James Bryant Reeves

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2024–Present Associate Professor of English, Texas State University

Spring 2025 Associate Chair, Department of English, Texas State University

2023–2025 Director of Graduate Studies and M.A. Literature, Department of English, Texas State University

2018–2024 Assistant Professor of English, Texas State University

2017–2018 Visiting Assistant Professor in English, Franklin & Marshall College

EDUCATION

2016 Ph.D., English, UCLA

Dissertation: "Unbelief: Atheism in the Literary Imagination, 1690–1810"
Committee: Professors Felicity Nussbaum (chair), Helen Deutsch, Saree Makdisi, and Margaret Jacob

2014 M.A., English, UCLA

2010 M.St., English, University of Oxford (St Edmund Hall)

2008 B.A., English, Texas Tech University

BOOK

Godless Fictions in the Eighteenth Century: A Literary History of Atheism. Cambridge University Press, 2020.

- Shortlisted for the American Academy of Religion's Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion (Textual Studies; 2021)
- *Genealogies of Modernity* End of Year Booklist (2020)

- Positively reviewed in *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, *Eighteenth-Century Fiction*, *Times Literary Supplement*, *SEL Studies in English Literature 1500–1900*, *Horizons*, and *CHOICE: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*

ARTICLES, ESSAYS, CHAPTERS, AND INTERVIEWS

"'Decide this doubt for me': William Cowper's *Olney Hymns* (1779)." *Religions* 16.3, 322 (2025). https://www.mdpi.com/2077-1444/16/3/322.

"Religion" in *Oliver Goldsmith in Context*. Ed. David O'Shaughnessy and Michael Griffin. Cambridge University Press, 2024. 126–32.

"What is the historical role of atheism in literature and the arts?" in *Atheism in 5 Minutes*. Ed. Teemu Taira. Sheffield, UK: Equinox Publishing, 2022. 174–77.

Review of *Rethinking the Secular Origins of the Novel: The Bible in English Fiction 1678–1767* by Kevin Seidel (Cambridge University Press, 2021), in *Studies in the Novel* 53.4 (Winter 2021): 435–438.

"Godless Fictions in the Eighteenth Century." Interview for the New Books Network. Hosted by Carrie Lynn Evans. June 28, 2021. https://newbooksnetwork.com/godless-fictions-in-the-eighteenth-century.

"Antislavery Literature and the Decline of Hell." *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, 53.4 (Summer 2020): 571–87.

"Race and Religious Joy." *The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation*, 61 (Summer 2020). Online special issue on "Scholarship in a Time of Crisis." https://ecti.english.illinois.edu/cfp

"Imagining Atheism." *1584: Academic Perspectives from Cambridge University Press*. Cambridge University Press, 2020. http://www.cambridgeblog.org/2020/07/imagining-atheism/

"Interview with Dr. James Reeves, Assistant Professor of English." ASECS Graduate Student Caucus Interview Series. https://asecsgradcaucus.wordpress.com/.

"Unbelief and Sympathy in Shelley and Hogg's Letters to Ralph Wedgwood." *Keats-Shelley Journal*, 65 (2016): 41–52.

"Untimely Old Age and Deformity in Sarah Scott's *Millenium Hall*." *Eighteenth-Century Fiction*, 27.2 (Winter 2014–5): 229–56.

