**Annette Debo**

Curriculum Vitae

307 Coulter Hall adebo@wcu.edu

Western Carolina University 828.242.4880 (cell)

Cullowhee, NC 28723 828.227.3976 (office)

**Education**

Ph.D., English, University of Maryland, College Park

M.A., English, Virginia Tech

B.S., Accounting, Minor in English, Virginia Tech

**Academic Positions**

Western Carolina University Department of English

Professor, 2013-present

Department Head, 2022-present

Graduate Program Director, 2012-2016, 2017-2018

Associate Professor, 2007-2013

Director of Literature Program, 2006-2010

Assistant Professor, 2001-2007

American University Department of Literature

Visiting Assistant Professor, 1998-99

**Publications**

***Books***

*The Necessary Past: Revising History in Contemporary African American Poetry.* Chicago: Northwestern University Press, April 2024.

*Within the Walls* *and What Do I Love?* by H.D. Edited and introduction by Annette Debo. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2014. 104-page introduction.

Paperback edition released July 2016.

Reviews:

By Jeff Westover. “Poetry: 1900 to the 1950s.” *American Literary Scholarship* 2014: 341-362.

By J. Mills. *Choice* (May 2015): 1501. (Rated “highly recommended.”)

By Elizabeth Anderson, “‘All Your Loveliest Treasures’: H.D. in the 1940s.” *Women: A Cultural Review* 26.3 (2015): 347-350).

*The American H.D*. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2012.

Reviews:

By Jeff Westover. “Poetry: 1900 to the 1950s.” *American Literary Scholarship* 2013: 343-371.

By David Roessel. *Resources for American Literary Study* 36 (2013): 351-54.

By Alice Kelly. *Modernism/modernity* 20.2 (April 2013): 393-395.

By E. R. Baer, *Choice* (July 2012): 2054-2055. (Rated “highly recommended.”)

*Approaches to Teaching H.D.’s Poetry and Prose.* Eds. Annette Debo and Lara Vetter. New York: Modern Language Association, 2011.

***Articles***

“Historical Poetry in the Twenty-First Century.” *Cambridge History of African American Poetry*. Ed. Keith D. Leonard. In-Progress.

“Norman Holmes Pearson, Canon-Maker.” *Modernism/modernity*. 23.2 (April 2016): 443-462.

“Prospects for the Study of H.D.” *Resources for American Literary Study*. 38 (2015): 1-19. Invited.

“‘How Many Blitz-Nights, Did You Spend in London?’: H.D., World War II, and (Re)Writing History.” *H.D.’s* Trilogy *and Beyond*. Eds. Hélène Aji, Antoine Cazé, Angès Derail-Imbert, and Clément Oudart. Paris: Presses Universitaires de Paris Ouest, 2014. 37-43.

“Ophelia Speaks: Resurrecting Still Lives in Natasha Trethewey’s *Bellocq’s Ophelia*.” *African American Review* 42.2 (Summer 2008): 201-214. Reprinted in *African-American Poets, Volume 2: 1950s to the Present, New Edition*. Ed. Harold Bloom. New York: Bloom’s Literary Criticism, 2010. 145-163. Reprinted in *Contemporary Literary Criticism*. Farmington Hills, MI: Gale, 2013 and in electronic form in Gale’s *Literature Resource Center*.

“Signifying *Afrika*: Gwendolyn Brooks’s Later Poetry.” *Callaloo* 29.1 (Winter 2006): 168-181. Reprinted in *Critical Insights: Gwendolyn Brooks*. Ed. Mildred R. Mickle. Pasadena, CA: Salem Press, 2009 and in electronic form in EBSCO Publishing’s *Literary Reference Center*.

“Reflecting Violence in the Warpland: Gwendolyn Brooks’s *Riot*.” *African American Review* 39.1-2 (Spring/Summer 2005): 143-152. Reprinted in *Critical Insights: Gwendolyn Brooks*. Ed. Mildred R. Mickle. Pasadena, CA: Salem Press, 2009 and in electronic form in EBSCO Publishing’s *Literary Reference Center*. Reprinted in *Contemporary Literary Criticism*. Farmington Hills, MI: Gale, 2013 and in electronic form in Gale’s *Literature Resource Center*.

