

Monica L. West

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monicawestwrites.com

EDUCATION

M.F.A., Creative Writing, Iowa Writers' Workshop, 2017

M.A., English and American Literature, New York University, 2003

B.A., English Literature, Duke University, 1999

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Sackett Street Writers' Workshop, New York, NY

September 2021-Present

Instructor

Advanced Fiction Workshop; Manuscript Generator

Teach online workshops for advanced writers with a regular practice; offer verbal and written feedback for fiction and nonfiction projects; design specialized craft lectures.

The University of Washington, Creative Writing Program, Seattle, WA

Part-Time Lecturer

September 2024-March 2025

Novel Writing (Winter 2025 Quarter)

Taught upper-level undergraduate creative writing seminar focused on generation and revision of a novella-length project; conducted individual conferences to discuss novel plans.

The Craft of Prose (Fall 2024 Quarter)

Taught upper-level undergraduate creative writing seminar focused on reading, writing, workshopping, and revising short stories; evaluated student work in portfolios.

Community of Writers, Olympic Valley, CA

July 2024

Fiction Faculty Member

Delivered comprehensive craft feedback on student manuscripts in individual meetings; participated in panels about voice, characterization, and sustaining a writing life.

University of San Francisco, MFA in Writing Program, San Francisco, CA

Visiting Assistant Professor of Fiction

August 2021-June 2022; August 2023-May 2024

Special Topics: The "Magic" of Realism (Spring 2024)

Facilitated discussion-based seminar focused on the evolutions of magic realism as a genre; led students in genre lectures, craft talks, and close readings of short stories and novels.

Thesis II (Fall 2023; Spring 2024)

Advised final-semester students on novel-length thesis projects; held individual sessions scaffolded to meet students' particular craft needs; prepared projects for future publication.

Long Fiction Workshop (Fall 2023)

Facilitated student-centered workshop model focused on craft elements specific to long fiction; focused on revision during the process of conceptualizing and writing novels.

Techniques of Long Fiction: Autofiction, Epistolary, and Novel-in-Stories (Spring 2022)

Designed curriculum for discussion-based seminar about different novel forms; led craft-focused discussions that enabled students to experiment with said forms in their fiction.

Mixed Fiction Workshop (Fall 2021; Spring 2022)

Implemented collaborative, student-centered workshop model to disrupt traditional workshop structures; allowed authors to contribute to discussions of their fiction.

Special Topics: Rethinking Reliability in Fiction (Fall 2021)

Designed curriculum for discussion-based seminar prioritizing BIPOC and international authors; led craft-focused discussions about short stories, novellas, and novels.

Adjunct Faculty Member

Fall 2022; 2023-2024, Spring 2026

Thesis II

Offered personalized feedback for each submission during individual meetings; assigned readings tailored to each writer's needs; ensured that theses met departmental guidelines.

Lick-Wilmerding High School, San Francisco, CA

2011-2015 and 2017-2022

Visiting Writer, Upper School English Teacher, Ninth-Grade Team Leader

- Planned collaboratively to design reading- and writing-based lessons, courses, and electives
- Scheduled and facilitated all curriculum meetings for ninth-grade teaching team
- Designed workshop-based fiction and creative nonfiction writing electives

Iowa Young Writers' Studio, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

Summer 2017

Summer Instructor

- Tailored craft lectures for high-school students in selective summer program
- Selected diverse pieces of published fiction to teach students elements of fictional craft
- Led generative, craft-based, large-group writing sessions for all participants

Iowa Writers' Workshop, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

2016-2017

Instructor

- Designed creative writing curriculum to teach poetry, fiction, and nonfiction to non-majors
- Selected published readings in different literary genres to teach craft elements
- Assessed student poetry, fiction, and nonfiction in comprehensive portfolios

The Park School of Baltimore, Brooklandville, MD

2006-2011

Upper School English Teacher; Class Advisor

- Created and taught reading- and writing-based English electives for multiple grade levels
- Instructed seminars for all grades using research-based educational methodologies
- Conducted class meetings, retreats, and other co-curricular activities for the Class of 2011

School of New Resources, College of New Rochelle, New York, NY

2004-2006

Adjunct Humanities Professor

- Taught literature, research, and writing courses for working adults in specialized program
- Designed instruction to help nontraditional students acclimate to college coursework
- Scaffolded lessons to differentiate instruction for various instructional backgrounds

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Black Women Write Seattle, Seattle, WA

January 2024-Present

Co-Founder

- Lead monthly meetings focused on craft and publishing for Black women writers.
- Curate content for emerging to veteran writers on the path to publication.

Iowa Writers' Workshop, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
Graduate Research Assistant

Spring 2017

- Organized lunches with Workshop director and students to discuss diversity issues
- Coordinated inaugural diversity symposium with universities in Washington, D.C.

Macmillan/McGraw-Hill, New York, NY
Project Editor-Department of Assessment

2004-2006

- Wrote and edited standards-based assessments for national reading program (*Treasures*)
- Worked under strict deadlines to research state standards and customize assessments

PUBLICATIONS

- *Revival Season: A Novel*, Simon & Schuster hardcover (May 2021); paperback (May 2022)
- *Light the Way: A Novel*, Putnam/Penguin Random House, forthcoming February 2, 2027

WRITING AWARDS/FELLOWSHIPS/RESIDENCIES

2026 Hawthornden Brooklyn Residency
 2026 Alice Judson Hayes Social Justice Fellow at Ragdale
 2024 Virginia Center for the Creative Arts Le Moulin à Nef Residency
 2023 John Gardner Fellow in Fiction at Bread Loaf Writers' Conference
 2022 Conference on Christianity and Literature Book-of-the-Year Award
 2022 50th Anniversary Fellow at Virginia Center for the Creative Arts
 2022 Virginia Commonwealth University Cabell First Novelist Award Short List
 2022 Hedgebrook Writer-in-Residence
 2022 *Christianity Today* Book Award (Fiction)
 2021 *The New York Times* Editors' Choice
 2021 Barnes and Noble Discover New Voices Selection
 2015 Rona Jaffe Graduate Fellow, Iowa Writers' Workshop
 2014 Kimbilio Fellow at Southern Methodist University

PRESENTATIONS/APPEARANCES

2026 Frye Art Museum, Seattle: "By the Book: Readings Inspired by Lotus L. Kang"
 2026 Bellairs Research Institute Cell Biology Conference: "Story Structures for Scientific Research"
 2025 Bellairs Research Institute Cell Biology Conference: "Storytelling for Scientists, Part Two"
 2025 AWP Conference Panelist: "Informal Writing Collectives, Community & Kinship"
 2024 Bellairs Research Institute Cell Biology Conference: "Storytelling for Scientists"
 2024 University of Washington Creative Writing Program: "Short and Long Lines of Tension"
 2023 Duke University Women's Weekend Panelist: "In Her Own Words" Alumnae Authors
 2023 Hedgebrook Live Webinar Series Presenter: "Getting into the Mind of Your Character"
 2022 Duke Northern California Alumnae Talks Speaker: "Experiences Worth Sharing"
 2022 Atlanta University Center Consortium Symposium: Panelist and Craft Seminar Facilitator
 2022 LitQuake Literary Festival: Porchlight Series Featured Speaker
 2022 Pasadena Festival of Women Authors, Breakout Group Author
 2022 Bay Area Book Festival: "Secrets and Revelations, Lies and Love: Family Legacies in Fiction"
 2021 The Park School of Baltimore Resident Writer