

FULL CURRICULUM VITAE
PAUL A. MINIFEE

Assistant Professor
Department of Rhetoric and Writing Studies
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego, CA 92182

P.O. Box 151291
San Diego, CA 92175
pminifee@mail.sdsu.edu
Office: 619-594-6517

EDUCATION

- Ph.D.** **English, Specialization in Rhetoric and Writing, 1997 - 2007**
University of Texas at Austin
Dissertation: "Roots of Black Rhetoric: African Methodist Episcopal Zion's
Pioneering Preacher-Politicians"
Dissertation Advisers: Linda Ferreira-Buckley and Joanna Brooks
- B.A.** **English and Psychology, 1991-1994**
University of Texas at Austin

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Assistant Professor, Department of Rhetoric and Writing Studies,
San Diego State University, 2008 - present**

I teach upper division and graduate courses on advanced composition and rhetorical theory. Course titles include RWS 500 "Sacred and Secular Rhetoric," RWS 510 "Rhetoric of Abolitionists and Women's Rights Activists," and RWS 509 "Introduction to Teaching Composition in Secondary Schools."

**Lecturer, Department of Rhetoric and Writing Studies
San Diego State University, 2006 - 2008**

I taught upper division and graduate courses on advanced composition and rhetorical theory. Course titles included RWS 500 "Sacred and Secular Rhetoric," RWS 510 "Rhetoric of Abolitionists and Women's Rights Activists," and RWS 509 "Introduction to Teaching Composition in Secondary Schools."

Visiting Instructor, University Writing Program, University of Notre Dame, 2005 - 2006

"Rhetoric of Race and Religion in African American Slave Narratives"

Taught first-year writing course. Readings included literary texts by Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass, and Harriet Jacobs, and theoretical texts by Kenneth Burke, Chaim Perelman, and Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

Visiting Fellow, Department of Theology, University of Notre Dame, 2003 - 2005

John S. Marten Program in Homiletics, "Preaching I and II"

Assisted in training seminarians and Masters of Divinity students in preaching. Critiqued student sermons and guest lectured on "Rhetoric of African American Preaching."

Assistant Instructor, Department of English, University of Texas at Austin, 2002 - 2003

Division of Rhetoric and Writing, "Rhetoric and Composition"

Designed and taught a substantial writing course, E 306, which focused on argumentation.

Assistant Instructor, Department of English, University of Texas at Austin, Summer, 2002

Division of Rhetoric and Writing, "African American Rhetoric"

Designed and taught a substantial writing course, E 309s, which focused on the rhetorical styles of African American social-political activists, writers, preachers, and orators. Readings included texts by Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass, Langston Hughes, and Zora Neale Hurston.

Assistant Instructor, Department of English, University of Texas at Austin, 2001 - 2002

"African American Literature and Culture"

Designed and taught a sophomore literature course, E 314k, entitled "African American Literature and Culture: Autobiography from the Antebellum to the Present." Readings included texts by Jarena Lee, Harriet Jacobs, Frederick Douglass, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, and Alice Walker.

Assistant Instructor, Department of English, University of Texas at Austin, 2000 - 2001

Division of Rhetoric and Writing, "Rhetoric of Blaxploitation"

Designed and taught an E 309k course that fulfills the substantial writing component requirement for undergraduates. Films studied included *Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song*, *Shaft*, *Super Fly*, and *Jackie Brown*.

Assistant Instructor, Department of English, University of Texas at Austin, Summer 2000

Division of Rhetoric and Writing, "Critical Reading and Persuasive Writing"

Taught one section of a substantial writing course, E 309s, designated for the Preview Honors Program. This program included scholarship recipients from underrepresented groups—of African, Asian, and Latin American descent.

Assistant Instructor, Department of English, University of Texas at Austin, 1999 - 2000

Division of Rhetoric and Writing, "Rhetoric and Composition"

Taught one section of a substantial writing course, E 306, required of all undergraduates.

Teaching Assistant, Department of Nutrition, University of Texas at Austin, Summer 1999

"Issues in Nutrition and Health"

Graded research essays and advised students on scientific writing for a substantial writing course, NTR 338W.

Teaching Assistant, Department of English, University of Texas at Austin, 1997 - 1998

"Masterworks of American Literature"

Taught two weekly discussion sections.