"Posthumous Presence in Richardson's *Clarissa*." *SEL Studies in English Literature 1500–1900*, 53.3 (Summer 2013): 601–21.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2025	College of Liberal Arts Achievement Award for Excellence in Service (Texas State University)
2021–2024	BYU Humanities Center "Spirituality and Imagination" Research Group
2021	College of Liberal Arts Achievement Award for Excellence in Scholarly/Creative Activity (Texas State University)
2021	Texas State Alumni Association Teaching Award of Honor
2019	National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Scholar (NEH Summer Seminar: "Religion, Secularism, and the Novel")
2016–2017	Graduate Division Dissertation Year Fellowship (UCLA)
2015–2016	English Department Dissertation Fellowship (UCLA)
2015	Leeds Hoban Linacre College (Oxford) Exchange Fellowship
2014–2015	Graduate Research Mentorship with Felicity Nussbaum
2015	English Department International Travel Award
2014	UCLA Center for 17th- and 18th-Century Studies Travel Grant
2013–2014	Mellon Pedagogy Seminar and Fellowship (UCLA)
2013	Graduate Summer Research Mentorship with Helen Deutsch
2012	Graduate Summer Research Mentorship with Felicity Nussbaum
2011–2012	UCLA Alumni Scholarship
2011–2012	UCLA University Fellowship

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

"Collaborative Authorship and Abolition: Belinda Sutton's Petition." Co-authored with Dr. David Diamond. MLA 2025 Convention. New Orleans, LA. January 11, 2025.

"Hymns of Doubt: Christianity's Communal Unbelief." BYU Humanities Center: Spirituality and Imagination Symposium. Provo, UT. October 20, 2023.

"Godless Fictions in the Eighteenth Century." International Society for Historians of Atheism, Secularism, and Humanism (ISHASH) Webinar Series. December 15, 2021.

"Postsecular William Cowper." Guest Lecturer for Dr. Lori Branch's "Postsecular Studies and the Long Eighteenth Century" Graduate Seminar. University of Iowa. March 25, 2021.

"The Postsecular Eighteenth Century." Roundtable Chair. BSECS. St. Hugh's, Oxford. January 9, 2020.

"Ironic Religiosity: Swift and Secularization." ASECS. Denver, CO. March 23, 2019.

"Abolition's Afterlife: Redrawing Hell's Borders." MWASECS. Sioux Falls, SD. October 12,

2018.

"Feeling, Sympathy, and Sentiment in the Romantic Period." Panel Chair. MWASECS. Sioux Falls, SD. October 12, 2018.

"Sheet-Caking and Swift: Teaching Eighteenth-Century Satire." ASECS. Orlando, FL. March 22, 2018.

"The New Secular Studies." Panel Chair. ASECS. Orlando, FL. March 22, 2018.

"William Cowper's Fragile Faith." ASECS. Minneapolis, MN. April 1, 2017.

"Shelley, Sympathy, and Unbelief." International Conference on Romanticism. Antlers Hotel, Colorado Springs, CO. October 20, 2016.

"William Cowper's Hymn of Unbelief." CSECS. Coast Plaza Suites, Vancouver, British Columbia. October 16, 2015.

"Grotesque Femininity from Medusa to Modernity." Panel Respondent. Friends of English Southland Conference. UCLA, Los Angeles, CA. June 5, 2015.

"Untimely Old Age and Deformity in Sarah Scott's *Millenium Hall*." David Nichol Smith Seminar in Eighteenth-Century Studies XV. The University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia. December 11, 2014.

"Untimely Old Age and Deformity in Sarah Scott's *Millenium Hall*." ASECS. Williamsburg Lodge, Williamsburg, VA. March 20, 2014.

TEACHING INTERESTS

Religion, Spirituality, and Secularization; Mythology; The Enlightenment; Romanticism; Satire; Poetry; The Early Novel; Critical Theory; Science-Fiction; Shakespeare

COURSES TAUGHT AND UPCOMING

Texas State University
2025 British Literature since 1785: Literature and Life's Big Questions
2025 College Writing II
2025 College Writing II (Asynchronous Online)
2024 British Literature, 1688–1750: Satire's Golden Age
2024 Studies in Mythology: Creation to Apocalypse
2024 British Romanticism (Graduate Course)
2023 What is Enlightenment? (Graduate Course)
2023 Studies in Mythology: Creation to Apocalypse

