

ROBIN NILON

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY BEASLEY SCHOOL OF LAW
1719 NORTH BROAD STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19122
215-204-4975
ROBIN.NILON@TEMPLE.EDU

EDUCATION

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Doctor of Philosophy, English, 1993

Concentrations: Modern British Literature, Critical Theory, Prose Fiction

Master of Arts, English 1985

English, Temple University

Bachelor of Arts 1978

English, Temple University

Attended Temple Rome 1976

Rome, Italy

Georgetown University 1974 – 1976

Washington, D.C.

EXPERIENCE

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY BEASLEY SCHOOL OF LAW, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Assistant Professor of Law (September 2003 – Present);

Director of the Writing Center for International Programs (July 2002 – Present);

Visiting Assistant Professor (July 2002 – September 2003)

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of English (2000 – 2002)

Award for Excellence in Teaching

Teaching Exchange Participant, Temple University/Community College of Philadelphia (2000);

Writing Process Workshop Presenter, Tuttleman Writing Center (2000); Visiting Assistant

Professor, Department of English (1992 – 1997)

Merit for Excellence in Teaching, 1997

Dean's Fellowship, Temple Teaching Exchange Program, Temple University/University of Delaware (1989 – 1991); Teaching and Testing Consultant (1993 – 1995)

Writing Tutor, Temple University's Writing Center (1983 – 1984, 1987 – 1988); Teaching Assistant, Composition and Basic Writing English Language Enrichment at Temple (Elect) (1981 – 1989)

DELAWARE VALLEY COLLEGE, Doylestown, Pennsylvania

Instructor, Department of English (1993 – 1995)

EWING, COLE, CHERRY, PARKSY, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Tutor in Oral and Written Communications (1987)

MOORE COLLEGE OF ART, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Writing Tutor, Educational Support Office (1987 – 1988)

COURSES TAUGHT

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY JAMES E. BEASLEY SCHOOL OF LAW

LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING (International LL.M. Programs)

LL.M. Students and Exchange Students are taught legal research and writing skills essential to handling legal matters in a global context. Students are given a search and seizure problem, but before preparing a brief, they observe two attorneys arguing the problem before Federal Judges. After preparing and drafting briefs, prosecution or defense, student pairs argue before Federal Judges. Finally, they revise their briefs on the basis of comments from the Judges and me. The arguments are videotaped. This innovative, “total immersion” assignment, introduces persuasive writing as a series of important stages in critical thinking – a function of listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING: PERSUASIVE WRITING AND ORAL ARGUMENT:

Summer Program, Temple Beijing/Philadelphia campus, 33 enrolled, 2 – 4 credits

Lawyers and judges from Temple’s LL.M. program in the People’s Republic of China learn legal research and writing skills essential to handling legal matters in a global context.

WRITING SEMINAR: SCHOLARLY WRITING (International LL.M. Program/Exchange Program)

Scholarly Writing for International Students, 3 credits. 30 students. This seminar targets those students whose writing skills are not sufficiently developed to work independently or in a seminar with a doctrinal professor. The skills acquired crafting a research paper are transferable and will help equip our students for membership in the international legal community. My course allows students to learn the research process step by step, but is still flexible enough to allow them to work on content with a doctrinal professor. I continue to develop teaching materials for my co-teacher, and oversee all writing support for international students enrolled in serial, seminar, or guided research.

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

BASIC WRITING (Elect)

BASIC WRITING (Elect) - English as a Second Language

INTRODUCTION TO ACADEMIC DISCOURSE

INTRODUCTION TO ACADEMIC DISCOURSE (Learning Community, Computer-Assisted Instruction)

INTRODUCTION TO ACADEMIC DISCOURSE - ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

COLLEGE COMPOSITION

COLLEGE COMPOSITION - ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

COLLEGE COMPOSITION (Computer Assisted)

COLLEGE COMPOSITION LEARNING COMMUNITY (Paired with History)
COLLEGE COMPOSITION LEARNING COMMUNITY (Paired with Mathematics)
COLLEGE COMPOSITION - STUDIES IN RACE
WRITING FOR BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY
BUSINESS AND TECHNICAL WRITING (Computer Assisted)
RESEARCH AND CRITICAL THINKING
ADVANCED COMPOSITION (Writing Intensive and Literature concentration)
INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN'S STUDIES
INTRODUCTION TO FICTION
HONORS: LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION
INTELLECTUAL HERITAGE, 51
GREAT AMERICAN WRITERS (Core Course - Writing Intensive)