ESL Instructor, YBM Sisa Language Institute, Seoul, Korea, 1995-1997

Taught English conversation, grammar, syntax, and writing to K-12 students and adults.

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

1. “‘Our World Wide Organ’: Constitutive Rhetoric in Rev. Jermain Loguen’s Letters to African American Newspapers” in *Journal of Communication and Religion* 36.3 (November 2013).
2. “Rhetoric of Doom and Redemption: Rev. Jermain Loguen’s Jeremiadic Speech Against the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850” in *Advances in the History of Rhetoric* 16.1 (2013) 29 – 57.
3. “Converting Slaves to Citizens: Prophetic Ethos in Sermons of Bishop James W. Hood” in *Journal of Communication and Religion* 34.2 (2011) 105 – 127.
4. “‘I Took Up a Hymn-Book’: Rhetoric of Hymnody in Jarena Lee’s *Call to Preach*” in *Advances in the History of Rhetoric* (forthcoming).

Current Project

1. “How it Feels to Be a Colored PhD: Paradoxes of a Post-Racial Pedagogy”

SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

San Diego State University, Residential Education, Fall 2006 – 2010, Spring 2012 - present

Faculty-in-Residence

Consult resident assistants and residence hall staff in designing academic and social development programs for residents at Zura Hall, such as Tunnel of Oppression, Graduate School Writing Workshops, WPA Workshops, Black Film Festival, and “Professors Don’t Bite.”

Christian Youth United for the Advancement of the Gospel, Fall 2011 – present

Advisor

As CYUAG’s faculty advisor, I attend weekly meetings and consult with the organization’s officers regarding acceptable strategies for proselytizing on campus.

The River at SDSU, Fall 2012 – present

Advisor

As The River’s faculty advisor, I attend weekly meetings and consult with the organization’s officers regarding acceptable strategies for proselytizing on campus.

Ethiopian and Eritrean Students Association, San Diego State University, Fall 2008 – 2013

Advisor

As EESA’s faculty advisor, I regularly attended weekly meetings where we discussed our involvement in community service projects, fundraising for the organizations, group study sessions, on-campus promotional events, and social potlucks to attract more members.

San Diego State University, WPA Workshop for Cuicacalli Suites, September 9, 2012

Presenter

I presented a writing workshop on “How to Whoop the WPA” to residents in Cuicacalli Suites (SDSU campus dormitory).

Ignite Student Ministries, San Diego State University, Fall 2008 – 2011

Advisor

As Ignite’s faculty advisor, I attended weekly meetings and consult with the organization’s officers regarding acceptable strategies for proselytizing on campus.

SDSU Peer Mentoring Program, Transfer Student Campus Visit, May 4, 2012

Panelist

I participated in a panel discussion that provided advice to transfer students on how to communicate with professors and how to succeed in writing courses at SDSU.

SDSU Presidential Scholars Dalai Lama Reception, April 19, 2012

Discussion Moderator

Following the Dalai Lama’s lecture at SDSU, I moderated an open dialogue with our university’s Presidential Scholars in order to help them process what they learned during the presentation.

Department of Rhetoric and Writing Studies, SDSU, Fall 2011

Committee Member

I collaborated with my colleagues in the development, design, and proposal of a major in RWS. The major was approved. We will accept our first class of majors in Fall 2014.

Department of Rhetoric and Writing Studies, SDSU, Fall 2008 – Present

Library Liaison

On behalf of my department, I routinely submit book and periodical orders to SDSU’s Love Library.

SDSU School of Communication Colloquium, April 2010

Guest Lecturer

My talk, “Redemption Song: Nineteenth-Century African American Rhetorics of Freedom,” examined the intersections between African American spiritual narratives, sermons, and speeches through the frame of a 2004 Nike ad featuring fallen and newly “redeemed” Kobe Bryant.

Christ United Presbyterian Church, November 14, 2009

Guest Speaker

Invited by the Christian Education Committee, I presented my work on “The Character of 19th-Century Black Preachers.”

“Professors Don’t Bite” Faculty Panel, Zura Hall, SDSU, November 1, 2009

Panelist

With a panel of SDSU faculty, I answered questions posed by residents regarding “myths” about university professors. We also presented information about test-

taking skills, emailing, office hours, and how we became interested in our respective fields.

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination), April 18, 2008

Guest Speaker

I presented a lecture on Langston Hughes' "Theme for English B" before a group of fifty AVID students from various secondary schools in San Diego County.