“Whiteness and the Black/White Border in H.D.” *Paideuma: Studies in American and British Modernist Poetry* 33.2-3 (Fall/Winter 2004): 155-175.

“H.D.’s American Landscape: The Power and Permanence of Place.” *South Atlantic Review* 69.3-4 (Fall 2004): 1-22.

“Interracial Modernism in Avant-Garde Film: Paul Robeson and H.D. in the 1930 *Borderline*.” *Quarterly Review of Film and Video* 18.4 (15 Nov 2001): 371-383.

“Power, Destiny, and Individual Choice: Gloria Naylor’s Naturalism.” *CLA Journal* 44.4 (June 2001): 492-521.

“Dickinson Manuscripts in the Undergraduate Classroom.” *College Literature* 27.3 (Fall 2000): 131-144.

***Reviews and Encyclopedia Entries***

“Hilda Doolittle (H.D.)” *New Directions*. 20 December 2011. http://ndbooks.com/author/hilda-doolittle-h.-d. 665 words.

“H.D.” *Encyclopedia of Twentieth-Century Fiction*. Eds. Patrick O’Connel, David Madden, and Justus Nieland. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010. 1000-words.

“Margaret Walker.” *Contemporary African-American Novelists: A Bio-Bibliographical Critical Sourcebook*. Ed. Emmanuel S. Nelson. New York: Greenwood, 1999. 469-474.

Review of Thadious M. Davis’s *Nella Larsen: Novelist of the Harlem Renaissance* and Charles Larson’s *Jean Toomer and Nella Larsen*. *American Studies International* 33.1 (Apr 1995): 130-132.

Review of H.D.’s *Asphodel*. *American Studies International* 31.2 (Oct 1993): 106-107.

**Honors and Awards**

Short-Term Fellowship, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University, September 2016.

Delivered research talk.

Scholarly Development Assignment, WCU, fall semester 2016.

Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2014.

Highest award for teaching in the UNC system, given yearly to one recipient from each of the seventeen UNC campuses.

Commencement speaker, WCU, May 2014.

Faculty speaker, First-Year Convocation, WCU, August 2014.

H.D. Fellowship in English or American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University, 2012-2013.

Faculty Research and Creative Activities Grant, WCU, 2011-2012.

Hunter Scholar Award, Hunter Library, WCU, 2010-2011.

Scholarly Development Assignment, WCU, spring semester 2009.

American Association of University Women (AAUW) American Summer/Short-Term Research Publication Grant, 2006-2007. ($6,000)

University Faculty Supporter of the Year, Last Minute Productions, WCU, 2005-2006.

Most Outstanding Academic Advisor Award for outstanding service, dedication, and commitment to the African-American students at WCU, Office for Student Affairs & Organization of Ebony Students, 2005.

Outstanding Faculty Contribution, WCU University Center, 2004-2005.

Rotary Club’s Group Study Exchange Program to France, 2004-2005.

Summer Research Grant, WCU, 2004-2005.

Faculty Research Grant & Research Assistantship, WCU, 2003-2004.

**Presentations & Panel Administration**

“City Streets in Rita Dove’s *Thomas and Beulah*.” Modernist Studies Association. Brooklyn, NY. October 2023.

“Rewriting the Past and Future: The Historical Poems of Terrance Hayes and Evie Shockley.” American Literature Association. Boston, MA. May 2023.

“City Streets in Rita Dove’s *Thomas and Beulah*.” American Literature Association. Chicago, IL. May 2022.

“Tending the Graves in Natasha Trethewey’s *Native Guard*.” Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States (MELUS). New Orleans, LA. March 2022.

[Covid restrictions from spring 2020 through 2021 forced the cancellation of my conference plans.]

“Black Modernism and the Historical Impulse: Michael S. Harper’s Revisionary Poetics.” Panel Organizer. Modernist Studies Association. Toronto, Canada. October 2019.

“Celebrating Ancestry: Michael S. Harper and Twenty-First-Century Poets.” American Literature Association. San Francisco, CA. May 2018.

