

Melinda A. Obach
503 Prentis Ave.
Vermillion, SD 57069
(701) 260-3491 cell
Melinda.Obach@usd.edu

COLLEGE EDUCATION

May 2005 University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD
Master of Arts, English

May 2003 Minot State University, Minot, ND
Bachelor of Arts, English, Cum Laude

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

South Dakota Public Universities and Research Center Jan. 2007 - present
Sioux Falls, SD

Instructor of Basic Writing, ENGL 033

- Two sections of 15 students

Instructor of College Composition, ENGL 101

- Fourteen sections of 23 students

Instructor of Advanced College Composition, ENGL 201

- Six sections of 23 students

Instructor of Business Writing, ENGL 205

- One section of 15 students

Instructor of Introduction to Literature, ENGL 210

- Three sections of 23 students

Instructor of Creative Writing I, ENGL 283

- Two sections of 10 students

- Teach basic grammar and writing skills
- Develop and implement weekly lesson plans
- Recognize the diverse demographic of my students (ESL speakers, non-traditional students) and adapt my classroom accordingly
- Guide 033 students through various rhetorical situation paragraphs and give intensive one-on-one feedback to them
- Guide 101 students through four major writing assignments: a personal narrative, a proposal paper, a research-based academic argument, and a literary analysis using the Portfolio Method
- Approach my 201 course as a cultural studies class
- Guide 201 students through six formal, persuasive essays that are grounded in these rhetorical modes: Argumentative, Informative, Evaluative, and Analytical

- Guide 205 students through two intensive research reports and six written business assignments, such as memos and cover letters.
- Guide 210 students through three major writing assignments, all of which are grounded in argument and analyses
- Guide 283 students through four poetry writing assignments, one creative nonfiction writing assignment, one short fiction writing assignment, and two research papers on contemporary literature and cultural events
- Base all my classes on discussion, journaling, workshops, conferences, revision, and other pertinent writing activities
- Work closely with library professionals in the academic community to present new opportunities and skills to my students

University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD
Instructor of College Composition, ENGL 101

Aug. 2006 - Dec. 2006

- Two sections of 22 students
- Teach basic grammar and writing skills
- Develop and implement weekly lesson plans
- Guide students through four major writing assignments: a personal narrative, a proposal paper, a research-based academic argument, and a literary analysis using the Portfolio Method

University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD
Instructor of Creative Writing I, ENGL 283 through Correspondence

Aug. 2005 – Aug. 2008

- In constant rotation, with an average of 7 students per section
- Teach creative writing skills by giving detailed written feedback
- Revised syllabus to include research component
- Revised syllabus to reflect new texts
- Work with students to think critically about their own and other's writing, including lessons and assignments dealing with word choice, imagery, description, and use of language

EDUCATIONAL EMPLOYMENT

U. Writing Center, Vermillion, SD
Writing Consultant

Aug. 2006 - Dec. 2006

- Engaged in conversation with ESL students
- Assisted ESL students with major research papers
- Assisted writing students develop quality papers
- Worked with graduate students to develop strong, well-written application letters and theses

- Spent three hours a week doing online writing consulting for the U. Online Writing Center

Wisconsin Youth Company, Madison, WI

Nov. 2005 - June 2006

Supervisor, AFTER SCHOOL program at Hawthorne Elementary

- Program Planning and Execution
- Child Interactions and Management
- Compliance with state licensing standards
- Trained program staff
- Coached and guided staff development
- Support for staff—maintained a positive environment
- Development of new and existing program elements

Contemporary Media and Journalism Dept.

