

## KEVIN ANDREW SPICER

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University of St. Francis  
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[LinkedIn Profile](#)

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### EDUCATION

- 2010 Ph.D. English, University of Illinois at Chicago  
Dissertation: *Sum Moribundus: Prolegomenal Forays into the History of Despair*  
Committee: Ned Lukacher (chair), Gabriel Riera, Thomas Bestul, Ralph Cintron,  
Christina Pugh
- 2005 M.A. Literature, Northern Michigan University
- 2003 B.A. Liberal Studies, University of St. Francis

### PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2024 Professor of English, University of St. Francis
- 2018 Associate Professor of English, University of St. Francis
- 2012 Assistant Professor of English, University of St. Francis

### AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Medieval and Renaissance Literature, Psychoanalysis, Continental Philosophy, Literary Theory, Young Adult Literature, Sci-Fi/Fantasy Literature, Ecocriticism and Environmental Philosophy, Digital Humanities, Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Modernism

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2024 MaKenzie Hope Munson and **Kevin Andrew Spicer**, “You Can’t Put Clothes on Air”: Derrida’s *On Touching* and Carmen Maria Machado’s Interrogation of Visibility and Tangibility in “Real Women Have Bodies” (under review).
- 2024 William Douglas Mastin and **Kevin Andrew Spicer**: “Jig on the Border: The World and Time of the Simile.” Vol. 44, No. 1 (Fall, 2024).
- 2024 William Douglas Mastin and **Kevin Andrew Spicer**, “‘I could continue indefinitely’: Of Friezes, Romans, and the Pleasures of Parody” (accepted for publication with the *F. Scott Fitzgerald Review*).
- 2024 MaKenzie Hope Munson and **Kevin Andrew Spicer**. “‘Only’ Is a Bad Habit ...’: F. Scott Fitzgerald’s Utilization of Philosophical Motifs and Issues of Gender in ‘Head and Shoulders.’” *Women’s Studies*, July 1–24. doi:10.1080/00497878.2024.2373168.
- 2023 MaKenzie Hope Munson and **Kevin Andrew Spicer**, “Everything matters, Junior. Why don’t you get that?”: A Psychoanalytic Reading of Ron Currie, Jr.’s *Everything Matters!*” *ContactZone*, No. 2 (December, 2023): 70-83.

- 2023 William Douglas Mastin and **Kevin Andrew Spicer**, “ ‘Today is Friday’: Of Hemingway, Hegel, and Holy Lances” (manuscript submitted for publication).
- 2023 MaKenzie Hope Munson and **Kevin Andrew Spicer**, “ ‘Holmes, that’s some Santa Claus shit’: Reading Lydia Millet’s *A Children’s Bible* as an Ecological Crime Fiction Hybrid.” *The Routledge Handbook of Crime Fiction and Ecology*, ed. Nathan Ashman. New York: Routledge, 2023. 179-190.
- 2020 “The AI Computer as Therapist: Using Lacan to Read AI and (All-Too-Human) Subjectivities in Science Fiction Stories by Bruce Sterling and Naomi Kritzer.” *Fafnir: Nordic Journal of Science Fiction and Fantasy Research* Vol. 7, Iss. 2: 49-62.
- 2019 “Revolutionary Tenderness: Ecological Philosophy through Continental and Catholic Lenses,” *AFCU Journal* Vol. 15, No. 1 (2019): 40-47.
- 2018 “*L’extermination de tout symbolisme des cieux*: Reading the Lacanian Letter as Inhuman ‘Apparatus’ and its Implications for Ecological Thinking.” In *Lacan and the Nonhuman*, eds. Jonathan Dickstein and Gautam Basu Thakur. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. 101-120.
- 2017 **Kevin Andrew Spicer** and Beth McDermott “Poeticizing Ecology/Ecologizing Poetry: Reading Emily Bishop’s ‘Poem’ Ecologically.” *Trumpeter: Journal of Ecosophy*, Vol. 33, No. 1 (2017): 48-67. (The full text is available [here](#).)
- 2017 **Kevin Andrew Spicer** and Elizabeth Savant. “Big History or How to Avoid the Linguistic Turn and Unite the Disciplines.” *International Journal of Language and Linguistics*, Vol. 4, No. 2 (June, 2017). 81-88.
- 2012 “Of *Diké* and Death: The Role of Schelling in Adjudicating between Heidegger and Derrida.” *Philament: An Online Journal of Arts and Culture* 18 (November, 2012): 48-65.

