

## Philathia R. Bolton

Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences  
University of Akron  
Akron, OH 44325-1906

Email: [pbolton@uakron.edu](mailto:pbolton@uakron.edu)

### Education

Purdue University (2004 - 2012)

West Lafayette, IN

Ph.D. in American Studies

Primary Area: 20<sup>th</sup> c. African American literature

Secondary Areas: 20<sup>th</sup> c. American literature, Black women writers,  
Civil Rights Movement, critical race studies

Purdue University (2002 - 2004)

West Lafayette, IN

M.A. in American Studies

Concentration: 20<sup>th</sup> c. African American literature

Spelman College (1998 - 2002)

Atlanta, GA

B.A. in English, summa cum laude

Phi Beta Kappa, Epsilon of Georgia

### Academic Positions

University of Akron

Associate Professor of English, 2020 -

Assistant Professor of English, 2013- 2020

Purdue University

Limited-term Lecturer, Summer 2012 –Fall 2012

Graduate Instructor, Purdue University, 2002 –2011

### Publications

“Forever on the Same Horizon: James Baldwin and Toni Morrison in a Hurstonian Tradition.” In *Hurston in Context*. Ed. Christopher Varlack. (under contract with Cambridge University Press)

“(En)gendering Complexities: A Look at Colorism in Toni Morrison’s *Beloved* and James Weldon Johnson’s *Autobiography of an Ex Colored Man*.” In *Women’s Lived Experiences of the Gender Gap: Gender Inequalities from Multiple Global Perspectives*. Ed. Angela Fitzgerald. Springer, 2021. Hardcover and electronic.

"Audience, Gender, and the Construction of Antebellum Slave Narratives." Philathia Bolton and Venetria Patton, *A Companion to American Literature: The Blackwell Companions to Literature and Culture*, Eds. Susan Belasco, Theresa Strouth Gaul, Linck Johnson, and Michael Soto. John Wiley and Sons, 2020. Hardcover, electronic, and Wiley online library.

*Teaching with Tension: Race, Resistance, and Reality in the Classroom*. Edited with Cassander L. Smith and Lee Bebout. Northwestern UP, 2019. Hardcover, paper, and electronic.

"The Potential of a Moment: Race Literacy and Black American Literature." In *Teaching with Tension: Race, Resistance, and Reality in the Classroom*. Eds. Philathia Bolton, Cassander L. Smith, and Lee Bebout. Northwestern UP, 2019. Hardcover, paper, and electronic.

"The Repeating Body: Slavery's Visual Resonance in the Contemporary by Kimberly Juanita Brown (review)." *College Literature*, vol. 44 no. 1, 2017, pp. 120-123. Project MUSE, [doi:10.1353/lit.2017.0005](https://doi.org/10.1353/lit.2017.0005)

"Mama Day." *The Literary Encyclopedia* (2014): n. pag. Web. 21 Aug. 2014.

## Teaching Experience

### Literature Courses Taught:

#### University of Akron

English 3300: 281	Fiction Appreciation
English 3300: 300	Critical Reading and Writing
English 3300: 350	Black American Literature
English 3300: 360	Old Testament as Literature
English 3300: 361	New Testament as Literature
English 3300: 364	Women Writers
English 3300: 389	Special Topics: The Afro-American Novel
English 3300: 389	Special Topics: Ethnic Women in Literature
English 3300: 489	Seminar in English: Harlem Renaissance
English 3300: 489/589	Seminar in English: Harlem Renaissance
English 3300: 489/589	Women in American Fiction
English 3300: 489/589	Toni Morrison Seminar
English 3300: 689	Wright/Ellison/Baldwin

#### Purdue University

English 23800	Introduction to Fiction
English 23200	Coming of Age in America, Learning Community Course
English 2500	Great American Books
English 257	Literature of Black America
English 358	Black Drama

### Composition Courses Taught:

#### University of Akron

English 3300: 111	English Composition
English 3300: 112	English Composition

Purdue University  
 English 106      Academic Writing and Research  
 English 106R      Learning Community Biology Module

Curriculum and Instruction Courses Taught:

Purdue University  
 EDCI 285      Multiculturalism and Education

Upward Bound Classic: (summers 2017 - present)