“Modernist Influences: From Robert Hayden’s ‘Middle Passage’ to the Twenty-First Century” in the Roundtable “Modernism’s Racial Lines.” Co-organizer of roundtable. Modernist Studies Association. Amsterdam, Netherlands. August 2017.

Invited. “How Poets Make History from the Black Arts Movement to 21st-Century National Laureates: Sonia Sanchez and Natasha Trethewey.” Davidson College. Davidson, NC. February 2017.

“Resistance and History: The Persona Poem in Contemporary African American Poetry.” Celebrating African American Literature and Language. Penn State. State College, PA. October 2016.

“The Necessary Past: The Historical Poem in Contemporary African American Poetry.” American Literature Association. San Francisco, CA. May 2016.

“Collecting Visions: Visual Art and the Poetry of H.D. and Marianne Moore.” Organizer of session “Poetry for the Wrong Reason.” Modernist Studies Association. Boston, MA. November 2015.

“H.D. Studies in the Twenty-First Century” and panel member on “Biography Roundtable.” Also co-organizer of this conference. H.D. & Feminist Poetics, Lehigh University. Lehigh, PA. September 2015.

“Norman Holmes Pearson, Canon-maker.” Organizer of session “New Archival Scholarship and the Reputations of Woolf, Stein, Moore, and H.D.” Modernist Studies Association. Pittsburgh, PA. November 2014.

“Natasha Trethewey’s *Thrall*: History, Truth, and Resonance.” Organizer of session “Talking Trethewey, Talking Truth, Talking Time.” Furious Flower: Seeding the Future of African American Poetry, James Madison University. Harrisonburg, VA. September 2014.

“‘How Many Blitz-Nights, Did You Spend in London?”: H.D., World War II, and (Re)Writing History.” H.D. and Modernity International Conference, Organized by Université Paris-Diderot, Université Paris Ouest Nanterre, Université Toulouse II-Le Mirail, & École Normale Supérieure. Paris, France. December 2013.

“Natasha Trethewey’s Captives of the Past in *Thrall*.” Celebrating African American Literature Conference, Penn State. State College, PA. October 2013.

“‘London Can Take It!’: H.D.’s *Within the Walls* and *What Do I Love?*” Organizer of session “Modernism and the Wars.” Modernist Studies Association. Last Vegas, NV. October 2012.

“Sonia Sanchez, Radical Politics, and the Black Power Movement.” Also, chair and organizer of H.D. panel. American Literature Association. San Francisco, CA. May 2012.

“‘The Greeks and Trojans Alike Fought for an Illusion’: The Milieu of the Cold War and H.D.’s *Helen in Egypt*” in “Women Poets in the Wake of Modernism” standing panel on poetry. Modern Language Association. Seattle, WA. January 2012.

“Teaching H.D.’s *Helen in Egypt* Through a Wiki” in special session roundtable “New Approaches to Teaching H.D.” Modern Language Association. Seattle, WA. January 2012.

“‘Your Work Means Bread and Wine’: Norman Holmes Pearson and H.D.’s *Last Poems*.” Organizer of session “‘A Community of Meanings’: H.D., Robert Duncan, and Norman Holmes Pearson.” Modernist Studies Association. Buffalo, NY. October 2011.

“H.D.’s *Chevalier*: Norman Holmes Pearson and the Grooming of H.D. as ‘National Poetess-Heroine.’” Modernist Studies Association. Victoria, Canada. October 2010.

“Furious Flowers All: Violence and the Poetry of Gwendolyn Brooks, Sonia Sanchez, and Natasha Trethewey.” Also, chair and organizer of H.D. panel; chair of panel “Modernist Circles.” American Literature Association. San Francisco, CA. May 2010.

“Bryher in America, A Modern Marco Polo.” Modernist Studies Association. Nashville, TN. November 2008.

“Ophelia Speaks: Resurrecting Still Lives in Natasha Trethewey’s *Bellocq’s Ophelia*.” American Studies Association. Albuquerque, NM. October 2008.

“Nation, Literary Friendships, and Border Crossings: H.D. and Marianne Moore.” Also, organizer of joint panel on H.D. and Marianne Moore, and chair of “Currents in Contemporary American Poetry.” American Literature Association. San Francisco, CA. May 2008.