### Book Reviews

- 2022 Virginia Konchan, *Hallelujah Time*. [Cider House Press: A Journal of Contemporary Poetry](#), Volume 24, Issue 4 (October).
- 2017 Henry W. Pickford, *Thinking with Tolstoy and Wittgenstein: Expression, Emotion, and Art*. *Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association (JMMLA)*, Vol. 50, No. 1 (Spring, 2017), pp. 138-141.

### GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2019 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar: Religion, Secularism, and the Novel—University of Iowa, July 15-August 2, 2019.
- 2017 USF Excellence in Teaching Award, April 2017
- 2017 SURE Grant Award from University of St. Francis, Summer 2017—in collaboration with Dr. Elizabeth McDermott and USF student, Elizabeth Savant
- 2016 SURE Grant Award from University of St. Francis, Summer 2016—in collaboration with USF student, Elizabeth Savant

## MENTORED PROJECTS

- 2022 MaKenzie Hope Munson, Senior Capstone, which included an early draft of our soon-to-be published coauthored paper with Routledge.
- 2017 Elizabeth Savant, “Poetic Pedagogy: Standardization of Art in a Positivist Society.” MMLA Conference (Cincinnati, OH), November 9-12, 2017. Project mentored in collaboration with Dr. Elizabeth McDermott.
- 2017 Elizabeth Savant, “Poetic Pedagogy: Standardization of Art in a Positivist Society.” SURE Project, 2017. Project mentored in collaboration with Dr. Elizabeth McDermott.
- 2017 Elizabeth Savant, “Big History: Latest Intellectual Fad or Toxic Neoliberalist Ideology?” NCUR Conference, University of Memphis (Memphis, TN), April 6-8, 2017. Mentored.
- 2016 Elizabeth Savant—coauthored paper, “Big History as Science or Secular Theology: Bridging Snow’s Two Cultures?” SURE Project, 2016.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 William Douglas Mastin and **Kevin Andrew Spicer**, “Theater and Humor in Hemingway’s ‘The Killers’,” 20<sup>th</sup> Biennial International Hemingway Conference (San Sebastian and Bilbao, Spain), July 18, 2024.
- 2018 “To Speak in the Name of the Void: Using Franciscan *Paupertas* to Guide a Rethinking of the Connection between Poetry and Philosophy,” AFCU Conference, University of St. Francis (Joliet, IL), June 5-7, 2018.
- 2016 Elizabeth McDermott and **Kevin Andrew Spicer**, “Using Poetry to Make First-Year Seminars More Effective,” ACCA Conference, University of St. Francis (Joliet, IL), November 5, 2016.
- 2016 “Leading Ecologically: A Franciscan Object-Oriented Ontological (OOO) Call for an Ecology of Tenderness,” AFCU Conference, Marian University (Indianapolis, IN), June 9-11, 2016.
- 2016 Elizabeth McDermott and **Kevin Andrew Spicer**, “Poeticizing Ecology/Ecologizing Poetry: Reading Elizabeth Bishop’s ‘Poem’ Ecologically,” at University of Arizona Conference in Environmental Humanities (Tucson, AZ), April 1-2, 2016.
- 2015 “Of World-Making: Science, Language, Art in Lev Grossman’s *The Magicians*,” at Midwest Modern Language Association (Columbus, OH), November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015.
- 2015 “Spool, Thread, or Snake: The Rhetoric of the Textual Self in Thomas Middleton’s *The Revengers Tragedy*,” at Medieval and Renaissance Forum (Keene, NH), April 24-25, 2015.
- 2015 “Mismatched Pairs: Of Shoes and Sex in Plato and Dekker,” at Northern Plains Conference on Early British Literature, NPCEBL (Mayville, ND), April 10-11, 2015, pp. 111-124. [Link](#).
- 2014 “Bonaventure’s *reductio* and the Singularity of the Other in Levinas and Derrida,” at MAMA (Kansas City, MO), February 27, 2014.
- 2013 “Distorted Echoes and Rash Promises: Chaucer and the *Contretemps-traps* of the Name,” at ACLA (Toronto, ON), April 5, 2013.
- 2012 “Debts and the Oath: Bacigalupi’s *Shipbreaker* and Agamben’s Archaeology of the Oath,” at Midwest Modern Language Association (Cincinnati, OH), November 9, 2012.
- 2011 “‘Medieval Badiou,’ or A Weird Configuration: Ockham, Mathematical Logic, and a Single Sentence from *Being and Event*,” at International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI), May 13, 2011.

