

Cassandra J. Hirsch
cjh72@drexel.edu

Teaching Philosophy

My teaching focuses on students' experiences as individual learners while encouraging them to discover their voice. Writing can be daunting, so I make it an early goal to help my students feel safe and empowered as they learn the rhetorical considerations of any act of writing. I emphasize integrity, so that when blending research with first person reflection, they maintain and connect with their distinct voices and make space for other voices/sources.

Education

2008 M.F.A. Fiction: Rosemont College, PA
1987 B.A. English: York University, Toronto, Ontario
1985-86 One Year Program: Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel

Professional Experience: Drexel University

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Assistant Adjunct Teaching Professor (September 2008 – 2013) in Dept. of English & Philosophy

Assistant Teaching Professor (September 2013 – 2019) in Dept. of English & Philosophy

Associate Teaching Professor (September 2019 – present) in Dept. of English & Philosophy

Supervisor: Dr. J. Roger Kurtz, Department Head

Teaching: Drexel University (2008-present)

Teach face-to-face, hybrid, synchronous online (Zoom, for the 2020-21 academic year) and asynchronous English 101, 102, and 103 courses in first-year writing program (FYWP). Teach Community-based Learning (CBL) freshman (memoir) writing courses in correctional facility and rehabilitative center. Teach "Prison Reading Project" (CBL course) colloquium for Pennoni Honors College. Teach WRIT 220-001 fully online/synchronous (Zoom) Creative Nonfiction Writing and online/asynchronous CW 501-900.

2013 – present Taught FYWP sequence of English 101, 102, and 103 courses in face-to-face, hybrid, synchronous and asynchronous online modalities; taught Freshman Academic Seminar Program (FASP) FYWP curriculum.

2020-2022 Taught and created curriculum for: 1) fully synchronous virtual three-credit WRIT 220-001 (Creative Nonfiction Writing) and asynchronous CW 501-900 (Reading as a Writer: Genre Fiction); taught English 101, 102, and 103 courses as hybrids with synchronous online component via Zoom. Taught CW 501-900 in the fall 2020-21 and 2021-22 quarters

2018, 2019 Created and taught English 103 as a memoir writing course, "Once Upon A Lifetime (So Far...)," a Community-based Learning (CBL) course, at Kirkbride Rehabilitation Center in West Philadelphia

2013-18 Taught UNIV 180, 181, 182, and 183 in Freshman Academic Seminar Program – collaborative course development and team teaching

2016, 2017, 2018, 2019

2020, 2022 Taught Pennoni Honors College colloquium, “Prison Reading Project.” In 2020, I adapted the course to a fully synchronous online (face-to-face via Zoom) format, bringing several speakers to the course, some under the auspices of the Lindy Center for Civic Engagement. I taught this course in this way in 2020, 2021, and 2022.

2015 and 2016 Taught memoir writing course, “Once Upon a Lifetime (So Far...)” – a CBL course – in a correctional facility as an Inside-Out course: WRIT 304-02 and WRIT T380-002

2013 Workshop facilitator for 3-week memoir CBL writing workshop at Mantua Resident Apartments under auspices of Lindy Center for Civic Engagement

2009-13 Faculty Reader, Drexel Writing Center, face-to-face and online tutoring, frequently with English language learners

2008 – 13 Taught FYWP sequence of English 101, 102, and 103 courses in face-to-face and hybrid modalities; Taught ESL sections of English 101, 102, and 103

Teaching: Fox School of Business, Temple University
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

2010 Taught marketing, finance, and business majors techniques of writing for the workplace; extensive assessment of writing and public speaking; responsible for teaching universal program syllabus created by Fox School of Business Writing Program Director.

Teaching: St., Joseph’s University
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

2008 – 10 (fall/spring semesters); 2012 (fall semester); 2013 (*fall semester)

Taught narrative, persuasive, creative, and research-based writing to first-year students; taught survey literature courses to first-year students; responsible for all course development and teaching (*with Dr. Abioseh Porter’s consent, after full-time appointment, due to prior fall semester commitment to St. Joseph’s).

Service: Drexel University

Advising in the Freshman Academic Seminar Program (FASP), a Retention Program

2013-2018 Taught first-year students self-advocacy and life skills during FASP’s UNIV 180 series of fall, winter, and spring term seminars to help them strengthen skills they would need to take them through and beyond their first year at Drexel.