“H.D. in the 1950s: Repatriation and Ezra Pound.” Also, panel participant on 1930 film *Borderline*. Modernist Studies Association. Long Beach, CA. November 2007.

“‘She Has Always Been the Most American of Poets’: Locating National Identity in the H.D. Papers.” Also, invited speaker in the “Open Forum on Teaching.” Modernist Studies Association. Tulsa, OK. October 2006.

“Ophelia Speaks: Resurrecting Still Lives in Natasha Trethewey’s *Bellocq’s Ophelia*.” Also, co-chair and co-organizer of H.D. panel. American Literature Association. San Francisco, CA. May 2006.

“‘I Know Now That I am Essentially an Essential African’: The Role of Africa for Gwendolyn Brooks.” Also, co-chair and co-organizer of H.D. panel. American Literature Association. Boston, MA. May 2005.

“Signifying *Afrika*: Gwendolyn Brooks’s Later Poetry.” Furious Flower Conference on African American Poetry.James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA. September 2004.

“Bridging the Generations: Sonia Sanchez and Tupac Shakur.” American Literature Association. San Francisco, CA. May 2004.

“The American H.D.” American Literature Association. Cambridge, MA. May 2003.

“The Language of Violence in Gwendolyn Brooks’s *Riot*: The View from the Twenty-First Century.” College Language Association. Washington, D.C. April 2003.

“H.D.’s American Landscape: The Power and Permanence of Place.” Also served on the paper selection committee. “‘Lost Measure’: A Conference on H.D.” Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA. September 2003.

“Reflecting Violence in the Warpland: From Lynching to Riots in Gwendolyn Brooks’s Poetry.” George Moses Horton Society Conference: “Reflecting Back, Looking Forward.” University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC. April 2002.

“H.D. and the American Scene.” The New Modernisms II. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. October 2000.

“Interracial Modernism in Avant-Garde Film: Paul Robeson and H.D. in the 1930 *Borderline.*” Also, panel member for discussion of *Borderline*. The New Modernisms I. Pennsylvania State University. University Park, PA. October 1999.

“Transcending the Black/White Binary: Nation and Race in H.D.” American Literature Association. Baltimore, MA. May 1999.

“Discourse of Race in the 1930 Film *Borderline*: Americans on the Racial Border.” American Studies Association. Washington, D.C. November 1997.

“Race in H.D.’s America: The Black/White Borderline.” American Literature Association. Baltimore, MD. May 1997.

“Revisionary Tactics Connecting H.D., Cather, and Hurston: Another Step in Revising Modernism.” South Atlantic Modern Language Association. Atlanta, GA. November 1995.

“Poetry, Word Play, and Intellectual Pleasure: Emily Dickinson’s Manuscripts in the Undergraduate Classroom.” Organized special session “Teaching Textuality: Pedagogical Applications of Textual Studies.” South Atlantic Modern Language Association. Baltimore, MA. November 1994.

“Poets of Connection: Tracing the Crystalline Lineage of H.D. to Dickinson.” American Literature Assoc’s Symposium on Women Writers. San Antonio, TX. October 1993.

**Media Appearances**

Interviewed about H.D.’s life and writing. Collected Words, hosted by Christopher J. Johnson on 101.5 KVSF in Santa Fe, NM, November 12, 2014. Podcast: <http://www.santafe.com/the-voice/podcast/collected-words-november-12-2014#.VGVUf1wXlFx>.

Panel participant (with Adelaide Morris and Julia Bloch) in discussion of H.D.’s *Helen in Egypt*. Poem Talk #84, hosted by Al Filreis and supported by the Kelly Writers House at the University of Pennsylvania, PennSound, and the Poetry Foundation, September 18, 2014. “The I as Hieroglyph” & “On H.D.’s Imagism”

Podcast: <http://jacket2.org/podcasts/i-hieroglyph-poemtalk-84>.

Interviewed on WordPlay, AshevilleFM, hosted by Jeff Davis.

H.D.’s *Within the Walls and What Do I Love?*, October 26, 2014.