English Language Arts (10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades)  
 Writing Intensive Course (11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades)

Courses per academic term:

Y2013-2014: 3/3	Y2018-2019: 3/3
Y2014-2015: 3/2	Y2019-2020: 3/3
Y2015-2016: 3/3	Y2020-2021: 3/4
Y2016-2017: 3/3	Y2021-2022: 3/3
Y2017-2018: 3/3	

## Selected Conference Presentations

“No Two the Same: A Reconsideration of the Slave Mother in Toni Morrison’s *Beloved* and Select Harlem Renaissance Fiction.” 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention. College Language Association. Raleigh/Durham, NC, April 2019

“When ‘the Dream is the Truth’: Narrative Agency in Zora Neale Hurston’s *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.” 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention. College Language Association. Chicago, IL, April 2018

“Apprehending Race in the African American Studies Classroom.” 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention. College Language Association. Columbia, MO, April 2017

“Standing in the Veil: Class, Colorism, and Audience in James Weldon Johnson’s *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man* and Toni Morrison’s ‘Recitatif.’” 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Academic Conference for UNC-Chapel Hill’s Moore Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program. Theme: The Politics of Colorism: A Global Context. Scholar panel. Chapel Hill, NC, April 2016

“Fight or Flight?: Migrating Black Identities and the Passing Trope.” Panel: Transracial Identity: Changing Definitions of Blackness in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, The Harlem Renaissance Era, and the New Millennium. College Language Association. Houston, TX, April 2016

“Ethnic Identity and (Dis)locating Histories: The Black American Literary Experience.” Panel: Teaching with Tension: Post-racial Rhetoric, Resistance, and Reality in the

Classroom (co-organizer). Main Annual Meeting. American Studies Association. Toronto, Canada, October 2015

“Toni Morrison Contestations: A Multicultural, Global Perspective on Writer and Identity.” Reception Study Society 6<sup>th</sup> Biannual Conference, Fort Wayne, IN, September 2015

“Discussing Findings from Young Black Male Story Circles at UA. Black Male Summit. The University of Akron, Akron, OH. April 2015

“And Drunk on the Wine of the World We Forget ‘Thee’: The American Dream as Social Death in Paule Marshall’s Praisesong for the Widow.” Association for the Study of African American Life and History 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, Raleigh, NC, September 2010

“Speaking Truth to Power: Ella Baker’s and Fannie Lou Hamer’s Challenge to the Black/White Binary.” 4<sup>th</sup> Annual New Perspectives on African American History and Culture Conference, UNC-Chapel Hill, NC, February 2010

“What’s Race Got to Do with It? Subverting the Very Concept in Mark Twain’s The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.” College Language Association 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, Cambridge, MD, March 2009

“My Story is Your Story: Gayl Jones’s Corregidora and the Civil Rights Movement.” National Women’s Studies Association 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, St. Charles, IL, June 2007

“Crossing Over: Appropriation and Acculturation in Gloria Naylor’s Mama Day.” African Heritage Studies Association 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Cornell University, Ithaca, October 2005

### Service on Dissertation, Masters, and Honors Theses Committees:

Dissertation Committee (member). Counseling Psychology Program. “Women of Color’s Experiences of Sexism in Computer Science and Engineering.” Eric McCurdy. Fall 2017-

“Discrimination as a Barrier to Diversity: Sexism and Microaggressions against African American Women in Computer Science and Engineering.” Eric McCurdy. Spring 2020

Master’s Thesis Capstone (advisor) “Intertextuality, Double-Voiced Discourse, and Subversive Protest in the Margins: A Literary Analysis of Prominent Black Literary Voices During Jim Crow. Zachary Piette. Spring 2021

Master's Thesis Project (reader). "Healing, Lived Writing Process, and the Making of Knowledge." Angel Evans. Spring 2021

Master's Thesis Project (reader). "Naturalism in Modern American Literature." Afras Alharbi. Fall 2019

Master's Thesis Project (director). "A Site of Invasion: Representations of Home in 20<sup>th</sup> Century South African Literature." Rita Stricklin. Spring 2018

