#### Brannon Costello

**James F. Cassidy Professor of English**

**Curriculum Vitae**

Department of English

260 Allen Hall

Louisiana State University

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##### Education

Ph.D. in English, The University of Tennessee, August 2004

M.A. in English, The University of Southern Mississippi, August 1999

B.A. in English, Cum Laude, Mississippi College, May 1997

##### Academic Positions

James F. Cassidy Professor of English, Louisiana State University (2018-)

Associate Professor of English, Louisiana State University (2009-2018)

Assistant Professor of English, Louisiana State University (2004-2009)

Director of Undergraduate Studies, English (2017-2020)

Director, Master of Arts of Liberal Arts program (2014-2017)

##### University Awards

Mid-Career Rainmaker Award for Research and Creative Activity (2018)

LSU Department of English Outstanding Graduate Faculty Award (2012)

Robert K. Udick Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award (2006)

##### Publications

###### Monographs

*Neon Visions: The Comics of Howard Chaykin*. Louisiana State UP, October 2017.

\***Winner of the Comics Studies Society’s Charles Hatfield Prize for Best Scholarly Book**

**\*Eisner Award nominee, Best Scholarly/Academic Book**

*Plantation Airs: Racial Paternalism and the Transformations of Class in Southern Fiction, 1945-1971.*

Louisiana State UP, 2007.

Edited Volumes

*The Other 1980s: Reframing Comics’ Crucial Decade*. Co-edited w/ Brian Cremins. LSU Press.

Forthcoming Summer 2021.

*Conversations with Michael Chabon*. UP of Mississippi, 2015. (Paperback ed. 2016.)

Includes introduction and chronology as well as new interview (listed below).

*Comics and the U.S. South*. Co-edited w/ Qiana Whitted. UP of Mississippi, 2012. (Paperback ed. 2014.) Includes co-written introduction and new essay (listed below).

*Howard Chaykin: Conversations*. UP of Mississippi, 2011. (Paperback ed. 2014.)

Includes introduction and chronology as well as new interview (listed below).

Articles and Book Chapters

“Metropolis in Dixie: Race, Liberty, and the Atlanta of *Southern Knights*.” *The Other 1980s: Reframing Comics’ Crucial Decade*, ed. Brannon Costello and Brian Cremins, LSU Press, 2021. Forthcoming.

“The Novel and the Graphic Novel.” *Cambridge History of the Graphic Novel*, ed. Jan Baetens et al., Cambridge UP, 2018.

“‘America Makes Strange Jews’: Superheroes and Jewish Masculinity in Howard Chaykin’s *Dominic*

*Fortune*.” *Visualizing Jewish Narrative: Essays on Jewish Comics and Graphic Novels*, edited by Derek Parker Royal, Bloomsbury, 2016, pp. 115-128.

“Fascism and Mass Culture in Howard Chaykin’s *Blackhawk*.” *ImageTexT: Interdisciplinary Comics Studies*, vol. 7, no. 2, 2014, http://www.english.ufl.edu/imagetext/archives/v7\_2/costello/.

“Reimagining Mississippi in *Jujitsu for Christ*: Civil Rights, Southern Literature, and Speculative Fictions.” Critical afterword to new edition of *Jujitsu for Christ* (1986) by Jack Butler. UP of Mississippi, 2013, pp. 191-209.

“The Futurama Isn’t What It Used to Be: Embodiment and the ‘Real Thing’ in Howard Chaykin’s *Time2*.”

*International Journal of Comic Art*, vol. 14, no. 2, 2012, pp. 1-22.

“Southern Super-Patriots and U.S. Nationalism: Race, Region, and Nation in *Captain America*.” *Comics and the U.S. South*, edited by Brannon Costello and Qiana Whitted, UP of Mississippi, 2012, pp. 62-88.

“Randall Kenan Beyond the Final Frontier: Science Fiction, Superheroes, and the South in *A Visitation of Spirits*.” *Southern Literary Journal*, vol. 43, no. 1, 2010, pp. 125-150.

“Third Spaces and First Places: Jack Butler’s *Jujitsu for Christ* and Southern Hybridity.” *Mississippi*

*Quarterly*, vol. 58, no. 3-4, 2005 [2007], pp. 613-638.

