

BRENDAN RILEY

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO
600 SOUTH MICHIGAN AVENUE
CHICAGO, IL 60130

(312) 344-8817
BRILEY@COLUM.EDU
[HTTP://CURRAGH-LABS.ORG/](http://curragh-labs.org/)

EDUCATION

PhD in English, University of Florida, May 2004 Focus: Film and New Media Studies, Composition and Rhetoric Dissertation: Cinema, Computers, and War Director: Dr. Gregory Ulmer
Committee: Dr. Nora Alter, Dr. Roger Beebe, Dr. Robert Ray, Dr. John Sabin

MA in English, University of Florida, May 2001
Focus: Film and Media Studies

BA in English, St. John's University, Collegeville, MN, May 1999
Focus: Film Studies

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Professor, English Department, Columbia College Chicago
Construct and teach courses in composition, new media, and popular culture.
September 2004—present.

Teaching assistant, English Department, University of Florida. Constructed and taught courses in composition, film studies, and media studies. August 2000—April 2001; May 2003—May 2004.

Technology and Pedagogy Specialist, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Uof Florida 2-year appointment as a liaison between English Department and the Networked Writing Environment (NWE).

PUBLICATIONS

"A Style Guide to the Secrets of <style>." *From A to <A>: Keywords in HTML and Writing*. Eds Jeffrey Rice and Bradley Dilger. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, expected 2010.

"From Sherlock to Angel: The 21st Century Detective." *The Journal of Popular Culture*. Forthcoming, Vol 42:5, Oct 2009.

"Warren Ellis is the Future of Superhero Comics: Or How to Write Superhero Stories without Superheroes." *The Amazing Transforming Superhero! Essays on the Revision of Characters in Comic Books, Film and Television*. Ed. Terrence Wandtke. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2007.

"The Hard-Boiled Detective" *American Icons, Volume 2*. Eds. Susan and Dennis Hall. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2006.

"Sharing Cultures: Personal Revelations, Pedagogical Realizations, Political Revolutions." *Kairos: A Journal of Rhetoric, Technology, and Pedagogy*. 10:2, Spring 2005. Collaboratively written with the Sharing Cultures team.

<http://english.ttu.edu/kairos/10.2/binder2.html?coverweb/blum-malley/index.html>

"Modularity and Monsters from the Deep" *Reconstruction: An Interdisciplinary Culture Studies Community*. 4:4. Fall 2004. <http://reconstruction.eserver.org/044/briley/index.html>

"Open Source and Academia" Collaboratively written with Laurie Taylor. *Computers and Composition Online*. Retro-actively published Spring 2004.

<http://www.bgsu.edu/cconline/tayloriley/intro.html>

PRESENTATIONS

"The Siege Mentality: Teaching About Zombies." Part of a roundtable on teaching horror with Kris Woofter (Concordia University) and Aaron Petten (University of East London) *National PCA/ACA Conference 2009*, New Orleans, LA. 8-12 April 2009.

"It's not paranoia if they're really after you: Alternate Reality Games and Conspiracy as Fiction" *Midwest PCA/ACA Annual Conference 2008*, Cincinnati, OH. 8-10 October 2008.

"This is not a book. This is not a movie: *Kiss Kiss Bang Bang* and the mystery of the hyperreal." *PCA/ACA National Conference 2008*. San Francisco, CA. 19-22 March 2008.

"Mysterious Architecture: how *mise-en-scene* made Holmes into Marlowe" *Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference 2008*. Philadelphia, PA. 6-9 March 2008.

"All Your Base Are Numa Numa Star Wars Kids: Viral Media and Distributed Thinking" *Midwest PCA/ACA Conference 2007*. Kansas City, MO. 12-14 October 2007.

"Operating Under Different Rules: *Automatic Kafka's* Experiment in Critical Comics" *Midwest PCA/ACA Conference 2007*. Kansas City, MO. 12-14 October 2007.

"Detectives, the Supernatural, and the Digital Age, or What Do Cal MacDonald, Angel, and Harry Dresden Have to Do with the Internet?." *PCA/ACA National Conference 2007*. Boston, MA. 4-7 April 2007.

"The Sharing Cultures Program: connecting Port Elizabeth, South Africa and Chicago, USA" *Midwest Modern Language Association Conference*. Chicago, IL. 9-12 November 2007.

"Cyberconflict: Representations of War in New Media and Electronic Games." with Annette Barbier and David Gerding. *Chicago Humanities Festival*, Chicago, IL. 5 November 2007.

"Warren Ellis and the Future of Superhero Comics." *Midwest PCA/ACA Conference 2006*. Indianapolis, IN. 27-29 October 2006.

