

Crystal Downing
Professor of English and Film Studies
Messiah College

cdowning@messiah.edu

SCHOOL ADDRESS:
Messiah College
Grantham, PA 17027
(717) 766-2511 Ex. 7026

HOME ADDRESS:
608 Antler Dr.
Lewisberry, PA 17339
(717) 932-1241

M.A. University of California, Santa Barbara, California
Ph.D. University of California, Santa Barbara, California

March 1982
December 1986

BOOKS

How Postmodernism Serves (my) Faith: Questioning Truth in Language, Philosophy and Art.
Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2006.

Writing Performances: The Stages of Dorothy L. Sayers. NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2004.

PUBLISHED ESSAYS

“The Architecture of Romanticism: Wordsworth and Coleridge,” The Ignatius Critical Edition of Romantic Poetry, forthcoming.

“God Savour *The Queen*,” Books and Culture, forthcoming.

“Reading Hamlet,” The Ignatius Critical Edition of *Hamlet*, forthcoming.

“Unheimliche Heights: The Sources of *Wuthering Heights*,” (reprint) The Ignatius Critical Edition of *Wuthering Heights*, forthcoming.

“The (Il)legality of Love: *Gone Baby Gone*,” Cresset, 71 (2008): 44-48.

“Witnessing the Amish: Plain People on Fancy Film,” in The Amish and the Media. Ed. David Weaver-Zercher and Diane Z. Umble. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 2008. 25-41.

“Readers of the Lost Ark,” with Sharon Baker, Books and Culture, 14 (May/June 2008): 15-17.

“Feminist Nay-Sayers: *Are Women Human?*” VII: An Anglo-American Literary Review 24 (2007): 87-92.

“The Lost Action Hero,” Cresset, 71.1 (2007): 28-32.

PUBLISHED ESSAYS (cont.)

- “Theology is Stranger Than Fiction,” with Sharon Baker, Books and Culture, 13 (Sept/Oct 2007): 38.
- “Romancing the Crone,” Cresset, 70.4 (2007): 45-48.
- “The Bible as Babel: The Suspicions of Dorothy L. Sayers,” in From Around the Globe: Secular Authors and Biblical Perspectives. Ed Seodial Frank H. Deena and Karoline Szatek. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1-18.
- “The Irony of Architexture,” SEEN 7.1 (2007): 7-8.
- “Everything is Illuminated,” Cresset, 70.2 (Dec. 2006): 32-36.
- “The Devil Wears Dostoevsky,” Cresset, 70.1 (Sept. 2006): 33-34.
- “The Ape(x) of Beauty,” Cresset 69.5 (June 2006): 25-29.
- “No Extra Credit for a Modern Virgin Mary,” in College Faith 3: 150 Christian Leaders and Educators Share Faith Stories from Their Student Days, ed. Ronald Alan Knott (Berrien Springs, MI: Andrews University Press, 2006), 25-26.
- “(C)rafting Redemption,” Cresset 69.3 (Feb. 2006): 36-39.
- “The Orthodoxology of Dorothy L. Sayers,” VII: An Anglo-American Literary Review 22 (2005): 29-44.
- “Cinematic Simony,” Cresset 69.1 (Sept 2005): 26-29. {Given “Award of Merit” in the “Best of the Christian Press 2005”}
- “Rime of the Ancient Martian,” Books and Culture 11(Sept/Oct 2005): 45.
- “Good Bye Lenin!” Cresset 68.4 (April 2005): 26-29. {Given “Award of Merit” in the “Best of the Christian Press 2005”}
- “The Limits of Perception: How Postmodernism Saved (My) Faith,” Brethren in Christ History and Life 27 (Dec. 2004): 282-292.
- “A Pearl of Great Price,” Cresset 68.1 (Nov. 2004): 26-28.
- “Differently Disabled,” Books and Culture 10 (May/June 2004): 26-27.
- “Film Tripping,” Cresset 67.4 (April 2004): 23-27.
- “Imbricating Faith and Learning: The Architectonics of Christian Scholarship.” In Douglas Jacobsen and Rhonda H. Jacobsen, Scholarship and Christian Faith: Enlarging the Conversation. NY: Oxford University Press, 2004. 33-44.