“Playing Lady and Imitating Aristocrats: Race, Class, and Money in Eudora Welty’s *Delta Wedding* and

*The Ponder Heart*.” *The Southern Quarterly*, vol. 42, no. 3, 2004, pp. 21-54.

“Poor White Trash, Great White Hope: Race, Class, and the (De)Construction of Whiteness in Lewis

Nordan’s *Wolf Whistle*.” *Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction*, vol. 45, no. 2, 2004, pp. 207-223.

“Richard Wright’s *Lawd Today!* and the Political Uses of Modernism.” *African American Review*, vol. 37, no. 1, 2003, pp. 39-52. [**Reprinted** in *Bloom’s Modern Critical Views: Richard Wright*. New ed., Infobase, 2009.]

“‘Working’ Toward a Sense of Agency: Determinism in *The Wings of the Dove*.” *Twisted From the*

*Ordinary: Essays in American Literary Naturalism*, edited by Mary E. Papke, U of Tennessee P, 2003, pp. 169-187.

“Hybridity and Racial Identity in Walker Percy’s *The Last Gentleman*.” *Mississippi Quarterly*, vol. 55, no. 1, 2001-2002, pp. 3-42.

**Interviews in Scholarly Publications**

“‘A Realm of Mystery’: An Interview with Michael Chabon.” *Conversations with Michael Chabon*, edited by Brannon Costello, UP of Mississippi, 2015, pp. 151-169.

“An Afternoon with Howard Chaykin.” *Howard Chaykin: Conversations*, edited by Brannon Costello, UP of Mississippi, 2011, pp. 250-88.

“An Interview with Jack Butler.” *Mississippi Quarterly*, vol. 58, no. 3-4, 2005 [2007], pp. 639-664.

**Book Reviews**

Review of *Redrawing the Historical Past: History, Memory, and Multiethnic Graphic Novels*, edited by Martha J. Cutter and Cathy J. Schlund-Vials. *American Literary History*,online review, series 20, August 2019. https://academic.oup.com/alh/pages/the-alh-online-review-series-20

Review of *Superman: The Persistence of an American Icon* by Ian Gordon and *Superwomen: Gender, Power, and Representation* by Carolyn Cocca. *Inks: The Journal of the Comics Studies Society*,vol. 2, no. 2, 2018.

Review of *Battle Lines: A Graphic History of the Civil War* by Jonathan Fetter-Vorm and Ari Kelman. *Civil War Book Review*, Fall 2015, https://tinyurl.com/kanfg83.

Review of *What There Is to Say We Have Said: The Correspondence of Eudora Welty and William*

*Maxwell*, edited by Suzanne Marrs. *Eudora Welty Review*, vol. 4, no. 1, 2012, pp. 159-161.

Review of *Critical Race Narratives: A Study of Race, Rhetoric, and Injury* by Carl Gutierrez-Jones.

*Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, vol. 85, no.3-4, 2002, pp. 426-432.

Review of *Walker Percy’s Voices* by Michael Kobre. *The Southern Quarterly*, vol. 39, no.1-2, 2001, pp. 288-290.

**Reference Book Entries**

“Southern.” *Keywords for Comics Studies*, edited by Ramzi Fawaz, Deborah Whaley, and Shelley Streeby, NYU Press, forthcoming 2021.

“Lewis Nordan” and “Walker Percy.” *Mississippi Encyclopedia*, edited by Ted Ownby, Charles Reagan Wilson, Ann Abadie, et al., UP of Mississippi, 2017.

“*American Flagg!*”, “Howard Chaykin,” “*Madman*,” “Politics and Politicians,” “Christopher Priest.” *Encyclopedia of Comic Books and Graphic Novels*, edited by M. Keith Booker, Greenwood, 2010.

**Library Exhibits**

Co-Curator, “Graphic Sensibility: Selected Comics & Illustrations from DC to Dürer.” Hill Memorial Library, Louisiana State University. June – September 2015.

Co-Curator, “Super Stories: A Brief History of Comics.” Hill Memorial Library, Louisiana State University. June – October 2007.

##### Invited Lectures

“The Southernness of the Swamp Thing.” Comicana: Comics and Graphic Novels across the Humanities. University of Mississippi, October 2019.

“Superheroes and the U.S. South.” Center for the Study of Southern Culture SouthTalks series, University of Mississippi, October 2019.