Aug. 2004 - May 2005

University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD

Graduate Assistant

- Graded and kept spreadsheets of quizzes/exams for three courses per semester for the 2004-2005 academic year

Humanities Division

Aug. 1999-May 2003

Minot State University, Minot, ND

Workstudy

- Faculty, staff, and student support
- Proofread/edited faculty creative and research work
- Set up departmental displays
- Graded essays, quizzes, and exams

POETRY PUBLICATIONS

“My Dear,” *2007 Vermillion Literary Project Magazine*

“Rowboat”
 “Blue Light, Afternoon” *2005 Vermillion Literary Project Magazine*
 “bunkhouse”

“The J Hut” *2004 Vermillion Literary Project Magazine*

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & COMMITTEES

The University of South Dakota:

Dakota Writing Project (DWP) South Dakota branch of the National Writing Project Teacher-Consultant	Vermillion, SD	Present
“P3: Poets, Painters, and the Pavilion” Exhibit The Washington Pavilion Poetry Collaboration	Sioux Falls, SD	2009-10
DWP Professional Development: “Looking at Student Work” Facilitator	Wagner, SD	2009-10
2009 John R. Milton Writers’ Conference: “Technology and the American West” Creative nonfiction reading	Vermillion, SD	Oct. 2009
2009 John R. Milton Writer’s Conference: “Technology and the American West” Organizing Committee Member	Vermillion, SD	Oct. 2009
2009 Western Literature Association Conference: “Which Way(s) West” Poetry Reading	Spearfish, SD	Oct. 2009
Sorcerer’s Apprentice Creative Writing Camp Presented creative nonfiction workshop to area high school students	Vermillion, SD	Sept. 2009
Featured Reader Vermillion Literary Project Monthly Slam	Vermillion, SD	June 2009
DWP Professional Development: “Sharing What’s Going ‘Write’ In Our Classrooms” & “Writing On Demand” Retreat participant	Vermillion, SD	Oct. 2008
The Sorcerer’s Apprentice: A Creative Writers’ Camp Director Responsible for the entire planning and execution of creative writing camp including: workshop activities and presenters, t-shirt design, publicity, and student support	Vermillion, SD	Sept. 2008

DWP Professional Development: “Weekend Warrior” Retreat participant	Vermillion, SD Apr. 2008
TIE Conference (Technology and Innovation in Education) Co-presenter with Paul Higbee from Prairie Winds on the Dakota Writing Project and the Vermillion Literary Project	Sioux Falls, SD Apr. 2008
“Intersections: An Interdisciplinary Conference On Gender and Sexuality”, The University of Sioux Falls Poetry Reading	Sioux Falls, SD Apr. 2008
Vermillion Literary Project Annual Poetry Festival Featured Poet	Vermillion, SD Feb. 2008
Co-Faculty Advisor Vermillion Literary Project (VLP) University of South Dakota student organization	Vermillion, SD 2007-8
2007 John R. Milton Writer’s Conference: “East Meets (the American) West” Poetry reading	Vermillion, SD Oct. 2007
2007 John R. Milton Writer’s Conference: “East Meets (the American) West” Organizing Committee Member	Vermillion, SD Oct. 2007
Judge 2007 VLP Annual Short Story Contest	Vermillion, SD Oct. 2007
Sorcerer’s Apprentice Creative Writing Camp Presented ghazal poetry workshop to area high school students	Vermillion, SD Sept. 2007
Featured Reader Vermillion Literary Project Monthly Poetry Slam	Vermillion, SD June 2007
Creative Writer’s Group Led a weekly hour workshop for USD freshmen and sophomore creative writers.	Vermillion, SD 2006-7
Featured Reader Vermillion Literary Project Monthly Poetry Slam	Vermillion, SD Nov. 2006

Judge 2006 VLP Annual Short Story Contest	Vermillion, SD	Oct. 2006
2005 John R. Milton's Writer's Conference: "Frontier Nostalgia" Poetry reading	Vermillion, SD	Oct. 2005
University of South Dakota Forum for Graduate Research and Creative Work Poetry reading	Vermillion, SD	Apr. 2005
Graduate Student Advisory Committee Member	Vermillion, SD	2004-5
Vermillion Literary Project Editorial Board	Vermillion, SD	2004-5
<u>Minot State University:</u>		
Sigma Tau Delta, National English Honor Society Member and President	Minot, ND	2001-3
Red & Green, College Newspaper Arts and Entertainment Editor/Writer Photo Editor	Minot, ND	2001-3
North Dakota Professional Communicators College Contest Honorable mention for a feature news story on cystic fibrosis		2003
American College Regional Theatre Festival Staged production of 10-minute play	Cedar Falls, IA	2003