PUBLISHED ESSAYS (cont.)

- “Amélie in a Glass Darkly,” Cresset 67.1 (September 2003): 24-27.
- “Tongue in Check: Paralleling the Taliban with the Amish,” CrossCurrents 53 (2003): 200-08.
- “Creating Frida,” Cresset 66.4 (Apr. 2003): 26-29.
- “After the End of the Monster: Dorothy L. Sayers on Art,” Findings (Winter 2002).
<<http://www.wilberforce.org/WilberforceForum/ChannelRoot/Features/FindingsOnline/After+the+End+of+the+Monster.htm>>
- “Driving Lessons,” Cresset 66.1 (Nov. 2002): 19-21.
- “Smoke Signals on Film,” Books and Culture 8 (July/Aug 2002): 17-18.
- “Close(d) Readings of Shakespeare: Re-covering Self-Reflexivity in the Classroom,” College Literature 29 (Spring 2002): 115-123.
- “The G(l)ossing of Religion: A Victorian Father and Son,” Religion and the Arts 5 (2001): 155-171.
- “The Sheep, the Goats, and Leo DiCaprio,” Books and Culture 7 (Nov./Dec. 2001): 11.
- “Looking Backward, Looking Forward,” PMLA 115 (Dec. 2000): 2045.
- “Yolking With Postmodernism,” lead article for the Books and Culture website (Oct. 2000 to Oct. 2001) <<http://christianitytoday.aol.com/books/web/2000/oct09.html>>
- “Misshapen Chaos of Well-Seeming Form: Baz Luhrmann’s Romeo + Juliet,”
Literature/Film Quarterly 28 (2000): 125-131.
- “Playing the Postmodern Field,” Books and Culture 6 (May/June 2000): 9-10.
- “Antiseptic Bakhtin: A Dialogic Christian,” Pacific Coast Philology 34 (1999): 18-31.
- “Richard Rorty for the Silver Screen: Waking Ned Devine as Apologetic for Postmodernism,” Books and Culture 5 (Sept/Oct 1999): 8-10.
- “Unheimliche Heights: The (En)Gendering of Brontë Sources,” Texas Studies in Literature and Language 40 (1998): 347-369.
- “Derrida,” “Foucault,” and “Rorty,” Philosophic Classics: The Twentieth Century, (Vol V), ed. Walter Kaufman and Forrest Baird. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1998.
- “Dorothy L. Sayers’ Last Temptation,” The Canadian C.S. Lewis Journal 92 (1997): 16-21.

PUBLISHED ESSAYS (cont.)

- “Woody Allen’s Blindness and Insight: The Palimpsests of Crimes and Misdemeanors,” Religion and the Arts 1 (1997): 73-92.
- “The Visual and the Verbal in Middlemarch,” PMLA Forum 112 (1997): 434-5.
- “A Postmodern Proscenium: Breaking Textual Barriers in Romeo and Juliet.” Breaking the Barriers. Ed. Rima Gulshan. Proc. of the Literature and Emerging Issues International Conference. Princess Anne, MD, 1997. Princess Anne: University of MD, Eastern Shore, 1997.
- “Multiplicity: Una Vista de Nada,” Postmodern Culture [“America’s Oldest Peer-Reviewed Electronic Humanities Journal”] 7 (Sept. 1996).
<http://www.press.jhu.edu/journals/postmodern_culture/>
- “Seeking the Mennotaur: The Multicursal Mennonite,” Conrad Grebel Review, 14 (Fall 1996): 229-240.
- “Pos(t)ing Modernism: The Postmodernism of The Moderns,” Pacific Coast Philology, 29 (Sept. 1994): 109-118.
- “Face Painting in Early Modern England,” PMLA Forum 109 (1994): 119-120.
- “Hieroglyphics (De)Constructed: Interpreting Brontë Fictions,” LIT 2 (1991): 261-273.
- “Broadway Roses: Woody Allen’s Romantic Inheritance,” Literature/Film Quarterly 17 (1989): 13-17.
- “Revolution and the Kingdom: A Review of Romero,” World Christian (Nov. 1989): 42.
- “Birthing a Student Publication: Confessions of Four Midwives,” ADE Bulletin 94 (1989): 40-44. (Collaborative Project)
- “Architecture as Synecdoche: A Poetics of Trace,” Pacific Coast Philology 23 (1988):13-21.
- “‘The Charmes Backe to Reverse’: Deconstructing Architecture in Books II and III of The Faerie Queene,” Comitatus 13 (1982): 64-83.