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

APPROACHES TO LITERATURE: COMPOSITION
AMERICAN LITERATURE FROM THE BEGINNINGS TO THE CIVIL WAR
AMERICAN LITERATURE FROM THE CIVIL WAR TO WORLD WAR II
SURVEY OF ENGLISH LITERATURE 1 (Honors)
SURVEY OF ENGLISH LITERATURE 2
INTRODUCTION TO THE NOVEL
SENIOR SEMINAR: D.H. LAWRENCE AND E.M. FORSTER

DELAWARE VALLEY COLLEGE

ENGLISH 1, 2, 3 (Literature and Composition)

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF PHILADELPHIA

ENGLISH 98, Basic Writing
ENGLISH 101, Composition

ADMINISTRATION

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY BEASLEY SCHOOL OF LAW

Assistant Professor of Law; Writing Specialist for International LL.M. Students (2001 – Present)
Coordinate writing support for International Programs
Coordinate Writing Center services
Train Writing Center tutors and adjunct writing professors
Provide international LL.M. Students with tutorial support for writing assignments, especially memoranda, client letters, and seminar papers
Work with students on non-graded work including resumes, cover letters, and personal statements for graduate program applications
Conduct regular writing workshops based on language needs of students as revealed in their writing, reading, and speech
Develop curricula for International LL.M. Program and LL.M. Program in Beijing, China and Tokyo, Japan

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

Associate Director, First Year Writing Program (1996 – 1997)
Administered Basic Writing component of First-Year Writing Program

Worked with Director of Composition to reform Composition component of Temple's Writing Program into English 50 and English 51 (ESL)
Part of the team that designed new placement test for students entering the University

Director, Basic Writing (English Language Enrichment Center at Temple - Elect) (1995 – 1996)
Supervised professional development of teaching assistants for many graduate disciplines
Conducted orientation for teaching assistants
Monitored teaching assistant development through workshops, observation, and group grading sessions
Conducted weekly grading and support workshops for teaching assistants new to the teaching of English as a Second Language
Hired and trained large staff of part-time instructors
Part of team that designed and piloted English 40 and English 41 (ESL) - a graded "Introduction to Academic Discourse" - that replaced entire remedial Elect Program at Temple

COMMITTEES

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY BEASLEY SCHOOL OF LAW

International Programs Committee

Work includes gaining approval for a number of international exchanges including Netherlands, Germany, and India
Helped create effective marketing strategies for all international programs
Assisted in developing the writing component of the mandatory curriculum necessary to prepare International Students for advanced study

Disciplinary Committee: Alternate
Writing Center Committee
Law School Environment Committee
Judicial Clerkship Clinical Committee
Graduation Prizes Committee

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

University Writing Committee
Composition Committee
Subcommittee on Placement Testing
University Writing Committee, Subcommittee on ESL issues
Executive Committee of the Graduate English Association
Ph.D. Exam Reform Subcommittee
University Writing Placement/Proficiency Evaluator
Graduate Assistant Advisor, Department of Continuing Education

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Judge, Ruth Bader Ginsburg Legal Writing Competition, Philadelphia, PA

Trainer, Blank Rome University, CLE Program in Advanced Writing for first and second year associates

Literacy Trainer, Re-Entry Writing Center/Tutorial Program, S.T.A.R. Program, Philadelphia, PA

PUBLICATIONS

A Better Way to Fail: Teaching Critical Thinking to Chinese Lawyers, *Journal Jurisprudence*, J. Juris, 2017.

Eyewitness Errors and Wrongful Convictions: Let's Give Science a Chance, 89 *OR. L. REV.* 263 (2010) (with David Sonenshein)

A Calculus of Plagiarism: Toward a Contrastive Approach to Teaching Chinese Lawyers, 2 *SOUTH CAROLINA JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND BUSINESS* (2005-6)

Shedding Sickness: A Case of the Bad Object in D.H. Lawrence's 'The Woman Who Rode Away', 13 *ANNALS OF SCHOLARSHIP* (1999)

REVIEWS

Solicited Review of Book Proposal, *Foreign Student Admission to U.S. Law Schools: An American Professor's Guide to LLM, SJD, Ph.D. in 'Law'*, by Professor George E. Edwards, ASPEN PUBLISHERS (2009)

The International Lawyer's Guide to Legal Analysis and Communication in the U.S., McGreagor and Adams

JOURNAL OF MODERN LITERATURE, 16, 2-3 (1988-1989)

The Works of D. H. Lawrence: 'Aaron's Rod', ed. Mara Kalnins, Cambridge: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS, 1988

The Works of D. H. Lawrence: "Reflections on the Death of a Porcupine" and Other Essays, ed. Michael Herbert, Cambridge: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS, 1988