Tutored our FASP students during additional office hours.

Trained in Banner (2016), which enabled me to participate with FASP team to help our students finalize their schedules.

Planned field daytrips all year and accompanied FASP students on these trips during evenings and weekends.

Provided additional emotional support to our students during and outside regular office hours.

**Service: Drexel University
Committees and Working Groups**

2022-23	Participation in Teaching Circles to support MFA student; E&P peers
2021-22	Faculty advisor for Pennoni Honors College student Christina Strobel's independent study, in the winter term; part of Dr. Fred Siegel's team that created the OER Sharepoint site we now use as a text for FYWP courses
2020-21	FYWP contest and DPG Creative Writing Contest judge (Fiction)
2020-21	Participation in Teaching Circles to support MFA student; E&P peers
2019-20	Participation in Teaching Circles to support MFA student; E&P peers
2019	Slate training to screen 2019-20 Pennoni Honors College applicants
2019	Drexel Week of Creative Writing micro-workshop facilitator (memoir)
2019	Drexel Publishing Group (DPG) Humanities Essay Contest judge
2017-present	First-year Writing Program (FYWP) Advisory Committee member
2010-16; 2018-21	FYWP Contest faculty judge; DPG Contest judge of fiction and creative non-fiction
2015	Collaboration with Freshman Academic Seminar Program (FASP) team on White Paper describing FASP for Senior Vice Provost John DiNardo,
2015	Collaboration with FASP team to create a poster, which was accepted to DCAE's Third Annual Showcase of Teaching
2014-16	FYWP Textbook Committee
2014	Group Dynamics Presentation (via Blackboard Collaborate) for FYWP Online Faculty Workshop
2014	Collaboration on grant proposal with FASP team in conjunction with Faculty of Education (for high school Bridge Program)

- 2013-18** Administrative liaison between Freshman Academic Seminar Program and Director of FYWP
- Pre-2013** Participation in teaching circles
- 2011/2012** Mentoring new adjunct professors Vickie Feldman and Michael Leone
- 2010** Workshop facilitator for University 101 LeBow Business students (through the Drexel Writing Center); created PowerPoint workshop for the same group for future workshops led by their University 101 instructors

Professional Development: Drexel University

- 2021-22** Revised my English 102 course by adding the theme of criminal justice reform for students to reflect upon and research. This theme, and scholarly articles from the OER Sharepoint site, created an open and enthusiastic conversation in writing and in the classroom, and my students produced compelling reflective work.
- 2020-21** Created new curricula for two new courses I taught: 1) CW 501-900 (Reading As A Writer: Genre Fiction, for Drexel's MFA program); and 2) WRIT 220-001 (Creative Nonfiction Writing)
- 2018** Global Classroom Development Workshop, facilitated by the Study Abroad Office
- 2018** Teaching Hybrid Writing Courses, facilitated Dr. Scott Warnock
- 2017** ACPA Philly Drive-In, facilitated by Pennoni Honors College
- 2015** Banner Training for Freshman Academic Seminar Program
- 2012** Side-by-Side Teaching/Learning Seminar (Lindy Center for Civic Engagement): One-week intensive training seminar, facilitated by the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program founder, Lori Pompa, and The Inside-Out Think Tank at Graterford Prison (now SCI-Phoenix), to learn how to teach a classroom of disparate populations (incarcerated learners and Drexel students).

Writing Communities and Workshops (Participant)

- 2000-10** Rittenhouse Writers' Group, Philadelphia, PA
- 1994-present** Playpen Writer's Group, Merion, PA

Writing Workshop Facilitator: Rosemont Writer’s Studio

2018, 2019 Facilitate six-week non-credit workshops offered by Rosemont College MFA in Creative Writing. Concentration on narrative point-of-view and elements of fiction and memoir writing. Responsible for all course development and teaching

Creative works

2020-21 Drafted *The Accident* (a novel), and *Bits* (a memoir). Revisions continuing throughout 2021-22.

2021-22 Continued working on novel (*The Accident*), now titled *In Our Time*.