Podcast:  <http://stream.ashevillefm.org/afm-word-play-06222014.mp3>.

H.D.’s epic *Helen in Egypt*, September 7, 2014. Podcast: <http://stream.ashevillefm.org/afm-word-play-09072014.mp3>.

H.D. and her early poetry, February 23, 2014.

Podcast: <http://stream.ashevillefm.org/afm-word-play-02232014.mp3>.

**Classes Taught at Western Carolina University:**

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| ENGL 101 Composition I  ENGL 190 First-Year Seminar in Literature, concentration on African American Literature, Women’s Literature  ENGL 200 Introduction to the Major  ENGL 203 Major American Authors  ENGL 204 The Literature of Culture  ENGL 208 LGBTQ+ Literature  ENGL 209 Past Times: The Civil Rights Era in Black and White  ENGL 210 Contemporary African American Literature  ENGL 231 Interpretation of Literature  ENGL 241 Formalism & American Literature  ENGL 262 American Literature 1865-pres  ENGL 331 Literary Theory  ENGL 352H Journey in Literature  ENGL 365 African American Literature  ENGL 404 African American Literature and History (team taught with Dr. Elizabeth McRae, Department of History)  ENGL 450 Major American and British Authors: Toni Morrison | ENGL 404 African American Literature and History  ENGL 465 Topics in African American Literature  ENGL 472 Modern Fiction  ENGL 474 Literary Theory  ENGL 475 Modernism  ENGL 477 Literature and Gender  ENGL 479 Special Topics: The Avant-Garde in Twentieth-Century Literature  ENGL 479 Special Topics: Spoken Word Poetry and Hip Hop  ENGL 479 Special Topics: The Harlem Renaissance  ENGL 602 African American Literature  ENGL 618 Methods of Literary Research and Bibliography  ENGL 675 Modernism  ENGL 677 Literary Theory |
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**Classes Taught at American University:**

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| LIT 150 Postcolonial Literature  LIT 235 African American Literature Survey  LIT 396/696 Twentieth-Century African American Women’s Literature | LIT 225 The African Writer  LIT 396/696 African American Literature, 1910-1945 |

**Service**

***Departmental Service***

***Department Head, 2022-present***

Responsible for a department of 23 TTF, 14 NTTF, 4 adjunct faculty, and 2 staff. Primary tasks:

Major accomplishments:

Increased enrollment in BA by 9%, BSEd by 34%

New marketing campaign including a High School Writing Contest

Developed Fall Speaker Series

Created ENGL 498 Jobs in the Changing Workplace & focus on jobs for majors

Schedule courses for each semester (130-150 sections)

Manage the departmental budget

Advocate for new positions and guide the searches

Run the department TPR process – 14 Instructors promoted to Associate Instructor

Review performance for faculty and staff annually

Update website, marketing, and Open House materials

Recruit majors

Run department meetings and create community

Manage curricular changes and assessment

Handle personnel issues

Report on annual changes and department activities

Regular meetings with the College DH Council and the university DH Workshop

Work with Development and Advancement on Fundraising

Work with Admissions

***Graduate Program Director, 2012-2016, 2017-2018***

Responsible for students in the MA (in three concentrations: Literature, Professional Writing, and Comp/Rhet), MAT, and MAEd.

Major accomplishments:

Increased graduate enrollment from 18 to 34 students in the MA

Increased the number of graduate assistants working in the department from 8 to 17 (with

3 more working elsewhere on campus).

Secured program acceptance to Graduate School’s new initiative, bringing in six new

Graduate Tuition Scholarships and developed the metric used to assess their

success in improving student quality

Revised the MA comprehensive exams and implemented the new model, which offers a

student-centered learning approach rather than a top-down model.

Revised, designed, and wrote the program webpages.

Revised the graduate curriculum.

Implemented extensive recruitment efforts through social media, radio spots, billboards,

hardcopy publicity materials.