Residential Education Office, SDSU, Black Film Festival, March 1, 2008

Advisor and Co-coordinator

I helped coordinate a twelve-hour movie marathon featuring films about African and African American culture in the United States and abroad.

Christ United Presbyterian Church, Black History Month Program, February 23, 2008

Panelist

Alongside Dr. Shirley Weber, Dr. Ed Blum, Dr. Adisa Alkebulan, and former Ombudsman Diedrick Graham, I addressed questions regarding the relevance of Black History in the 21st century and the role of the black church in our nation's future.

CAL Critical Thinking Grant Committee, SDSU, November 2008

Committee Member

As a member of this committee, I deliberated with colleagues concerning the allocation of \$83,000 in research funding for CAL faculty.

"Professors Don't Bite" Faculty Panel, Chapultepec Hall, SDSU, October 16, 2008

Panelist

With a panel of SDSU faculty, I answered questions posed by residents regarding "myths" about university professors. We also presented information about test-taking skills, emailing, office hours, and how we became interested in our respective fields.

Tunnel of Oppression, San Diego State University, 2007 – 2009

Discussion Mediator

The Tunnel of Oppression is a student production created and performed by SDSU students and staff. It is a diversity awareness project designed to fight ignorance and oppression through education. The participants physically move through a series of sensory experiences pertaining to different kinds of oppression. After travelling through the Tunnel in silence, the participants met with me to discuss their reactions, responses, the impact of this exercise, and how it relates to our community.

Writing Workshop, SDSU, University Towers Residence Hall, September 15, 2007

Faculty Presenter

I presented a writing workshop on graduate school applications, writing samples, and personal statements to juniors and seniors preparing for graduate school.

University of Notre Dame, Film, Television, and Theatre Department, Summer 2004

Dramaturge, Image Coordinator, Website Manager

Researched and collected archival images for multimedia theatre production, *Avanti: A Postindustrial Ghost Story*, of Jessica Chalmers', a play about the

closing of the Studebaker car company in 1963. Managed photo-documentary content of website (avanti.nd.edu) and edited "Studebaker Memories" submitted online. Interviewed former Studebaker workers whose testimonies contributed to content of script. Wrote historical synopsis for play's program.

Austin Korean Presbyterian Church, 1999-2000

Bible Study Teacher, College English Ministry

Taught a Sunday school class that centered on hermeneutical explications of the Bible and focused on daily applications of Christian doctrine.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Conference on College Composition and Communication

Las Vegas, NV, March 13 – 17, 2013

"How it Feels to Be a Colored PhD: Paradoxes of a Post-Racial Pedagogy"

Rhetoric Society of America Conference

Philadelphia, PA, May 24 – 28, 2012

"It Outlaws Me and I Outlaw It": Rhetoric of Agitation in Rev. Jermain Loguen's Speech in Defiance of the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850"

Hawaii University International Conference on Arts and Humanities

Honolulu, HI, January 8 – 11, 2012

"Wielding (S)Words in a Holy War: Rev. Jermain Loguen's Speech in Defiance of the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850"

National Communication Association

San Diego, CA, November 21 – 24, 2008

"Converting Slaves to Citizens: Prophetic Ethos in Sermons of Bishop James W. Hood"

Conference on College Composition and Communication

New Orleans, LA, April 2 – 7, 2008

"Form and Figure of a Pulpit": Prophetic Presence in Jarena Lee's *Call to Preach*"

National Communication Association

San Antonio, Texas, November 16 -19, 2006

"Form and Figure of a Pulpit": Rhetoric of Jarena Lee's *Call to Preach*"

Conference on College Composition and Communication

Denver, Colorado, March 2001

"Douglass's Debt to the Church: Influence of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church on the Rhetoric of Frederick Douglass"

National Association of African American Studies

Houston, Texas, February 13-17 2001

"Douglass's Homage to Hood: A Rhetorical Analysis of Bishop James Walker Hood's Sermons"

AWARDS

University Writing Program Pre-Doctoral Fellow at University of Notre Dame, 2005

John S. Marten Program in Homiletics Fellowship at University of Notre Dame, 2003 and 2004

Erskine Peters Fellowship at University of Notre Dame, 2003

David Bruton Fellowship, 2003

Conference on College Composition and Communication, Scholars for the Dream Award, 2001