

Lyra Thomas

(314) 960-2965 · alyssathomas1996@gmail.com · thomasaly24@ecu.edu

EDUCATION

Southern Illinois University Carbondale

MFA – Poetry – 2024

Southern Illinois University Carbondale

BA – Creative Writing – 2018

PUBLICATIONS

Thomas, Lyra. *Post-Split Consciousness*. ChangeSeven. 2024

Thomas, Lyra. *For the Black Reader*. ChangeSeven. 2024

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

East Carolina University – Greenville, NC

August 2024 - Present

Teaching Assistant Professor of English

- Instructing four sections of ENGL 1100 (Foundations of College English) per academic year, fostering critical thinking and effective communication skills
- Contributing to the English department through service – Editorial Management work for the North Carolina Literary Review
- Teaching fundamentals of College Rhetorical Composition, including ethos, logos, pathos, and kairos
- Utilizing Norton's *They Say / I Say* (6th Edition) and *The Little Seagull* (5th Edition)
- Designing and overseeing projects including a literacy narrative, a rhetorical analysis of media, and an argumentative essay of contemporary social issues

Project Upward Bound – Carbondale, IL

June 2024 - July 2024

English Teacher

- Delivered comprehensive English instruction to students ranging from incoming freshmen to seniors in a summer program for under-served communities in Southern Illinois.
- Taught grammar, spelling, composition, college entrance essays, equipping students with essential skills for academic success
- Collaborated with other educators to create a supportive learning environment of key competencies for high school and college readiness

Southern Illinois University Carbondale**August 2021 - May 2024****Graduate Assistant**

- Taught two sections of ENGL 101 (Introduction to College English)
- Instructed students on the fundamentals of rhetorical composition, including ethos, logos, and pathos.
- Utilized standard rhet-comp texts in class
- Taught two sections of ENGL 119 (Intro to Creative Writing), covering poetry, fiction, and nonfiction
- Utilized classic nonfiction, poetry, and fiction pieces to explore expertise in craft and skill development. Led generative workshops as well as craft workshops. Covered Baldwin, Didion, Philip Levine, and others as examples.

Varsity Tutors – St Louis, MO**May 2019 - October 2020****English Tutor****Accomplishments:**

- Tutored English, Grammar, Composition, College Entrance essays, Literature courses, and English as a Second Language
- Managed a pipeline of students including individualized lesson plans
- Taught online webinars during COVID including creative writing for children, powerpoint for children, and more

SKILLS

- Editing • Instructing • Teaching from texts • Canvas • D2L • Adobe Suite
- Wordpress • Microsoft Office • Google Drive Suite • Fundamental Rhetoric
- Attention to Detail • Empathetic Instruction • Online Instruction (Webex, Zoom)

AWARDS

Helen Degen Cohen Fellowship 2024

Graduate Dean's Fellowship for Educational Excellence 2022-2023

Undergraduate Dean's List 2017

RESEARCH

Southern Illinois University Carbondale – AI Research Lab Assistant 2022