2023 Philip K. Dick
2023 Studies in Mythology: Creation to Apocalypse
2023 The (Comic) British Novel
2022 Studies in Mythology: Creation to Apocalypse
2022 The Early Novel (Graduate Course)
2022 British Literature of the Restoration and Augustan Periods, 1660–1750
2022 British Literature from 1785
2022 The Development of English
2022 Jonathan Swift
2021 Antislavery Literature in Eighteenth-Century Britain (Graduate Course)
2021 Critical Theory for English Majors
2021 The Development of English
2021 British Novels
2021 Alienation: An Out-of-This-World Course on Critical Theory
2020 Comedy, Cruelty, and 18th-Century Satire (Graduate Course)
2020 Studies in Mythology: Creation to Apocalypse
2020 Satire from Swift to *SNL*
2020 Studies in World Literature
2020 The British Novel: "Terrifying Tales and Novelistic Fiction"
2019 The Postsecular Eighteenth Century (Graduate Course)
2019 British Literature, 1750–1800
2019 The British Novel: "What Makes Novels Novel?"
2019 British Literature since 1785
2018 Introduction to College Writing
2018 British Literature of the Restoration and Augustan Periods, 1660–1750

Franklin & Marshall College
2018 Eighteenth-Century Outcasts
2018 Revolution and Romanticism: The Radical Nineteenth Century
2018 Science Fiction
2017 The Global Eighteenth Century
2017 Satire from Swift to *SNL*

University of California, Los Angeles
2014 Shakespeare
2014 Critical Reading and Writing: "Unlikely Heroes" (Instructor of Record)
2013 Literatures in English, 1700–1850
2013 Critical Reading and Writing (Instructor of Record)
2013 Literatures in English to 1700
2012 Literatures in English, 1700–1850

Temple Junior College (Temple, TX)
2011 Rhetoric and Composition (Instructor of Record)

DEPARTMENTAL AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Texas State University, Department of English

2024–Present Departmental Mentor for Dr. Zoe Bursztajn-Illingworth
2023–Present M.A. Literature Committee
2023–Present Communications and Publicity Committee
2018–Present Sophomore Literature Committee
2018–Present English Department Library Committee
Spring 2025 Associate Chair
2024–2025 A.I. and Honor Code Task Force (Chair)
2023–2025 Director of Graduate Studies and M.A. Literature
2023–2025 Visiting Scholars Committee
2023–2025 Therese Kayser Lindsey Scholarship Committee
2023–2025 Graduate Studies Committee
2023–2025 IA/TA Hiring Committee
2023–2025 Gamers of Texas State (Student Club) Faculty Sponsor
2022–2023 Children's Literature Hiring Committee
2021–2022 Curriculum Review, Assistant to the Chair
2021–2022 ENG 3301 Revision Committee
2021–2022 19th-Century British Literature Hiring Committee
2020–2022 Renegade Roses (Student Club) Faculty Sponsor
2020–2022 Needle Artists of Texas State (Student Club) Faculty Sponsor
2021 Travel Funding Committee
2019–2021 Curriculum Sub-Committee Co-Chair
2019–2020 Writing Center Co-Director Hiring Committee

American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies

2018–2021 "The Dr. Is In" Mentoring Committee

South Dakota Humanities Council

2018 Independent Evaluator for the annual Conference of the Midwestern American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies

Franklin & Marshall College

2017–2018 Arleen "Cookie" Faust Prize for Humor Writing Selection Committee

University of California, Los Angeles

2014–2016 Eighteenth Century/Romantics Working Group (Co-Chair)
2013–2014 Form and History Pedagogy Committee
2013–2014 Mentorship Program for New Teaching Assistants (Mentor)

REFERENCES

Dr. Lori Branch
Associate Professor of English
University of Iowa
lori-branch@uiowa.edu

Dr. Alex Eric Hernandez
Principal of Victoria College and Associate Professor of English
University of Toronto
alex.hernandez@utoronto.ca

Dr. Matthew Wickman
Director of Humanities and Professor of English
Brigham Young University
matthew_wickman@byu.edu

NON-ACADEMIC INTERESTS

Writing fiction; theater; basketball; songwriting; video game design