERENCES

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- Professor Dana Anderson, Associate Professor of English, Indiana University  
[danaande@iu.edu](mailto:danaande@iu.edu)
- Professor Justin Hodgson, Associate Professor of English, Indiana University  
[hodgson@iu.edu](mailto:hodgson@iu.edu)
- Professor Scot Barnett, Associate Professor of English, Indiana University  
[scbarnet@iu.edu](mailto:scbarnet@iu.edu)
- Professor Katherine Silvester, Associate Professor of English, Indiana University  
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