OTHER PROJECTS

The Digital Sextant

Blog: one-third popular culture reviews, one-third academic thinking, one-third personal observations and silliness. (Nov 2004 – present) <http://curragh-labs.org/blog>

ACADEMIC COURSES DEVISED AND TAUGHT

“Literary Genres: Detective Fiction” Literature course exploring mystery and detective genres
Built around exploring, analyzing, and engaging creatively with the genre of detective fiction, students read, write, discuss, and produce projects to think through the social and cultural issues surrounding mysteries and detectives. (CCC: f08, f09)

“Zombies in Popular Media,” Media studies J-session course
This course explores the history, significance, and representation of the zombie as a figure in horror and fantasy texts. Students pursue an intense schedule, using critical theory to think about zombies as they appear in literature, comics, and films.
(CCC: January 07, January 08, January 09)

“Game Culture,” Game studies course for Interactive Arts and Media department
Game Culture brings textual and critical theory to bear on video games, examining how games function in (and with) culture. Students learn to think about games in new ways, both as isolated objects of study and as a dominant force in today's media market.
(CCC: s06, f06, s07, s08, s09)

“Writing for New Media,” Advanced writing course focusing on electracy
This course pursues a two-prong inquiry into the "rhetoric" of new media. Students explore and create new media texts, culminating in a large-scale, collaborative hypermap project for the student affairs portal. (CCC: s05, f05, s06, f06, s07, f07, s08, f08, f09)

“Considering the Visual / Box Logic” Composition II course exploring arguments and the visual
This course explores the conventions and techniques of traditional academic research by conducting a long-term, large scale research project over the course of the semester. At the same time, students also explore the techniques used in visual argument and the alternate logics image introduces to critical work. (CCC: s05, f05)

For full syllabi and student sample work, see: <http://curragh-labs.org/teaching>

TEACHING INTERESTS

Composition, Media Studies, Computers and Writing, History of Film, Grammatology, New Media Studies, Video Game Culture, Science-Fiction Film and Literature, History of Media Technology, American Popular Culture, Comics, Horror Film.

TRAINING COURSES DEVISED AND TAUGHT

“Moodle Introduction,” *English Department training course*
Columbia College Chicago instructors learned the basics of the Moodle LMS and the tools it offers. (s08, f08, s09)

“Web Design Seminar,” *English Department training course*
Columbia College instructors learned the basics of Dreamweaver and file upload for building web pages. (Spring 2006)

PRESS

“Zombies Ahead” by Peter Wood. *National Association of Scholars*. 25 February 2009. Press Mention. http://nas.org/polArticles.cfm?doctype_code=Article&doc_id=583

“Sci-Fi College Courses: Why Can’t *Star Trek* Teach You About the World?” By Melissa Lafsky. *Discover.com Science Not Fiction Blog*. 30 March 2009. Discusses “15 Strange courses” article and the role of SF in education. <http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/sciencenotfiction/2009/03/30/sci-fi-college-courses-why-cant-star-trek-teach-you-about-the-world/>

“Are Twitter, Myspace and Facebook updates autobiographies for the rest of us?” Brian at High Noon. *Vocalo.org*, WBEZ Chicago. 5 March 2009. Radio interview, 50 minutes. Recording available: <http://www.curragh-labs.org/blog/?p=2373>

“15 Strangest College Courses in America.” By Jill Gordon. *OnlineColleges.net*. Zombies in Popular Media included as one of the courses. This article was duplicated and cited on dozens of blogs and websites over the next few months. The article (and the Zombie course) was featured on 2 March 2009 on Fox South-Bend (WSJV) and NBC Spokane (KHQ). <http://www.onlinecolleges.net/2009/02/25/the-15-strangest-college-courses-in-america/>

“Facebook’s ‘25 Things’ are life stories in miniature.” By Patrick Reardon. *Chicago Tribune*. 16 February 2009. Quoted in story. <http://archives.chicagotribune.com/2009/feb/16/entertainment/chi-0216-facebook-25-thingsfeb16>

“Undead Like Me: Or, how I learned to stop worrying and love the zombie.” By Gavon Laessig. *Lawrence.com*. 28 October 2008. Extensive interview. http://www.lawrence.com/news/2008/oct/27/undead_like_me/

“Course Explores the History and Subtext of Zombies in Popular Culture.” by Erik Vance. Syllabus section, *Chronicle of Higher Education*. 23 February 2007.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Midwest Popular Culture Association

Board Member

October 2006 – present.

Executive secretary

October 2008 - present

Journal of Popular Culture

Editorial Board Member

March 2006 – present.

review approx. 20 manuscripts per year.

National Popular Culture Association

Board Member

March 2005 – April 2007; April 2008 – present.

Organize yearly Scholarly Exchange Table

2006 – 2009.