

Karey Perkins
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To Whom It May Concern:

I am applying for a tenure track professor position in English starting in August 2010.

With over two decades of teaching English and philosophy, I have become an accomplished and effective teacher. [Student comments on my teaching](#) show how much my students enjoy and learn from my classes, reflecting my knowledge and love of the subjects I teach. In addition to teaching, I have extensive service and committee experience, including serving as chair of several committees.

I will receive my Ph.D. in English (with a concentration in philosophy) from Georgia State University this summer with a 3.82 GPA. [My dissertation](#), directed by Dr. Thomas McHaney, GSU's Kenneth M. England Professor of Southern Literature Emeritus, is on contemporary American novelist and existentialist Walker Percy, combining my academic interests of literature and philosophy. Percy wanted to find a "radical anthropology," one that accounts for the spiritual side of human beings in a postmodern, scientific world, through studying the unique symbolic capacity of humans. My dissertation, "An ArithmeCrit: Walker Percy's Cenopythagoreanism and the Semiotic Fabric of Life," which my advisor calls an "[interesting and important project](#)," explores and continues Percy's search in his essays and his novels.

My specialization is in contemporary American literature; however, I am very much of an interdisciplinary applicant. Southern literature is one emphasis, and I have a secondary strength in [British Romanticism](#). My paper on [Coleridge's "Rime of the Ancient Mariner"](#) shows this interest. Also my paper on [T.S. Eliot's "Four Quartets"](#) reveals further diversity in my expertise and literary interests. I have taught varied English courses, including Contemporary Literature, American Literature courses from the 1700s to the present, and World Literature survey courses. Furthermore, my secondary undergraduate major and graduate work in philosophy and theology has not only given me a unique approach to literature, but has enabled me to teach World Religions, Ethics, Logic and Critical Thinking, and Social Issues in Technology. My philosophical background is also especially helpful for teaching Literary Criticism.

Writing courses I have taught for the past 23 years include Basic and Advanced [Composition](#), as well as Technical Writing and Professional Writing. Speech courses have also been a part of my communication courses repertoire. In my position as a graduate research assistant for the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State, I write and edit a variety of articles and papers, as well as design documents, brochures, marketing materials, and websites.

I am an involved, innovative, and creative faculty member. One creation of mine is a faculty scholarship mentoring project. Borrowing from GSU's doctoral colloquium, I created the "[Faculty Forum](#)," which has several stages: a series of faculty meetings on professors' scholarly interests, mentoring on writing, peer feedback and deadlines in writing workshops, an in-house conference, and finally, mentoring on submitting work to outside conferences or journals. The Forum reflects my value of faculty engaging in scholarship, and once I graduate with the Ph.D. this spring, I will be focusing on writing and publishing more as well. First on the agenda is to publish my dissertation on Walker Percy, and I have already targeted some university presses who would be interested in my book.

I am experienced with technology as evidenced by another creation, my [teaching Web site](#). All the materials needed for my classes – syllabi, handouts, assignments, lectures – are online and available 24/7 for students to download and for my class lectures. I have been teaching hybrid (half in-class and half online) courses since 2005, and I have recently completed a training course for online teaching. In addition, as a former military dependent who grew up around the world, I am comfortable teaching students of diverse cultures and backgrounds.

For more information, see my online CV: <http://kareyperkins.com/cv>. I am free to meet with you any time at your convenience; you may contact me at kareyperkins@gmail.com or 404-513-1460.

Sincerely,

Karey Perkins