

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## Molly E. O'Connor, PhD

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Literature Professor formed and inspired by core texts and questions of the Western Tradition, across disciplines of literature, philosophy, politics, and theology, with expertise in American literature and Composition. Synthesizes time-honored and current scholarship with best practices in pedagogy to engage students' minds, hearts, and imaginations in the beauty and wisdom of the literary canon. Noted for excellent student rapport, collegiality, and dedication to *esprit de corps*.

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### **EDUCATION**

August 2021	PhD, Literature IPS, Braniff Graduate School at the University of Dallas Dissertation title: "Poetics of Exodus: <i>Beloved</i> and the Black Modern" Advisor: Dr. Bainard Cowan
May 1993	MA, Literature IPS, Braniff Graduate School at the University of Dallas
1983 – 1987	BA, Literature The Thomas More College of Liberal Arts Senior Thesis title: "'With Certainty Sunk in Despair': Tarwater as Reluctant Prophet in Flannery O'Connor's <i>The Violent Bear it Away</i> " Committee: Drs. Louise Cowan, Glenn Arbery, Mary Mumbach

### **WORK HISTORY**

2022 – present	Adjunct, Midwestern State University, Wichita Falls, TX
2022 – present	Teacher, Founders Classical Academy, Lewisville, TX
2021 – 2022	Editing and Publishing Assistant, Donald and Louise Cowan Archive
2021	Development Associate, Pegasus Foundation
2020	Adjunct, University of Dallas
2014 – 2018	Teacher, Founders Classical Academy, Lewisville, TX
2011 – 2012	Substitute Teacher, Kelly Ed. Svc., Meriden PS, Connecticut
2011	Tutor, New Haven, CT
2010	Student Teacher, Middletown High School, Middletown, CT
2004 – 2010	Classical Homeschool Educator, New Haven, CT

### **LICENSES/CERTIFICATIONS**

2022	Texas Teacher Certificate
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## **PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

“Suffering and Redemption in *Beloved*” for the tribute to Toni Morrison at the South Atlantic Modern Language Association in Atlanta, GA on November 15, 2019.  
Nominated for Graduate Student Essay award.

“The Redemptive Nature of Narrative in Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*” at the Southwest Conference of Christianity and Literature at the University of Dallas in Irving, TX on September 13, 2019.

Upcoming—Toni Morrison’s *Paradise* at the Southwest Conference of Christianity and Literature at Baylor University in Waco, TX in September 2023

## **WORK IN PROGRESS**

Submissions forthcoming

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

### University of Dallas

Literary Tradition I

### Founders Classical Academy

Graeco Roman Literature  
American, British, and Spanish Literature  
AP Language and Composition  
English Language Arts  
Grammar and Composition  
Rhetoric

### Midwestern State University

Introduction to Critical Reading and Academic Writing

## **SERVICE**

2018 – Present	Texas Juvenile Justice Department, Mentor
2014	ESL Teacher LIFT
2008 – 2009	Family Enrichment, Executive Committee

## **LANGUAGES**

French, reading knowledge  
Latin, reading knowledge  
Spanish, basic level

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Association for Core Texts and Courses  
Conference on Christianity and Literature  
South Atlantic Modern Language Association  
Texas Council of Teachers of English Language Arts  
Toni Morrison Society

## **RELEVANT COURSEWORK**

### ***Literature***

Menippean Satire  
Literary Criticism/Lyric  
Tragedy/Comedy\*  
Faulkner  
Myth  
Classical Epic\*  
Melville/Hawthorne/James  
Augustan Literature  
German Romanticism/Post-Romanticism  
Pastoral/Georgic  
20<sup>th</sup> C. Literature  
Russian Novel  
Modern Irish Literature  
Contemporary Novel  
Christian Thought/Modern Era  
Novel/Narratology  
Roman Lyric

### ***Philosophy/Politics/Theology***

Philosophy and Literature  
The Bible\*  
Plato\*  
Christianity and Classical Culture\*  
Aristotle\*  
Reformation Thought\*  
Early Modern Thought\*  
Shakespeare Seminar  
**\*IPS Core**

## **REFERENCES**

Dr. Bainard Cowan, Louise Cowan Chair Professor of Literature  
Director, Donald and Louise Cowan Archive  
University of Dallas  
1845 E. Northgate Drive  
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(972) 721-4016  
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Dr. Debra Romanick Baldwin, Associate Professor, Chair, English Department  
University of Dallas  
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Dr. Glenn Arbery, President  
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