Critical Essays on D. H. Lawrence, eds. Dennis Jackson and Fleda Brown Jackson, Boston: G.K. HALL & CO., 1988

D. H. Lawrence: Myth and Metaphysic in The Rainbow, P.T. Whelan, Ann Arbor: UMI RESEARCH PRESS, 1988

PRESENTATIONS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS, San Diego, CA, (January 2018), “Poetic License: Using Documentary Poetry to Teach Chinese Lawyers Fact-Based Legal Analysis”

Asian EFL Journal International Conference, Pampanga, Philippines (August 2015),
“A Better Way to Fail: Teaching Critical Thinking to Chinese Lawyer,” Delivered via Skype

JOHN MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW, GLOBAL LEGAL SKILLS CONFERENCE, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, (MAY 2014), “Failing Better”

VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY, Aedeodatus Conference, (September 2012), “Tutoring and Literacy Training in Federal Re-Entry Court”

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS, Washington, D.C., (December 2011),
“A Better Way to Fail”

FACULTAD LIBRE DE DERECHO DE MONTERREY, Monterrey, Mexico, Global Legal Skills Conference V, (February 2010), “Intercultural Critical Thinking: Oral Argument as a Stage of Brief Writing”

Panelist: “Intercultural Critical Thinking: Oral Argument as a Stage of Brief Writing
TEMPLE UNIVERSITY BEASLEY SCHOOL OF LAW AND DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF PARMA, Italy (co-sponsors), (June 27-30 2009),
directed by David Sonenshein, Participant in Current Developments in European Law

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER, Global Legal Skills Conference IV, (June 4-6, 2009), “Cross-Cultural Approaches to Teaching Critical Thinking”

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY BEASLEY SCHOOL OF LAW, (May 2009), Delaware Valley Legal Writing Consortium, Participant,

FACULTAD LIBRE DE DERECHO DE MONTERREY, Monterrey, Mexico, Global Legal Skills Conference III, International Planning Committee Member and Presenter, (February 2008), “Talking Like a Duck: Using Oral Argument as a Tool for Revision”

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA LAW SCHOOL, Delaware Valley Legal Writing Consortium, Participant, (November 2008)

JOHN MARSHALL LAW SCHOOL, Chicago, Illinois, Global Legal Skills Conference, (May 2007), “The Social Context of Teaching Legal Research and Writing: Do Research Methods Affect How Information is Represented”?

CEELI INSTITUTE, Prague, Czech Republic, Panel on English for Specific Purposes and Legal Writing, Conference on the Development of Legal Skills Programs in the New Europe, (May 2005), Moderator

MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION CONVENTION, Philadelphia, PA, (December 2004),
Presentation: “Another Gesture Altogether: “The Authority of Phantasy in ‘The Plumed Serpent and Studies in Classic American Literature’”

LEGAL WRITING INSTITUTE CONFERENCE, Seattle Washington, (July 2004),
Presentation: “Preparing Our Students and Ourselves for the Future: A Global Approach to Teaching Legal Writing

INTERNATIONAL D.H. LAWRENCE CONFERENCE, Nottingham, England, (1996),
Presentation: “Shedding Sicknesses - Towards a Theory of Reading D. H. Lawrence as a Self-Critical Feminist”

INTERNATIONAL D. H. LAWRENCE CONFERENCE, Ottawa, Canada, (1993),
Presentation: “Transitional Space Travel”

MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION CONVENTION, San Francisco, CA, (1991) Presentation:
“Fascism, Feminism and the Maternal: The Postmodern Condition in Virginia Woolf’s ‘Between the Acts’”

INVITED ADDRESSES

FADA LAW SCHOOL, Beijing, China, Legal Writing as Applied Ethics, China Legal Writing Collective, Invited Address to Faculty and Students, (March 2009)

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF PHILADELPHIA, Comp. Connection 2, (2001)

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY, Comp. Connection 1: Building a Bridge Between CCP and Temple, (2001); Administering the Transition from Elect to Introduction to Academic Discourse,(1996); Helping the Underprepared Student in Basic Writing, Conference on Improving Teaching Practices, (1995); Pairing Mathematics and Composition in a Learning Community: Computer-Assisted Composition, (1995); Using Computers for Collaborative Teaching in Writing (1995); D. H. Lawrence and the Critical Heritage, Graduate Student Colloquia, (1991)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association of American Law Schools
Conference of College and Composition
National Council of Teachers of English
Northeast Modern Language Association
Legal Writing Institute
TESOL Quarterly
Modern Language Association
D. H. Lawrence Society
Legal Writing Institute