Master's Thesis Project (reader). "Richard Wright's Bigger Thomas and Paul Robeson's Othello: Representations of Black Male Physicality." Anna Glotzer. Spring 2018

Master's Thesis Project (director). "Gendered Expressions of the 'Passing' Narratives: An Intersectional African-American and Post Colonial Study." Kayla Hardy-Butler. Spring 2017

Honors Thesis Project (reader). "Front Pew Reflections: Redefining the Role of Women and Solid Theology in the Church." Yanna Telyeten. Fall 2020

Honors Thesis Project (advisor). "Protest Literature" or Race as a Social Construction: An Analysis of James Baldwin's Blues for Mister Charlie. Sonia Potter. Spring 2019

Honors Thesis Project (advisor). "As If We Were Alive: Recovery from Trauma in Toni Morrison's Beloved and Bluest Eye." Eric McDonnell. Spring 2016

## Fellowships, Residencies, and Awards

Resident. Faber, the Arts, Sciences, and Humanities Residency of Catalonia in Olot, Spain, 2020

Recipient. The University of Akron's 2015 Employee Service Award

Fellow. Purdue Research Fellowship, awarded by the College of Liberal Arts, 2009-2010

Recipient. Purdue Graduate School Summer Research Grant, 2007

Recipient. Graduate Student Essay Award, 1<sup>st</sup> place recipient for "My Story is Your Story: Gayl Jones's Corregidora and the Civil Rights Movement"; Women of Color Caucus's, WestLove, LTD, National Women's Studies Association, 2007

Recipient. Purdue University Graduate Student Award for Outstanding Teaching, 2006

Fellow. Summer Pre-graduate Research Experience (SPGRE), Moore Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program (MURAP), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2001

Associate. Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers (IRT), 2001

## Talks, Lectures, and Interviews

### University of Akron

**Speaker and Workshop Facilitator**, “Teaching African American Studies (program implementation),” Lebanon Trail High School, Frisco, Texas (virtual). November 17, 2021

**Speaker**, “An Investigative Approach: Curriculum Building and Strategies on Teaching Subjects that Involve Race,” Ethnic Studies Conference, Texas (virtual). July 22, 2021

**Interviewee**, “Teaching with Tension & the Illusion of Postracialism with Philathia Bolton, Cassander Smith, and Lee Bebout.” The American Vandal Podcast. Center for Mark Twain Studies. June, 2021.

**Speaker**, “To See and Be Seen: The ‘Humanizing’ Work of Toni Morrison,” Oakland Great Book Speaker Series (virtual). Oakton Community College, Des Plaines, IL. March 25, 2021

**Speaker**, “Race Literacy and the Bounds of Storytelling,” (virtual). Siena Heights University, Adrian, MI. February 25, 2021

**Presenter**, “Art of the Memoir: An Elizabeth’s Workshop (virtual event).” Elizabeth’s Bookshop and Writing Centre. Loveland Foundation. Akron, OH. November 24, 2020

**Speaker**, “The (Black) American Literary Experience,” Lake Chautauqua Lecture Series, Lakeside, OH. July 27-29, 2020

**Co-facilitator**, “Teaching with Tension: Strategies for Addressing Race and Resistance in the Classroom.” Diversity Symposium. Diversity Committee, English Department, University of Alabama Tuscaloosa. February 18, 2019

**Panel Moderator**, The Society of Akron Graduate English Scholars (SAGES), Annual Conferences, University of Akron. Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Spring 2019

**Co-organizer**, “Making Sense of Charlottesville: A Civil Dialogue about Race, Citizenship, and Belonging.” Teach-in. Hosted by University of Akron. October 24, 2017

**Guest Speaker**, “I am Not Your Negro.” Film premiere at Nightlight in Akron, OH. Written by James Baldwin. Directed by Raoul Peck. March 3-4, 2017

**Lecturer**, “Black Identities and the Passing Trope: A Pan-African Consideration of Racial Transcendence and Transgression.” Brown Bag Series, The Society of Akron Graduate English Scholars (SAGES), English Department, University of Akron, February 28, 2017