JURIED PAPERS

- “Betraying Hollywood: Ethics of The Queen”
--AAR Annual Meeting, Nov. 2007
- “Deconstructing Herbert: Spielberg’s Adaptation of War of the Worlds”
--Literature/Film Assn. Annual Conference, Oct. 2005.

JURIED PAPERS (cont.)

- “The Beauty of Eastern Orthodox Truth: A New Connection Between C. S. Lewis and D. L. Sayers”
--C.S. Lewis Summer Institute, Oxford, England, July 2005.
- “Dorothy L. Sayers and Russian Orthodoxy”
--Frances White Ewbank Colloquium, Taylor Univ, March 2004.
- “Community and Noah’s Ark: (Be)Longing in Sacred Space”
--Humanities Symposium, Messiah College, March 2004.
- “Bakhtin in the Barbershop” --AAR Annual Meeting, Nov. 2003
- “Readers of the Lost Ark: Containing the Sacred” --AAR Annual Meeting, Nov. 2003
- “(E)racing Barbershop” --Literature/Film Assn. Annual Conference, Nov. 2003
- “Tongue in Check: Amish Pacifism versus Taliban Terror”
--AAR Annual Meeting, Nov. 2002
- “Finding (a Window on) Forrester: Gus VanSant’s Paeon on Plagiarism”
--Literature/Film Assn. Annual Meeting, Oct. 2002
- “Creating Time: The Auto/Biographies of Dorothy L. Sayers”
--C. S. Lewis Summer Institute, Oxford, UK, July 2002
- “Sept 11th and Its Effects: Bakhtin, Terror, and Anabaptist Pacifism”
--MELUS Annual Conference, April 2002
- “Redeeming Plagiarism: Finding Forrester in a Glass Darkly”
--AAR Annual Meeting, Nov. 2001
- “Consummation or Consumption?: Bakhtin and the Ethics of Intertextuality”
--AAR Annual Meeting, Nov. 2001
- “The Black Box of Christian Scholarship,” National Conference on Faith & Learning
--Calvin College, Sept. 2001
- “International Affairs: Sayers, Cournos, and the Ethics of Intertextuality”
--American Literature Assn., May 2001
- “Abdicating Thrones, Dominations: A Contemporary Dorothy L. Sayers”
--National Meeting of the Popular Culture Assn., April 2001
- “The Building of Love: Sayers’ Architectural Imagination”
--”Romance of Faith: D.L. Sayers,” Grove City College, Oct. 2000
- “The Architectonics of Christian Scholarship”
-- Presidential Lecture Series, Messiah College, Oct. 2000

JURIED PAPERS (cont.)