“New Faces under Old Masks: The Evolution of Diversity in Mainstream Comics.” Lafayette Public Library/Lafayette Reads Together. Lafayette, LA. March 2017.

“One Thing after Another: Comic Books, Serial Narratives, and Literary Culture.” The Sue Price Lipsey Lecture. Mississippi College. March 2015.

“How Comics Treat the South.” Millsaps College Arts and Lecture Series. April 2014.

“Science Fiction, Superheroes, and Southern Futurism.” Keynote Address, University of Central Arkansas Graduate Conference on Literature. April 2014.

##### Conference Presentations

“Metropolis South: Superhero Narratives and Southern Exceptionalism.” Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present. New Orleans, LA. October 2018.

“*Southern Knights* and the Borders of Comics Studies.” Comics Studies Society annual meeting. University of Illinois. August 2018.

“Real Souths, Rough Souths, and Ruined Souths in *Southern Bastards*.” Society for the Study of Southern Literature. Austin, TX. February 2018.

“Regionalizing the Superhero.” Popular Culture Association of the South. Savannah, GA. October 2017.

“*American Flagg!*, 1980s Independent Comics, and the Comics Canon.” Comics Crossroads Columbus. The Ohio State University. Columbus, OH. October 2016.

“From Mississippi to New York: Superheroes and Civil Rights in Jay Cantor’s *Great Neck*.” Society for the Study of Southern Literature. Boston, MA. March 2016.

“Walker Percy and the Southern Literary Imagination.” Invited Panelist. Walker Percy Weekend. St. Francisville, LA. June 2015.

“Southern Superheroes in Black and White: *Captain Confederacy* and the Independent Comics Boom.” Society for the Study of Southern Literature. George Mason University. Arlington, VA. March 2014.

“Superbodies and Fascist Aesthetics in the Comics of Howard Chaykin.” International Comic Arts Forum. Portland, OR. May 2013.

“From the Old South to the New Frontier: Civil Rights, Black Masculinity, and Southern Superheroes in *The American Way*.” Modern Language Association. Boston, MA. 2013.

“‘America Makes Strange Jews’: Pulp Masculinity and Jewish Identity in Howard Chaykin’s *Dominic Fortune*.” Modern Language Association. Seattle, WA. 2012.

“‘The Real Thing’: Mass Culture and the (Post)Human in Howard Chaykin’s *Time2*.” International Comic

Arts Forum. Center for Cartoon Studies. White River Junction, VT. Fall 2011.

“Fascism and Mass Culture in Howard Chaykin’s *Blackhawk*.” Popular Culture Association/American

Culture Association. San Antonio, TX. Spring 2011.

“Nationalism, Race, and the U.S. South in *Captain America*.” Southern American Studies Association

Conference. Georgia State University. Atlanta, GA. Spring 2011.

“Geeking Out in the U.S. South.” Society for the Study of Southern Literature. New Orleans,

LA. Spring 2010.

“Southern Super-Patriots and U.S. Nationalism.” Understanding Superheroes Conference. University of

Oregon. Eugene, OR. October 2009.

“Religion in the Post-South: *Searching for the Wrong-Eyed Jesus*.” South Atlantic Modern Language

Association. Louisville, KY. November 2008.

“Randall Kenan beyond the Final Frontier: Science Fiction, Superheroes, and the South in *A Visitation of*

*Spirits*.” Society for the Study of Southern Literature. Williamsburg, VA. April 2008.

“Place and No-Place in Eudora Welty’s *The Bride of the Innisfallen*.” American Literature Association.

Boston, MA. May 2007.

“Religion and Postmodernism in the Novels of Jack Butler.” Southern Writers Symposium. Methodist College. Fayetteville, NC. February 2007.

“Fundamentalism and the Literature of the U.S. South.” International Conference on Fundamentalism and

Literature. University of Muenster, Germany. November 2006.

“Labor, Leisure, and Class in William Faulkner’s *The Reivers*.” Society for the Study of Southern

Literature. Birmingham, AL. April 2006.

“Mechanics and Mulattoes: Labor, Class, and Community in Ernest Gaines’ Early Fiction.” University of

South Carolina’s “Communities in Crisis” Conference. April 2005.