**Lecturer**, “An Evening with Zora: Their Eyes Were Watching God and the Harlem Renaissance Movement. Black History Month Event. Northwest Akron Public Library, February 9, 2016

**Discussant**, Northwest Akron Public Library’s Book Club Series on Harper Lee’s To Kill a Mockingbird and Go Set a Watchman, July 14, 2015

UA Scholars Day Participant, 2015

**Evaluator**, UASIS (University of Akron Student Innovation Symposium), 2014

**Invited Guest Presenter**, Educational Talent Search Summer Program, Akron, Ohio, 2014

Panelist, PASO’s “Ask a Black Person” roundtable discussion, 2013

### Purdue University

**Interviewee**. “Purdue Plans MLK Commemorative Events.” WBAA. NPR. West Lafayette, IN. January, 2013. <https://www.wbaa.org/term/philathia-bolton#stream/0>

**Invited Guest Facilitator**, “When Identities and Cultures Collide: Approaching Conflict as an Opportunity for Change.” The Connections Institute on Leadership and Diversity at Purdue University, 2012

**Guest Lecturer**, “Introduction to Black Women Writers,” Wabash Area Lifetime Learning Association (WALLA), 2010; 2012

### Spelman College (experiences of distinction)

**Student Panelist**, “A Conversation with the novelist Pearl Cleage and poet Sonia Sanchez,” Spelman College, 2001

**Spokesperson** for pilot course at Spelman College on the Civil Rights Movement, 2000

The class concluded with students going to Alabama to participate in the 54-mile march re-enactment. I met with the Board of Trustees to talk about the experience.

## Professional Service

University of Akron Editorial Board, 2020-

Area Editor for United States Literature and Culture / African American Literature and Culture, Literary Encyclopedia, 2019-

Reviewed for Twentieth-Century Literature

Faculty Advisor, Delight, 2017-2021

Faculty Advisor, BSU (Black Students United, formerly PASO), 2014-2016

Faculty Advisor, PASO (Pan African Student Organization), 2014

## **ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE**

### The University of Akron:

Honors Advisor, English Department, 2019-

Director, Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL), 2013-2018

### Purdue University:

General Staff-Temporary Appointment, Purdue University Black Cultural Center, 2013

Copy Editor, Network for Computational Nanotechnology at Purdue University, 2009–2013

Graduate Professional Assistant for the Diversity and Resource Office at Purdue University, 2011–2012

## **UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT/ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

### The University of Akron:

University-wide and Cross-departmental:

Search Committee for Dance Specialist in African, American-American, or African Diasporic Dances, 2021

Women Studies Reappointment, Tenure, and Promotion Committee, 2021

Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences Search Committee for Dean, 2020

New Faculty Learning Community (mentor), 2019

Diversity and Learning Environment (DLE) Report Committee, 2015

Department or Program:

Finley Memorial Scholarship Committee, 2016-2021

Dorris B. Harris Scholarship Committee, 2016-2021

Dr. Phillipson, Jr. Scholarship Committee, 2016-2021

Graduate Assistants Committee, 2015-2021

Graduate Programs Committee, 2015-2017

Jedediah Brownbread Award Committee, 2014

Composition Program Committee, 2013-2014

English Studies and Capstone Review/Proposal Committee, 2013

Task Force (Revamping the English major), 2013

Pan-African Studies Advisory Committee, 2013-present

Purdue University:

University-wide:

Purdue University's Dr. Martin Luther King Commemorative Committee, 2011-2012\*; 2012-2013 (\*inaugural committee)

Department or Program:

American Studies Program Symposium Committee, organizer, 2008-2009

American Studies Graduate Student Organization (ASGSO), president, 2008-2009

Graduate Student English Association (GradSEA), graduate student representative, 2008-2009

**Service to Community** (selected)

Term Board Member, Ohio Citizens for the Arts, 2022-

Inaugural Board Member, The Devil Strip (Akron's community-owned magazine), 2020-21  
Executive Committee, vice chair (2020-21)

Akron Bechdel Film Festival, 2018-2019

Collaborator and Volunteer

Board Member, Urban Ounce of Prevention, Akron, Ohio, 2013-2016

**Professional Organizations**

American Studies Association

College Language Association

Modern Language Association