

## Brian R. Houle

### Work Address

Writing Program  
University of Massachusetts  
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### Home Address

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### Education

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- Expected 2008 **Ph.D., University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA**  
Field of Study: Rhetoric and Composition  
Expect to receive Ph.D. July 2009.  
Dissertation: "Textuality and the Material of Information in Composition Studies: An Examination of Databases and Writing"  
Advisor: Donna LeCourt
- 2003 **M.F.A., University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA**  
Field of Study: Fiction  
Thesis Title: *Cold Reading*  
Thesis Committee: John Edgar Wideman (chair), Don Levine, Sam Michel
- 1999 **B.A., Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT**  
Field of Study: English Literature (Minor in Creative Writing)

### Current Positions

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- 2001-present **Instructional Technology Coordinator**  
**University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA**  
Writing Program
- Train instructors and faculty in pedagogical uses of information technology during a 4-day orientation and in sessions throughout the semester;
  - Design and maintain WebCT course template for writing teachers;
  - Design and maintain Writing Program website, including online teacher resource databases, wiki, discussion forums, and other online applications;
  - Maintain computers and network for Writing Program teachers, including implementation and maintenance print-tracking system to reduce printing costs for Writing Program;
  - Act as liaison with the Office of Information Technology and advise Writing Program Director and staff and English Department faculty on computers and pedagogy issues.
- 2007 **Webmaster & Communications Coordinator**  
College of Humanities and Fine Arts
- Design and maintain the website for the CHFA;
  - Layout and publication of the quarterly CHFA newsletter.
- 2000-Fall 2006 **Instructor**  
**University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA**  
Writing Program
- Teach writing classes in either traditional or computer-equipped classrooms;
  - Design syllabi and grading policies for courses taught.

## Teaching Experience

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2000- **Instructor, University of Massachusetts**

present

### *First-year Writing*

#### College Writing (112)

- Taught a 24 student seminar focused on various composition strategies and rhetorical situations. Students wrote five essays over the course of the semester. Designed syllabus and grading policy. Fall 2000-Spring 2001, Fall 2006.

#### College Writing (113)

- Taught a 20 student seminar in a computer-equipped classroom. Curriculum was similar to 112, but with the addition of using the Web to publish essays and perform rhetorical readings of culture. Designed syllabus and grading policy. Fall 2001-Fall 2002; Spring 2004-Fall 2005.

#### Basic Writing (111)

- Taught a 20 student seminar in a computer-equipped classroom. Course was designed to help students develop reading and writing abilities in various kinds of discourse, including narrating, explaining, persuading, and analyzing. Students wrote five essays over the course of the semester. Designed grading policy. Fall 2003-Fall 2004.

### *Experimental Writing Workshops*

#### Poetry in Performance (297)

- Co-taught a 12 student writing workshop devoted to students writing and performing their own poetry. Course culminated in a public performance of students' own work. Co-designed syllabus and grading policy. Spring 2001.

#### Creative Potentials of New Media (297)

- Co-taught a 12 student writing workshop in which students authored multimodal compositions in Macromedia Flash. Students reinterpreted written texts using image, sound, and animation. Discussion focused on the interactions of media, mode, and content. Co-designed syllabus and grading policy. Spring 2003.

### *Upper-Division Courses*

#### Writing & Emerging Technologies (391)

- Taught a seminar for juniors and seniors focusing on literacy and new media in the information economy. Courses texts included works by Ong, Kress, Bolter, Brown & Duguid, and Lessig. Designed syllabus and grading policy. Spring 2007.

### *Literature/Non-fiction*

#### Man & Woman in Literature (132) *online*

- Taught a 25 student online course focusing on the relationships between men and women across axes of race, class, nationalism, and sexuality. Course texts included *Jane Eyre*, *Wide Sargasso Sea*, *Giovanni's Room*, *Bastard Out of Carolina*, and *Stone Butch Blues*. Designed syllabus and grading policy. Summer 2005.

#### Dean's Book Seminar (Honors 391D)

- Taught a 13 student, 7 week seminar focused on a single text. Students designed and presented projects based on an aspect of the

reading and discussion. Spring 2005-Fall 2007.

Special Topics – Electronic Journal (Honors 497D)

- Taught a 4 student capstone seminar in which students designed a CD-ROM compilation of Dean’s Book Seminar projects from previous years. Students discussed the works upon which the projects were based, made editorial decisions, digitized projects in various media, and designed the CD-ROM interface. Designed syllabus and grading policy. Spring 2003.

*Other Teaching Experience*

Pedagogy & Technology Practicum for Teachers

- Taught and co-taught a practicum designed to introduce Writing Program teachers to pedagogical uses of available computer software and the Internet. Co-designed syllabus. Spring 2002-Fall 2003; Fall 2004.

Writing Center Tutor

- Worked with students from various majors and language backgrounds on their writing for particular assignments. Focus was on helping students identify areas of difficulty in their writing and working on strategies to overcome them. Fall 2000-Spring 2001.

Volunteer, Amherst Adult Learning Center

- Worked with adult learners individually and in groups on various subjects relating to the GED. 2006.

## Scholarship

### *Publications*

2004 Houle, Brian R, Alex P. Kimball, and Heidi A. McKee. “Boy? Girl? You Decide: Multimodal Web Composition and a Mythography of Identity.” *Computers and Composition Online*. Fall issue.

## Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

2007 **Technology Fellows Program (Assistant Director)**  
Academic Technology Grant through the UMass President’s Office.  
**Research Literacy Fellowship**  
Commonwealth College

2005 **Walker Gibson Prize for Best Essay in Rhetoric and Composition:** “Notes Towards Writing on the Semantic Web”

2001 **Nomination: Associated Writing Programs Intro Journal Award in Fiction**

## Presentations

### *Papers presented*

April 2006 “WebCT & Wikis: Online Approaches to Peer Review” Co-presenter. UMass Conference for Junior-Year Writing, Amherst, MA.

April 2005 “Strategies for Using Computers to Facilitate Writing and Writing Instruction.” UMass Conference for Junior-Year Writing, Amherst, MA.

March 2005 “Beyond Clicking: Developing Interactivity in New Media Composition.” College Composition and Communication Conference, San Francisco, CA.

October 2004 “Considering Rhetorics for a Digital Age: I Am Farscape.”

Tenth Biennial Composition Studies Conference, Durham, NH.

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***Workshop Presentations/Panelist***

- March 2004 “Pixels, Paints, and Operating Tables: Experimental Writing Workshops and the First-Year Writing Program.”  
College Composition and Communication Conference, San Antonio, TX.
- April 2004 “Using Writing to Explore Gender Constructions”  
New Hampshire Humanities Council Workshop, Keene, NH.

**Committees**

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***University of Massachusetts, Amherst***

- 2007 Writing Program Technology Committee (Chair)  
Review campus technology resources and make recommendations to the Writing Program Director about how best to use these resources for the Writing Program, including training and technical support for teachers, and the deployment of WebCT Vista in writing classrooms.
- 2005-2007 University Writing Committee  
Prepare a five-year review of University-wide first-year and junior-year writing programs.
- Fall 2006- present Basic Writing Curriculum Committee  
Review and revise the core curriculum for the Basic Writing course at the UMass Amherst.
- 2005 Textbook Committee  
Review and recommend new writing handbook for first-year writing classes.
- Search Committee  
Review and recommend candidates for the Deputy Director position in the Writing Program.

**References**

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Available upon request.