“The Problem of Flem Snopes’s Hat: Class, Race, and Material Culture in *The Mansion*.” Faulkner and

Yoknapatawpha Conference. University of Mississippi. Oxford, Mississippi. July 2004

“Race, Paternalism, and the Suburban South in Walker Percy’s *Love in the Ruins*.” Society for the Study of

Southern Literature Conference. University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill. March 2004.

“From Mississippi to Mars: Writing the Self out of the South in Jack Butler’s *Jujitsu for Christ*.” Southern

Writers Symposium. Methodist College. Fayetteville, North Carolina. September 2003.

“Richard Wright’s *Lawd Today!* and the Political Uses of Modernism.” Popular Culture Association-

American Culture Association Annual Conference. New Orleans, Louisiana. April 2003.

“Paternalism and the ‘Pet Negro’ System in Hurston’s *Seraph on the Suwanee*.” Twentieth-Century

Literature Conference. University of Louisville. Louisville, Kentucky. February 2003.

“Hybridity and Racial Identity in Walker Percy’s *The Last Gentleman*.” Society for the Study of Southern

Literature Conference. University of Louisiana – Lafayette. March 2002.

“‘Working’ Towards a Sense of Agency: Determinism in *The Wings of the Dove*.” Twentieth-Century

Literature Conference. University of Louisville. Louisville, Kentucky. February 2002.

“Cold War Comics and Reaganomics: Captain America in the 1980’s.” Popular Culture Association of the

South Conference. Jacksonville, Florida. October 2001.

“Poor White Trash, Great White Hope: Race, Class, and the (De)Construction of Whiteness in Lewis

Nordan’s *Wolf Whistle*.” Twentieth-Century Literature Conference. University of Louisville. Louisville, Kentucky. February 2001.

“‘Something Betwixt and Between’: (Post)Colonial Racial Identities in Walker Percy’s *The Last*

*Gentleman*.” Twentieth-Century Literature Conference. University of Louisville. Louisville, Kentucky. February 2000

“‘Meaning the Scenery’: Toward a Postmodern Sense of Place in Don DeLillo’s *The Names*.” Mississippi

Philological Association. Cleveland, Mississippi. February 1999

##### Teaching

**Teaching Awards**

LSU Department of English Outstanding Graduate Faculty Award (2012)

Robert K. Udick Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award (2006)

Hodges Excellence in Teaching Award, 2000-2001 (University of Tennessee)

Provost’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2000-2001 (University of Tennessee)

**Courses Taught at LSU**

ENGL 7972: Topics in Southern Literature: **Comics and the South** (Spring 2019, Spring 2017, Spring

2015)

ENGL 7972: Topics in Southern Literature: **Contemporary Southern Fiction** (Fall 2011)

ENGL 7972: Topics in Southern Literature: **Eudora Welty** (Spring 2009)

ENGL 7972: Topics in Southern Literature: **Plantation South(s)** (Spring 2007)

ENGL 7173: Southern Literature (Spring 2013, Fall 2005)

ENGL 7020: Proseminar for Graduate Studies in English (Fall 2008)

LIBA 7000: Methods of Interdisciplinary Study (Fall 2014)

ENGL 4222: Studies in Popular Fictions: **Comics of the 1980s** (Spring 2014)

ENGL 4222: Studies in Popular Fictions: **Contemporary American Comics and Graphic Novels** (Spring

2012, Fall 2009)

ENGL 4071/4222: Topics in American Literature/Studies in Popular Fictions: **Superhero Comics and**

**American Culture** (Fall 2012, Fall 2007)

ENGL 4104: Capstone Seminar in English: **Comics as Literature?** (Fall 2020)

ENGL 4104: Capstone Seminar in English: **Religion and Contemporary American Fiction** (Fall 2006)

ENGL 4173: Southern Literature: **History and Place in Contemporary Southern Fiction** (Spring 2006)

ENGL 4173: Southern Literature: **Race and Class in Twentieth-Century Southern Fiction** (Fall 2004)

ENGL 4120: Major Authors: **Eudora Welty and Richard Wright** (Spring 2005)

ENGL 3072: American Literature II (Fall 2020, Summer 2020, Spring 2020, Fall 2019, Fall 2018, Summer

