J. Laurence Cohen, PhD

**Current Position**

Lecturer, Department of English, University of Georgia, 2022-present

**Education**

**Emory University**

PhD, Department of English, 2019

**Wheaton College**

B.A. English and Biblical/Theological Studies, 2010

*Summa cum laude*

**Book**

*Excavating Exodus: Biblical Typology and Racial Solidarity in African American Literature*, Clemson University Press, 2021.

**Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles**

“Arboreal Saviors and Landscape Religion: Cultivating Eco-Postsecularity in *The Overstory* and The *Mars Trilogy*.” *Religion & Literature*. Forthcoming.

“Superman as the Measure of All Things: Black Gods and White Saviors in *Watchmen* and *Doomsday Clock*.” *Literature and Theology*. 20.20. (2023): 1-24.

“Exodus and Typological Plasticity in Delany, Melville, and Stowe.” *ESQ: A Journal of Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Culture*.64.4 (2018) 604-643.

“Shining Inward: The Blind Seer, Fanny Crosby, and Education for the Blind.” *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies*.11.1 (2017): 53-68.

**Invited Talks**

“Martin Delany’s Liberation Theology”

Wheaton College Philosophy Department, February 2022

**Other Publications**

“A Fully WOVEN Artifact: Promo Video” in *WOVENText* 2021. 220-221.

Contributor to “The Year in Conferences—2019.” *ESQ: A Journal of Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Culture*. 66.1 2020. 133-213.

**Teaching Experience**

**University of Georgia**

English 2330 American Literature: Beginnings to 1914

English 1102, First Year Composition

**Georgia Institute of Technology**

English 1102, “Compelling Comics,” Spring 2022

* Structured projects around design for medium, critical thinking, and creative analysis.
* Guided students in creating screencasts, websites, and illustrations about original comics.

English 1102, “Science Fact and Fiction,” Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021

* Implemented hybrid instruction by recording lectures and using Perusall for asynchronous class discussions.
* Taught rhetoric, process, and multimodality through individual film pitches and collaborative film trailer projects.

English 1102, “Race and Religion from Abolition to the Civil Rights Movement,” Spring 2020

* Scaffolded multimodal research projects on systemic racism.
* Demonstrated basic archival research skills using the Ivan Allen Digital Archive.

English 1101, “Serious Satire,” Fall 2019

* Conveyed genre conventions through satirical journalistic, lifestyle, and political writing.
* Collaborated with colleagues to offer storyboarding and video editing workshops.

**Morehouse College**

English 102, “The Art of Commentary,” Spring 2019

* Established research and argumentation fundamentals.
* Built lessons around material relevant to students, including hip hop and basketball.

English 102, “Black Critics, Black Culture,” Fall 2018

* Taught artistic manifestos, literary analysis, and researched argument.
* Implemented the “Black Ink Project” QEP, teaching texts by African American writers.

**Emory University**

English 213W Fictions of Human Desire, “Art and Immortality,” Spring 2018

* Built course around various genres, including elegy, gothic, revenge tragedy, theater of the absurd, freedom narrative, historical fiction, and science fiction.
* Scaffolded assignments to give students practice with close reading and research.

English 181 Writing about Literature, “Time Travel,” Spring 2016

* Taught writing as process through personal narrative, film analysis, and close reading.
* Helped students translate course success into reflective introductions to their portfolios.

English 101 Expository Writing, “Writing through Parody,” Fall 2015

* Aided students in creating satirical dramatic monologues, news articles, and speeches.
* Employed revision and peer review to help students curate their final portfolios.

**Selected Conference Presentations**

“Interfaith Solidarity in the Racial Justice Haggadah”

Rhetoric and Religious Traditions, University of Memphis, October 2023

“Podcasting and Hyper Particularity”

Podcasting Pedagogy Symposium, Georgia Institute of Technology, March 2023

“Excavating Exodus”

British Association of Nineteenth Century Americanists, May 2022

“New Black Gods in HBO’s *Watchmen*”

Conference on Christianity and Literature Midwest Regional Meeting, June 2021

**“‘The badge of servitude and toil’: Maternal Bonds and Mosaic Subjectivity in Frances Ellen Watkins Harper’s ‘Moses: A Story of the Nile’”**

**Northeast Modern Language Association, March 2020**

“‘No religion but that which brings us liberty’: Mosaic Authority in Martin Delany’s *Blake*”

Rhetoric and Religion in the 21st Century, October 2018

“That ‘tremendous indictment of slavery’: W.E.B. Du Bois’s Reading of David Walker’s *Appeal*”

Modern Language Association, January 2018

“Sacred Poetry and Aesthetic Uplift in James Weldon Johnson’s *God’s Trombones*”

Midwest Modern Language Association, November 2016

“‘Vegetable monsters’: (Un)Natural Militancy in Harriet Beecher Stowe’s *Dred*”

South Atlantic Modern Language Association, November 2016

“‘An echo of the weird orgy’: Nervous Sensitivity, Sexuality, and Religious Conversion in Nella Larsen’s *Quicksand*”

Critical Juncture, Emory University, April 2016

“‘Holy Women Dancing in Hot Sweet Rain’: Patriarchal Violence, Africana Religions, and Embodied Spirituality in Toni Morrison’s *Paradise*”

LeMoyne College Religion and Literature Forum, October 2015

“The ‘angel is not’ing more dan de shark well goberned’: Dialect and Dialogism in Fleece’s Sermon to the Sharks in *Moby-Dick*”

American Literature Association Symposium, February 2015

“‘Chanting Measures’: Dialect, (In)Coherence, and Rev. Shegog’s Easter Sermon in *The Sound and the Fury*”

Auburn University at Montgomery Liberal Arts Conference, February 2015

**Awards and Fellowships**

Special Collections Library Teaching Fellow, University of Goergia 2023

Marion L. Brittain Postdoctoral Fellowship 2019-2022

Mellon Graduate Teaching Fellowship 2018-2019

James Richardson Prize, English Department, Emory University 2018

Graduate Essay Prize, English Department, Emory University 2018, 2019

Lilly Graduate Fellows Program 2013-2016

**Programmatic Awards—Writing and Communication Program, Georgia Tech**

Conference on College Composition and Communication Writing Program Certificate of Excellence 2021

University of Georgia Regents’ Teaching Excellence Award 2021

Georgia Institute of Technology Unit Diversity Champion Award 2020

**Service**

**University of Georgia**

First-Year Writing Committee Member 2023-present

English Lecturer Search Committee Member 2023-2024

**Georgia Institute of Technology**

Book Proposal Workshop facilitator, October 2021

*WOVENText* Committee Member, 2019-2021

Brittain Fellows Hiring Committee Member, 2019-2021

Innovative Pedagogy Committee Member, 2019-2021

Tutor for inmates at Metro Reentry Facility with Common Good Atlanta, 2019-2021