## CONFERENCE PANELS ORGANIZED

- 2013 “Art and Artifice in Young Adult Literature,” at M/MLA Association Conference (Milwaukee, WI), November 9-11, 2013.

## INVITED TALKS

- 2018 “The Ethics of Sustainability,” talk for USF Philosophy Club, April 13, 2018  
 2016 “Thresholds 8 and 9: Modernity and the Future,” talk canvassing “Thresholds 8 and 9” in “The Big History” narrative, USF Foundations Summer Institute [Link](#)  
 2014 “On Preparing to see Shakespeare’s *King Lear*,” short talk to Core I students *re* Chicago Shakespeare Theater Presentation of *King Lear*, October 15, 2014  
 2012 Lecture and Discussion of Shakespeare’s *Measure for Measure*, for Dr. John Bowers’s ENGL 372 Shakespeare, November 17, 2012  
 2012 Introduction and discussion of *Duck Soup*, for USF Comedy Film Festival, October 22, 2012  
 2012 Lecture and Discussion on the work of Machiavelli, for Dr. Debra Workman’s HIST 347 Early Modern Europe, October 8, 2012  
 2012 “Expectations for Reading at the College Level: How to Notice What You See,” for Lincoln-Way East Community High School, September 13, 2012

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2019 South Bend Digital Humanities Research Institute, St. Mary’s College and University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN, May 14-17, 2019  
 2017 Teaching the Christian Intellectual Tradition: Virgil and the Modern Christian Imagination, Samford University, Birmingham, AL, July 9-14, 2017  
 2015 Big History Summer Institute, Dominican University, San Rafael, CA, June 15-19, 2015  
 2014 The Teaching Professor Conference, Boston, MA, May 30-June 1, 2014  
 2012 UCI New Faculty Institute, Carroll University, 31 July-2 August, 2012  
 2012 Responding to Writing: Encouraging revision and Strengthening Skills. Northwestern College, 10 February 2012  
 2010 Classroom Management and Collaborative Engagement Workshop, Prairie State College, 7 August 2010

## COURSES TAUGHT

### University of St. Francis, Joliet, IL (2010-Present)

*Undergraduate Major Courses in Literature:*

Psychoanalysis, Politics, Culture

Dystopian Literature

Dante’s *Divine Comedy*

Shakespeare

Chaucer  
 From the Epic to the Novel  
 Young Adult Literature  
 British Literature 1450-1660  
 British Literature to 1450  
 British Literature to 1700  
 English Language: History and Grammars

*General Education Courses in Literature, Humanities, and Writing:*

Introduction to Literature: Weird Fiction  
 Introduction to Literature: Tolkien  
 Introduction to Literature: Green Literature  
 Introduction to Literature: Science-Fiction/Fantasy Lit  
 Introduction to Literature: Introduction to Film and Film Theory  
 Foundations I  
 Foundations II (“Welcome to the Anthropocene,” “Religion and Reason,” “#MeToo in the Age of Trump”, “Clean Up Your Room”)  
 College Writing I  
 Core II—Marx, Darwin, Freud  
 Core III—Foundations of Western Thought

*Undergraduate Courses in Philosophy:*

Western Political Philosophy: Sovereign Monsters  
 Derrida and the Death Penalty