2018, Fall 2017, Spring 2017, Fall 2016, Spring 2016, Fall 2012, Fall 2011, Spring 2010, Summer 2009, Fall 2007, Spring 2007, Spring 2006, Fall 2005, Spring 2005, Fall 2004)

ENGL 3070: American Literature I (Fall 2009, Fall 2008, Fall 2006)

ENGL 2025: Introduction to Fiction: **Comics and Graphic Novels – A Critical Introduction** (Summer

2017, Spring 2015, Spring 2014, Spring 2013, Spring 2012, Spring 2010, Spring 2009)

**Dissertations Directed**

Taylor Orgeron (2019; **winner of James Olney Dissertation Award**, 2020)

Matt Dischinger (co-directed w/ Pallavi Rastogi; **winner of James Olney Dissertation award**, 2015)

Monica Miller (winner of **university-wide Distinguished Dissertation Award**, 2014)

Conor Picken (2013)

Zita Husing, in progress

Matthew Blasi, in progress

Natalie Sheppard, in progress

Ikuko Takeda, in progress

Jack Mallard, in progress

##### Service and Administration

**Administration**

Director of Undergraduate Studies, English (2017-2020)

Director, Master of Arts in the Liberal Arts program (2014-2017)

**Professional Service**

Executive Committee, International Comic Arts Forum (2013-2019); as Program Director (2015-2018)

Executive Council, Society for the Study of Southern Literature (2013-2015, 2018-2021)

Editorial Board: *Journal of Comics and Culture* (2015)

Manuscript Referee*,* Louisiana State UP, University of Texas Press, Routledge, University Press of Mississippi, University of Minnesota Press, Demeter Press, *Mosaic*, *Inks: The Journal of the Comics Studies Society*, *Religion and Literature*, *Southern Quarterly*, *Journal of Narrative Theory*, *Twentieth-Century Literature*, *Mississippi Quarterly*, *LIT: Literature – Interpretation - Theory*

Book Award Judge, Comics Studies Society (2020), Society for the Study of Southern Literature (2014)

Article Prize Judge, Society for the Study of Southern Literature (2021)

Tenure and Promotion Cases Reviewed: Oxford College of Emory University (2017)

University of Oregon (2011)

Workshop Co-Director, “Saying No Constructively, Saying Yes Strategically,” MLA 2009

Volunteer Job Counseling for ADE, MLA 2007

Roundtable Participant, “The Job I Got,” MLA 2007 and MLA 2008.

“Succeeding on the Job Market.” Invited Speaker at University of Tennessee's Graduate Student Jobs Placement Retreat, August 2005.

**College and University Service**

Strategic Excellence Fund Committee (2020-2021)

Louisiana State University Press Committee (2018-)

Faculty Senate Committee on Committees (2011-2020)

Interdisciplinary Major Committee (2019)

Council on Research Summer Stipend Peer Reviewer (2017)

Manship Summer Stipend Peer Reviewer (2016)

College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Senate (2008-2013; Secretary of Senate, 2009-2010)

Academic Affairs Committee on Student Financial Aid (2012)

**Selected Departmental Service**

Promotion Committee (Benjy Kahan, 2020)

Promotion Committee (Pallavi Rastogi, 2019)

Promotion Committee (Sue Weinstein, 2018)

Department Curriculum Revision Committee (2014-2015, 2017)

Distinguished Dissertation Award Committee (2017)

Graduate Committee (2014-2016)

Co-Chair, Third-Year Review Committee, Zack Godshall (2016)

Tenure Committee Chair, Michael Bibler (2015)

Co-Director, Readers & Writers (2012-2014)

Promotion Committee, Zack Godshall (2013)

Hiring Committee, Southern Literature (Fall 2012/Spring 2013)

Regents Research Grant Evaluation Committee (2011, 2014)

Tenure Committee, Jacob Berman (2011)

Executive Committee (2009-2010)

Chair’s Election Committee (2009-2010)

Jobs Placement Officer (2004-2008)

Hiring Committee, Early American Literature (Fall 2005/Spring 2006)

Interview Committee, Rhetoric and Composition (Fall 2006)

Interview Committee, Folklore (Fall 2005)

**Active Professional Memberships**

Modern Language Association

Society for the Study of Southern Literature

Comics Studies Society

International Comic Arts Forum

American Studies Association/Southern American Studies Association