Honors and Awards: Drexel University

2020-21 My students won the grand prize (LingAn Zheng for “Women and Girls”) and Honorable Mention (Ibim Sobiharry for “Hustler’s Paradise”) in the DPG’s First-year Writing Contest, earning them publication in the 2020-21 edition of *The 33rd Anthology*

2020-21 Publication of my article, “Twenty-five Years in a Writers Group” in the 2020-21 edition of *The 33rd Anthology*

2020-21 Nomination by Dr. Paula Marantz Cohen for the 2020 President’s Award for Civic Engagement

2020-21 Reader for E&P Dept. First Friday in November 2020

2016 Awarded Drexel University 2016 President’s Award for Civic Engagement

2016 Featured speaker at Pennoni Honors College Dean’s Tea. “Locked up & Learning: Education in Prisons”

2017 Subject of article written for PHC Magazine (Pennoni Honors College)

2009-15 Faculty reader at Drexel University Week of Writing (WoW)

Honors and Awards: General

2010; 2016; 2018 McGill Drama Festival adjudicator and presenter for Colin Krivy Memorial Award for Best Play

2017 Panelist, Rosemont College MFA Program’s “Write Life Balance”

2012 The “face” of Rosemont MFA in Creative Writing Marketing material

2012 Featured reader at Big Blue Marble Bookstore, Mt. Airy, PA

- 2009 Recipient of the Novel of Promise Award from Ocean Cooperative Publishing for novel-in-progress (working title: *Seagoing Vessels*)
- 2008 Recipient of Rosemont’s MFA Program’s “Who’s Who among Graduate Studies in American Universities and Colleges Award” for academic and artistic excellence
- 2008 Ragdale Artist’s Residency for Fiction
- 2008 My play, *To the Country*, given a dramatic reading to launch Rosemont’s MFA playwriting track
- 2007 Pushcart Prize nomination for memoir, “Ghosts” *Parlor Journal*
- 2006 Guest reader, *Philadelphia Stories Magazine*

Publications: Books

Hirsch, Cassandra Krivy. *Under the Linden Tree*. Kingston, Ontario: Encompass Editions. (2012). Print.

Publications: Contributions to *The 33rd*

- 2020 “Twenty-five Years in a Writers Group”
- 2011 “Ghosts”
- 2010 “A Visit to Macedonia on the Way to Paris”

Publications: Fiction and Memoir

“Ghosts.” *Parlor Journal*. (2007). Print.

“Lovesick.” *Philadelphia Stories*. (June 2006). Print and Web.

Additional Publications: Freelance highlights

“Surprising Revelations: Israel’s Gourmet Scene.” *Dreamscapes Travel and Lifestyle Magazine*. (Fall 2013). Print.

Organic and Wholesome: Tasty Lessons in Sustainability.” *Dreamscapes Travel and Lifestyle Magazine*. (Winter/Spring 2012). Print.

“Beware the Cyber-bully.” *Main Line Today Magazine*. (December 2005). Print.

“Hair Apparent.” *Main Line Today Magazine*. (November 2004). Print.

“Great Docs for Kids.” *Main Line Today Magazine*. (December 2004). Print.

“Women to Watch.” *Main Line Today Magazine*. (May 2004). Print.

“Bohemia in Bala Cynwyd.” *Main Line Today Magazine*. (August 2003). Print.

“Finding Strength under the Weight of a 30-pound Backpack.” *Healing Lifestyles & Spas Magazine*. (Sept/Oct 2003). Print.

“No Sotto Voce.” *Main Line Today Magazine*. (July 2003). Print.

“Mom, Take Me with You!” *Healing Retreats & Spas Magazine*. (May/June 2002). Print.

Parents Express Magazine & Main Line Times

Features, personal essays, and profiles from 1997 - 2002

Jewish Exponent and Jewish Exponent Special Supplement

Personal Essays and Profiles published between 1991-2001

Editorial Experience:

2017 Dr. Jane McGuffin – Developmental editor for two novels-in-progress: *Madhouse* and *The Treatment Room*

2014-17 David Schwartz – Developmental editor for novel-in-progress: *Elsewhere than Vietnam*

Dr. Suryadevara Basavaiah – Copy editor for memoir: *Fighting with Destiny: An Improbable Journey, Munnaluru to Princeton (1938-62)*

2012-16 Dr. James Saunders – Copy editor for novel: *Animal Dances*

2012 Dr. Rena Potok – Developmental editor for novel: *Arcadia*

References: Available Upon Request