*Duns Scotus Honors Courses:*

STEAM in a STEM World  
 The Mirror or the Screen: Pop Culture in Contemporary Cinema

**Courses Taught at Other Institutions:**

Composition I  
 Rhetoric II  
 Academic Writing I: Writing in Academic and Public Contexts  
 Academic Writing II: Writing for Inquiry and Research  
 English Literature I: Beginnings to 1660 (Teaching Assistant)  
 Major Plays of Shakespeare (Teaching Assistant)

**B.A. Theses Supervised**

2020 Matthew Oyer, “A Dialectic and Psychoanalytic Literature Comparison” (on Conrad and Achebe)  
 2020 John (Jack) Shields, “The Shakespeare Effect,” Spring 2020 (co-supervised with Dr. Elizabeth McDermott)  
 2017 Zachary Hyman, “Naming Vendler’s Third Quatrain in Shakespeare’s Sonnet 60: ‘Do You

- Have the Time?’ ’ Spring 2017.
- 2014 Emalita Bantista, “Capitalism in the Classroom: An Analysis of the Influences Education has on the Economy,” Fall 2014.
- 2014 Samantha Cranston, “On Peter Jackson’s Adaptation of J. R. R. Tolkien’s *Lord of the Rings* Trilogy,” Spring 2014.
- 2013 Olivia Gerk, “*The Hunger Games*: Feeding the Formulation of Abstract Thought in Adolescents,” Spring, 2013.
- 2012 Samantha Zitnik, “Learning to Like the Wife of Bath,” Spring 2012.
- 2012 Caitlin Loizon, “Chaucer’s Invisible Pilgrim,” Spring 2012.

## SERVICE

### Service to the University:

- Spring, 2024 Post-Tenure Review Committee member for Leia Levy, Associate Professor/Radiation Therapy Program Director
- June 2023-Present Department Chair of English and Foreign Languages
- Fall 2021-Jan. 2022 Vice Chairperson of the Academic Assembly
- Fall 2019-Present Duns Scotus Honors Society Faculty Advisory Board Member
- Spring, 2019 Post-Tenure Review Committee member for Paul Erschen, Associate Professor of Art and Design
- Spring, 2019 Post-Tenure Review Committee member for Dr. Lisa Hedrick, Professor of Biochemistry
- 2018-2022 Budget and Planning—Enrollment Workgroup, College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Representative
- 2018-2022 Department Chair of English and Foreign Languages
- 2015-2017 *General Education and First-Year Experience*: The bulk of my service was devoted to the replacement of the old “Core” Program of General Education with the new “*Bona ventura*/Foundations Program”
- 2015-Present *Bona ventura*/Foundations II Teaching Group
- 2014-2016 First-Year Experience Task Force
- 2015-2016 Director of Core II Program
- 2012-2015 Director of Core III Program

### Committee Service:

- Spring 2020 Admissions Committee (filling-in for Dr. Karen Duys)
- Spring 2019 University Assessment Committee (filling-in for a CAS representative)
- 2015-Present University Writing Assessment Group
- 2012-2013 General Education Committee
- 2013-Present Reading Task Force
- 2012-2017 Employee Awards and Recognition Committee

**Mentoring:**

Fall 2020 External Mentor to Katie Chamberlain, Natural Sciences Department  
Fall 2019 External Mentor to Melinda Hammond, Psychology Department

**Service to Students**

2016-Present Faculty Leader for Psi-Pi ( $\Psi\Pi$ ), USF's chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, 2016-Present.  
2016 Academic advisor to Foundations I students, Fall semester  
2012-Present Academic advisor to undergraduate English majors

**Service to the Profession**

2017-2019 Editorial Board Member for *The AFCU Journal: A Franciscan Perspective on Higher Education*

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Modern Language Association (MLA), Midwest Modern Language Association (M/MLA), American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA), Sigma Tau Delta—English Honors Society ( $\Sigma\tau\Delta$ )

**LANGUAGES**

German (reading knowledge)  
French (reading knowledge)

**SKILLS**

Python, Data Analytics, HTML/CSS, JavaScript, Golang, SQL

*20 October 2024*