New Faculty Join English Department | English

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Two new faculty members join the English Department as of Fall 2017: Dr. John Gamber and Dr. Christopher Gonzalez. Both teach Ethnic American Literature and Culture. They are experienced faculty members who move from other institutions to USU. This fall, Dr. Gamber teaches Survey of American Culture (English 2630) and Studies in Fiction (English 4340) while Dr. Gonzalez offers Literary History of the Americas Since 1900 (English 3375) and American Writers (English 4310). Dr. Gamber comes to USU from Columbia University, where he served as Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race. He received his Ph.D. from University of California, Santa Barbara in 2006. Most of Dr. Gamber’s publications focus on post-1945 Native American, Asian American, and Latino/a literature. His book Positive Pollutions and Cultural Toxins: Waste and Contamination in U.S. Ethnic Literatures, published by the University of Nebraska Press in 2012, was a finalist for the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE)’s award for outstanding work of ecocriticism. He also has a dozen published articles since earning his Ph.D, including journal articles in Western American Literature, MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature in the United States, and PMLA. He writes about authors Karen Tei Yamashita, Leslie Marmon Silko, Stephen Graham Jones, Sherman Alexie, Louise Erdrich, Gerald Vizenor, and Louis Owens, among others.

Dr. Chris Gonzalez

His current research concentrates on Native American issues pertaining to place, nationhood, sovereignty, and gender and sexuality, and he is at work on a manuscript entitled International Indians.

Dr. Gonzalez received his Ph.D. from Ohio State University (2012), with an interdisciplinary specialization in Latino/a Studies, as well as post-1945 American literature and narrative theory. He moved from his appointment as an assistant professor of English in the Texas A&M University—Commerce to USU. He His research examines narrative form in Latina/o fiction, nonfiction, comics, television, and film, focusing specifically on the ways Latina/o writers experiment with traditional narrative forms and how different audiences react to them. He has extensive publications on this topic, including two books Reading Junot Díaz (U. of Pittsburg Press, 2015) and Hospitable Imaginations: The Possibilities of Latina/o Narrative (Ohio State University Press, 2017). Dr. Gonzalez has also co-edited Graphic Borders: Latino Comics Past, Present, and Future, the first essay collection to examine comic books and graphic narratives by and about Latinas/os in the US. He is at work on two other research projects, one examining the comics of Gilbert Hernandez, and a second focusing on Latinos in the science fictional visual landscape, I, Latino: Brown Bodies in Science Fiction Film, Television, and Comics. Dr. Gonzalez is also the co-editor of the “World Comics and Graphic Nonfiction” book series with the University of Texas Press. In addition, he has published numerous articles and book chapters on Latina/o graphic narratives and comics, the films of Robert Rodriguez, and Latino/a experiences in professional sports. Department head, Dr. Jeannie Thomas, said, “We are fortunate to have two new faculty members who bring expertise in ethnic American Literature, experience in teaching, and strong research records. Students will be the benefactors of their wealth of knowledge.”