Represent the program at WCU Graduate School Fairs and Open Houses

Admit students

Apply for, assign, and supervise graduate assistantships

Assign mentors

Advise all graduate students

Revise programs for DPI standards and changes in the profession

Write and administer comprehensive exams

Admit students for Alternative Licensure

Work with counterparts in Education on MAEd and MAT programs

Administer the Certificate in Technical and Professional Writing

Facilitate graduate student awards

Member of Executive Committee

Administer graduate program facebook page: WCU English Graduate Students

***Director of Literature Program, 2006-2010***

Chair, Literature Committee

Chair, Liberal Studies Committee

Member of Executive Committee

Curriculum Rotation Committee

Revise literature curriculum

Recruit potential students – Admissions Liaison

Develop curriculum rotation and advertise classes

Develop and update checksheets, FACT Sheets, advising worksheets

Develop ties with local high schools

IRB Training

***Committee Participation***

Collegial Review Committee/Personnel Committee (formerly Tenure, Promotion, and Retention),

2019-2021, 2014-2015, fall 2008

Peer Assessment of Teaching Effectiveness (formerly Annual Faculty Evaluation Committee),

2013-2021, 2010-2012, 2003-2008

Chair, 2014-2015, 2011-2012, 2007-2008

Library Liaison, 2004-present

Academic Advisor, 2001-present

Graduate Committee, 2001-present

Joyner Fund Committee, 2012-2014, 2007-2009, 2003-2004

Post-Tenure Review Committee, 2008-2010

Job Search Sub-Committees for postcolonial studies and film, 2004-2005

Literary Festival Task Force, 2002-2007

Faculty Advisor, Sigma Tau Delta Honor Society, 2004-2006

African American Studies Minor Task Force, 2002-2005

M.A. Teaching Mentor, 2002-2004

Coordinator for United Way Campaign, 2002-2003

First-Year Composition Assessment Task Force, 2001-2002

Events Committee, 2001-2002

***College Service***

College Collegial Review Committee, 2019-22

Chair, Big Questions Committee, 2012-2014

Graduate Committee, 2012-2014

Departmental Collegial Review Committee for Modern Foreign Languages, fall 2012

Sossomon Professorship Selection Committee, Department of History, 2011

Student Recruitment Committee, 2008-2011

Dean’s Advisory Board, 2005-2008

Search Committee for Dean of Arts and Sciences, spring 2007

Committee on Committees, 2004-2005

***University Service***

University Collegial Review Committee, 2017-2019

Featured in the Faculty Spotlight, Academic Affairs Newsletter, WCU’s Office of the Provost, March 2015

Academic Integrity Board, 2010-2013

Graduate Council, fall 2012

Contributed “‘To Me She Has Always Been the Most American of Poets’: H.D., Nation and Beyond” (1527 words plus images) to *WCU Research*, published by Western’s Graduate School, 2010.

Hunter Scholar Committee, 2010

Council on Distinguished Scholarships, 2006-2009

Lectures, Concerts, and Exhibitions (LCE ) Committee, 2004-2007

Coordinated English department speakers at Western Women on Wednesdays for the

Women’s Center, 2004-2005. Led discussions for WWOW, 2004-2006.

Committee for Summer Research Grants, spring 2005

Taught a workshop on taking the verbal component of the GRE for the Graduate School, 2004.

Search Committee for University Center Director, spring 2003

Project C.A.R.E. Faculty Mentor (retention of African American students), 2002-2003

***Service to the Discipline***

Co-Organizer, “H.D. and Feminist Poetics” Conference, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA. September 2015.

Advisory Board, H.D. International Society, 2012-present

Co-Chair, H.D. International Society, 2004-2012

Advisory Board, *Anthology of Rap*. Eds. Adam Bradley and Andrew DuBois. New York: Yale UP, 2010.

Peer Reviewer for

Oxford University Press

Cambridge University Press

*African American Review*

*Atlantis: Journal of the Spanish Association for Anglo-American Studies*

*Black Women, Gender, and Families*

*Genre: Forms of Discourse and Culture*

*Humanities*

*ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*

*Mosaic: A Journal for the Interdisciplinary Study of Literature*

*Obsidian*

*Paideuma*

*PMLA (Publication of the Modern Language Association of America*)

*Poetics Today*

*University of South Carolina Press*

*Twentieth-Century Literature*

*Tulsa Studies in Women’s Literature*