- “The Shape of the Shore: Mental Landscapes in Father and Son”
-- NEMLA Annual Meeting, April 2000
- “Shakespeare in Love With Postmodernism”
--North East Popular Culture Assn, November 1999
- “Whose Domination? A Contemporary Re-vision of Sayers’ Harriet Vane”
-- NEMLA Annual Meeting, April 1999
- “The Scene-Unscene in Tender Mercies”
--”Screening Mystery,” Sponsored by Image, Nov. 1998
- “Antiseptic Bakhtin: A Dialogic Christian”
-- PAMLA Annual Meeting, Nov. 1998
- “Close(d) Readings of The Merchant of Venice: A Feminist Perspective”
-- NEMLA Annual Meeting, April 1998
- “This is Not an Autobiography: The Auto-bio-graphy of Edmund Gosse”
-- PAMLA Annual Meeting, November 1997
- “A Postmodern Proscenium: Breaking Textual Barriers in Romeo and Juliet”
--Literature and Emerging Issues International Conference, Univ. of MD, Oct. 1997
- “Deformed and Sullied: Architectural and Literary Paradigms of the Eighteenth Century”
-- GEMCS Conference, September 1996
- “Skeletons Still in the Closet of Wuthering Heights”
-- NEMLA Annual Meeting, April 1996
- “Seeking the Mennotaur: The Multicursal Mennonite”
-- AAR Annual Meeting, November 1995
- “(En)Gendering Brontë’s Wuthering Heights” (Voted “Best of Session”)
-- PAMLA Annual Meeting, November 1995
- “From Pillar to Post-Modernism: Making It New at Messiah”
--Presidential Lecture Series, Messiah College, April 1995
- “A Sly Shrew or a Shrewish Sly: The Politics of Closure in Taming of the Shrew”
--PAMLA Annual Meeting, November 1994
- “Pos(t)ing Modernism: The Postmodernism of The Moderns (Voted “Best of Session”)
--PAPC Annual Meeting, November 1993

JURIED PAPERS (cont.)

- “Modernism vs. Postmodernism: From Sacred to Pro-feign” (Voted “Best of Session”)
--PAPC Annual Meeting, November 1992
- “Very Tragical Mirth: The Role of Women in The Merchant of Venice and A Midsummer Night’s Dream--
--PAPC Annual Meeting, November 1991
- “Woody Allen’s Prophetic Palimpsest: Crimes and Misdemeanors”
--CCL Western Regional Conference, April 1990
- “Romantic (Re)Formation: Coleridge and the Pantisocratic Ideal”
--PAPC Annual Meeting, November 1989
- “Arch-Expressed Desire: Architecture and Textual Enclosure in Hugo and the Brontës”
--MLA Convention, December 1988
- “Broadway Purple Roses: Woody Allen’s Romantic Inheritance” (Voted “Best of Session”)
--PAPC Annual Meeting, November 1988
- “The Irony of Architecture: A Poetics of Trace”
--PAPC Annual Meeting, November 1987
- “In Our Father’s House Are Many Deconstructionists *or* Will the House Built on the Rock Stand Firm?”
--CCL Midwest Regional Conference, October 1987
- “Tender Mercies: A Merciful Tendering of Generic Expectation”
--PAPC Annual Meeting, November 1984

