

ALLEN NELSON SWORDS – Senior Lecturer
Clemson University Dept. of English

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OBJECTIVE

As I enter my 23rd academic year of teaching and the 1st of my current 3-year contract, I seek continued re-appointment (full time with a 4/4 teaching load) and eventual promotion to Principal Lecturer with the Clemson University English Department. I hope to apply for a Principal Lectureship in the fall of 2023. I now have extensive teaching experience in both f2f and online teaching environments. As a two-time Clemson graduate, as a winner of five teaching awards at both the departmental and university levels during my time at Clemson, and as someone with over two decades of experience to bring to my classes, my colleagues, and our department, it is my hope to continue working with students in both writing and literature Gen Ed courses at CU. I would thus continue to teach 1030, H1030, 2120, 2140, 2150, 3860, or other GEN ED courses or honor seminars as required or needed.

EDUCATION

Master of Arts in English

Clemson University

Clemson, SC 29634

August 10, 2002

- Comprehensive Oral Examination (Olde English to Twentieth Century British Literature and American Literature) completed July 17, 2002, **with full “Honors” earned**
- Major Related Courses: Composition Theory, Introduction to Literary Theory and Criticism, Various Seminars and Surveys in British and American Literature, Teaching Practicum for Graduate Student Teaching Assistants

Bachelor of Arts in English

Clemson University

Clemson, SC 29634

December 17, 1997

QUALIFICATIONS

Educator

- Reappointed in April of 2021 to a new three-year term as Senior Lecturer (2022-2025)
- Instructed a variety of first-year, advanced writing, and 2000-level English courses at Clemson University over the last 23 academic years, initially as a Lecturer and now as a Senior Lecturer with the Department of English
- Taught two sections of Freshman Composition and Freshman Research – English 101 and 102 – at Clemson University for 2 academic years as part of my graduate assistantship

- Assisted instructors at Clemson University (during 2000-2003) in a specialized, five-day a week English course for student athletes and students who were part of the University's Step Program
- Have become as comfortable teaching online (synchronously or asynchronously) as I am in traditional f2f modalities
- Acted as both a mentor and tutor to student athletes at Vickery Hall and now at the Nieri Center, Clemson University
- Researched, compiled, and implemented various complex syllabi designed to enhance the writing and researching skills of a diverse range of college students
- Incorporated various genres of materials –including literature, sequential art, film, music, and online texts – throughout my classes while attempting to teach my students that anything can and should be viewed as a potential text for learning and developing better critical thinking, reading, and writing skills
- Promoted writing across the curriculum as students learn to view everything they see or read as a text regardless of the subject matter of that text. They are therefore able to communicate more effectively about the topics at hand. Furthermore, students learn to apply writing skills to classes outside the scope of the English Department or their humanities requirements
- Held extensive office hours and was available by appointment outside of the classroom for one-on-one help for any of my students who needed or wanted additional instruction. In addition, I have also required several individual conferences with students throughout the semester periods of my academic tenure
- Operated consistently (over the past 20+ years) in computer-based classrooms where students seamlessly integrated technology into their individual learning experiences
- Served in the important role of being both an editor and instructor of the students' work and my own. As both a teacher and student (now a faculty member), I was responsible for both my students' writing output and my own. I am capable of reading for errors in content, grammatical mechanics, and style as well as possessing the ability to offer suggestions for corrections and revisions

Coordination and Leadership

- Won the Clemson Alumni Master Teaching Award (presented annually since 1971) in 2022
- Reappointed in April of 2021 to a new three-year term as Senior Lecturer (2022-2025)
- Promoted to Senior Lecturer in May 2013
- Taught for four summers (2018 to present) with the Clemson Summer Start Program (formerly TigerTown Summer Bound)
- Worked with Sherry Dorris, Christina Morrison, and the Clemson FIRST program during the summer and fall of 2013 and 2014 – based upon a recommendation to Dr. Dorris from then-Vice Provost Jan Murdoch – to help new Clemson students make sure they get off to an excellent starts during their college careers
- Won 2007-2008 Fluor Daniel Excellence in Teaching Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award from CU Student Government
- Received (in fall 2004) #4 Ranking in *The Tiger's* annual "Best of" Poll for Teachers at Clemson
- Assist an average of 12 students yearly in their applications for post-undergraduate opportunities in a variety of fields and endeavors
- Granted consistently high evaluations from students (1030, Honors 1030, 2120, 2150, Honors 2150, 3860, and Honors 2210) in regard to the execution of my classroom duties
- Awarded the English Departmental Douglass Award for Excellent Teaching Assistant of the Year – April 2002
- Earned Clemson University Visitors Board of Trustees Outstanding Graduate Assistant Teacher of the Year – April 2002

WORK EXPERIENCE

*Individual semester details, course themes, accomplishments, and evaluations provided upon request

- Senior Lecturer – 4/4 load for 2022-2023 academic year
Clemson University
English 1030 (2 sections) – 38 total students
English 2150 (2 sections) – 60 total students
Late August 2022 – December 2022 (fall semester)
- Senior Lecturer (fall 2013 to present)
- Lecturer (fall 2002 – spring 2013)

INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES

- Teaching
- Hosting an ongoing alumni online book club
- Improving communications skills, regardless of major, for undergraduates at Clemson
- Advising and actively aiding current and former Clemson Students
- Engaging in popular culture studies
- Studying film and major genre innovations
- Promoting graphic novel education / literacy through public library lectures (Anderson and Pickens counties)

AWARDS RECEIVED

- Won the Clemson Alumni Master Teaching Award (presented annually since 1971) in 2022
- Listed in *The Tiger's* 2019 rankings of “Top 10 classes to take at Clemson University”
- Received personal “Award of Distinction” from a Clemson Student – from Ms. Laura Jameson – via Clemson’s National Scholar’s Program in May of 2016
- Promoted to Senior Lecturer in May of 2013
- Won 2007-2008 Fluor Daniel Excellence in Teaching Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award from CU’s Undergraduate Student Government
- Achieved President’s List Status During Entirety of Graduate Career at CU
- Awarded Honors on MA Qualifying Oral Comprehensive Examination
- Received Clemson University Visitors Board of Trustees Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant for 2001-2002 Academic Year
- Voted Clemson University English Department Douglass Award for Excellent Graduate Teaching Assistant for 2001-2002 Academic Year

REFERENCES

- Lee Morrissey, Ph.D.
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