BOOK REVIEWS

- “Staging Mystery”: Review of *The Altar and the Screen* by S. Brent Plate. In The Religion and Culture Web Forum of the Martin Marty Center at the University of Chicago Divinity School, <<http://martycenter.uchicago.edu/webforum/index.shtml> >
- Review of Susan and Gerald Biesecker-Mast, eds, Anabaptists and Postmodernity. In Brethren in Christ History and Life 23 (Dec. 2000): 522-25.
- “An AnaBender Vision”: Review article focusing on Harold S. Bender, 1897-1962 by Albert N. Keim. Christian Living 45 (June 1998): 9-13.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- “(De)Constructive Criticism” (3 different one-hour lectures)
“Dorothy L. Sayers versus C. S. Lewis” (3 different one-hour lectures)
--Cornerstone Festival, Western Illinois, July 2008
“Male and Female God Created Them: C. S. Lewis and Dorothy L. Sayers”
--University of Wisconsin at Madison, January 2008
“How Postmodernism Serves (my) Faith”
“(In)Vocation: Figuring Out and Implementing God’s Call”
“Christian Apologetics in a Postmodern World”
--Unite in Worship Conference, Vancouver, British Columbia: Oct. 2007
“Dorothy L. Sayers: The Defection of Detection”
--The Simpson Library, Mechanicsburg, PA: August 2007
“From Dialog to Dialogics: The Novels of Dorothy L. Sayers”
--An International Meeting of the Dorothy L. Sayers Society, Wheaton, IL: June 2007
“Witnessing the Amish: Plain People on Fancy Film”
--The Amish in America, an International Conference, Elizabethtown, PA: June 2007
“The Zeal of Dorothy L. Sayers”
--The Brick Presbyterian Church, Manhattan: May 2007
“How Postmodernism Serves (my) Faith”
“(In)Vocation: Figuring Out and Implementing God’s Call”
“Christian Apologetics in an Unapologetic World”
--Unite in Worship Conference, Toronto, Ontario: May 2007
“The Triumphal Exit”
--Bluffton University Plenary Chapel: Feb. 2007
“(In)Vocation: How to Read the Writing on the Wall”
-- The Lilly-Endowed Pathways Visiting Scholar Program, Bluffton, IN: Feb. 2007
“Scholarship and Faith: A Heteroglossic Journey”
--Faculty Scholarship Colloquy, Bluffton University, IN: Feb. 2007
“The Kingdom and the Skeptic: Spiritual Conversations that Make a Difference” (4 40-min. lectures)
-- InterVarsity Winter Conference for seven universities, Lexington, VA: Feb. 2007
“Divine Deconstructions”
--Fall Welcome Weekend, Messiah College: Sept. 2000, 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06
“How Postmodernism Serves (my) Faith”
--Serious Times Church and Culture Conference, Charlotte, NC: Apr 2006 “Can a Christian Be a Relativist?”
--Messiah College History Club: Apr 2006
“The War of the Words: Spielberg’s Adaptation of H.G. Wells”
--Faith and Popular Culture Conference, Messiah College: Sept. 2005
“Mene, Mene, and Me”
--Plenary Chapel Address, Messiah College: Apr 2005
“Side-Stepping the Stones”
--Senior Women’s Dinner, Messiah College: Apr 2004
“How Postmodernism Saved (my) Faith”
--Ministry & Postmodernism Conf of the Sider Institute, Grantham, PA: Mar 04
“(In)vocation: The Preyer of Vocation”
--Western Regional Lily Conference, Pepperdine Univ: Sept. 2003

INVITED PRESENTATIONS (cont.)

- “The Abolition of Woman: Dorothy L. Sayers and C. S. Lewis”
--New York C. S. Lewis Society Conference, Brooklyn, NY: Aug. 2003
- “The Cellar of Faith: A Response to Richard Hughes”
--Messiah College “Educators’ Day”: May 2002
- “Peripatetic Pedagogy: A Response to Joel Carpenter”
--Messiah College Faculty Retreat: August 2000
- “Downing Dostoevsky”
--Oregon Extension Visiting Professors Program, Ashland, OR: Dec. 1999
- “A Postmodern Reading of The Moderns”
-- Christians Teaching Sociology Annual Conf, Messiah Col: June 1995
- “Teaching Shakespeare: Staging the Paging”
--UCLA Parents’ Weekend, UCLA: February 1993

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2007 Listed in Who’s Who of American Women
- 2006 “Award of Merit” granted to “Good Bye, Lenin” and “Cinematic Simony” by the Associated Church Press, the oldest association of religious journalism in the nation
- 2004 Third Place in Critical Review Category granted to “Amélie in a Glass Darkly” by the Associated Church Press
- 2002 Dr. Robert & Marilyn Smith Outstanding Teaching Award, Messiah College
- 2002 Essay cited as “Significant Scholarship” in Longman’s newest edition of The Faerie Queene: “‘The Charmes Backe to Reverse’: Deconstructing Architecture in Books II and III of The Faerie Queene,” Comitatus 13 (1982): 64-83.
- 2002 “Misshapen Chaos of Well-Seeming Form” placed on the syllabus for a course on postmodernism at the University of Sussex, England
- 2001 “Playing the Postmodern Field” chosen by Books and Culture as best review essay of 2000.
- 1997 “Multiplicity: Una Vista de Nada,” awarded “Best Essay on Film” by the American University, Bulgaria
- 1995 Presidential Lectureship Prize, Messiah College
- 1993 Selected “Outstanding UCLA Professor” for Parents’ Weekend Lectureship
- 1993 Paper Voted “Best of Session on ‘Film & Literature,’” PAMLA annual meeting
- 1992 Paper Voted “Best of Session on ‘Literature & The Other Arts,’” PASC annual meeting
- 1988 Paper Voted “Best of Session on ‘Film & Literature,’” PASC annual meeting
- 1984 UCSB Academic Senate Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award

GRANTS

- 2006 Course Development Grant, Messiah College
- 2005 Scholarship Support Grant, Messiah College
- 2004 Smith Scholar Intern Grant, Messiah College
- 2003 Scholarship Support Grant, Messiah College
- 2003 Smith Scholar Intern Grant, Messiah College
- 2002 Scholarship Support Grant, Messiah College
- 2002 Smith Scholar Intern Grant, Messiah College
- 2001 Messiah College Scholar Chair (two year term)
- 2001 Scholarship Support Grant, Messiah College
- 2001 Recipient of the Clyde S. Kilby Research Grant for 2001
- 2000 Scholarship Support Grant, Messiah College
- 1999 Early Sabbatical Grant, Messiah College (for Spring 2000)
- 1999 Teaching Enhancement Grant, Messiah College
- 1998 Scholarship Support Grant, Messiah College
- 1997 Excellence in Teaching Grant, Messiah College
- 1996 Scholarship Support Grant, Messiah College
- 1995 Curriculum Development Grant, Messiah College
- 1995 Paper Voted "Best of Session on 'Women & Literature,'" PAMLA annual meeting
- 1984 University of California Regents' Fellowship

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Peer Reviewer: Reviewed Bluffton University Research Center Grant proposals, making recommendations for grant recipients (Feb. 2008)

Reviewed a potential publication on Edmund Gosse for The Journal of Men, Masculinities and Spirituality (Fall 2006)

Reviewed a potential publication on Wordsworth for LIT: Literature/Interpretation/Theory (Summer 1992)

Conference Session Chair: (Selecting papers, organizing and chairing sessions)

- Nov. '97 "Women & Literature," PAMLA meeting, San Jose, CA
- Apr. '97 "The Other Brontës," NEMLA meeting in Philadelphia, PA
- Nov. '95 "Film and Literature," PAMLA meeting in Santa Barbara, CA
- Nov. '93 "Literature & The Other Arts," PAPC meeting in Seattle, WA
- Nov. '90 "Film & Literature," PAPC meeting in San Jose, CA

Memberships: Modern Language Association American Academy of Religion

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Messiah College, Grantham, PA— Professor of English and Film Studies (Fall 2006 to present)
Associate Professor of English (Fall 1999 to Spring 2006)
Assistant Professor of English (Fall 1994 to Spring 1999)

Nineteenth Century British Women's Literature	The Victorian Era
Honors Seminar: Cinema & Semiotics	Medieval Drama
Introduction to English Studies	From Script to Screen
Fiction to Cinema	English Romanticism

University of California, Los Angeles -- Lecturer 1991 - 1994

Seventeenth Century Literature (Senior Seminar)	Shakespeare
Early Victorian Poetry & Prose	The Victorian Novel
British Literature Survey: Beowulf to Milton	Medieval Drama

University of California, Santa Barbara -- Lecturer 1986-1991

Nineteenth Century British Novel	European Romantic Literature
British Romantic Poetry	Shakespeare: Early Works
Freshman Composition	