

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### CURTIS GRUENLER

Department of English  
Hope College  
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#### EMPLOYMENT

Professor of English, Hope College, 1997-present.

Managing Editor, *Modern Liturgy*, Resource Publications Inc., San Jose, California, 1986–1990.

#### EDUCATION

Ph.D., English literature, 1998, University of California, Los Angeles.

M.A., English literature, 1993, University of California, Los Angeles.

A.B. with distinction, English literature, Stanford University, 1985.

#### BOOK

*“Piers Plowman” and the Poetics of Enigma: Riddles, Rhetoric, and Theology*, University of Notre Dame Press, 2017. Winner of the 2017-18 Anne Middleton Prize from the International Piers Plowman Society. Reviews: *Times Literary Supplement*, September 27, 2017; [Bulletin of the Colloquium on Violence & Religion 53](#); *Choice Reviews* 55:06 (February 2018); *The Review of English Studies* 69.291; *The Journal of Medieval Religious Cultures* 44.1; *The Medieval Review*, November 8, 2018; *Renaissance Quarterly* 71.2; *Modern Philology* 116.3; *Yearbook of Langland Studies* 32; *Journal of English and Germanic Philology* 118.3; *Speculum* 94.4; [Reading Religion, August 8, 2019](#).

#### EDITING

Editor, *Bulletin of the Colloquium on Violence & Religion*, published quarterly, May 2016 to present, <https://violenceandreligion.com/publications/bulletins/>.

Editor, *Comitatus: A Journal of Medieval and Renaissance Studies*, UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, volume 25 (1994).

#### ARTICLES

“‘On Fairy-stories’ as a Theory of Literature: Tolkien Meets Ricoeur and Girard on the Field of Myth.” Forthcoming in *Religion and Literature*.

[“How Friendship Works in Higher Education: Inclusive Friendship, Mimetic Theory, and the Liberal Arts.”](#) *Revista Interdisciplinar De Teoría Mimética* 4 (2021): 48-66.

[“The Playfulness of Perfect Communion: Polarities in Dante’s Paradiso.”](#) *Christian Scholar’s Review* 50.4 (2021): 345-62.

[“From Violence Loop to Conversion Spiral: Mimetic Theory and Communities of Care for Children with Disabilities.”](#) co-authored with Dennis W. Feaster. *Christian Scholar’s Review* 50.2 (2021): 189-205.

[“The Promise of Mimetic Theory as an Interdisciplinary Paradigm for Christian Scholars.”](#) *Christian Scholar’s Review* 50.2 (2021): 123-144.

[“Mystery | Christianity | Medieval Christianity and Reformation Era.”](#) *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2020.

- “René Girard,” article for the *Encyclopedia of Psychology and Religion*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, ed. David A. Leeming et al. Springer, 2013.
- “The Point of the Plow: Conceptual Integration in the Allegory of Langland and Voltaire,” co-authored with Madeleine Kasten, *Metaphor and Symbol* 26.2 (Spring 2011): 143-151.
- “C. S. Lewis and René Girard on Desire, Conversion, and Myth: The Case of *Till We Have Faces*,” *Christianity and Literature* 60.2 (Winter 2011): 247-265.
- “How to Read Like a Fool: Riddle Contests and the Banquet of Conscience in *Piers Plowman*,” *Speculum* 85.3 (July 2010): 592-630.
- “Desire, Violence, and the Passion in Fragment VII of *The Canterbury Tales*: A Girardian Reading.” *Renascence: A Journal of Values in Literature* 52.1 (Fall 1999): 35-56.
- “Dante’s Quest for Home.” *Christianity and the Arts* 7.1 (Winter 2000): 6-9.

### BOOK REVIEWS

- Review of Traugott Lawler, *The Penn Commentary on Piers Plowman, Volume 4*. Vol. 120, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. *Journal of English and Germanic Philology*, 2021: 261-264.
- Review of Nicholas Christakis, *Blueprint: The Evolutionary Origins of a Good Society*. Vol. 66. *Bulletin of the Colloquium on Violence and Religion*, 2020.
- Review of Pablo Bandera, *Reflection in the Waves: The Interdividual Observer in a Quantum Mechanical World*. Vol. 63. Co-authored with Scott Cowdell, David García-Ramos Gallego, and Matthew Packer. *Bulletin of the Colloquium on Violence and Religion*, 2020.
- Review of Pierpaolo Antonello and Paul Gifford, *How We Became Human: Mimetic Theory and the Science of Evolutionary Origins*, *Bulletin of the Colloquium on Violence and Religion* 61 (August 2019).
- Review of Sam J. Miller, *Blackfish City*, *Bulletin of the Colloquium on Violence and Religion* 60 (May 2019).
- Review of Emily Swan and Ken Wilson, *Solus Jesus: A Theology of Resistance*, *Bulletin of the Colloquium on Violence and Religion* 58 (November 2018).
- Review (with Matthew Packer) of *The Palgrave Handbook of Mimetic Theory and Religion*, *Bulletin of the Colloquium on Violence and Religion* 55, 56, and 57 (2018).
- Review of Paolo Diego Bubbio, *Intellectual Sacrifice and Other Mimetic Paradoxes*, *Bulletin of the Colloquium on Violence and Religion* 55 (February 2018).
- Review of David Aers, *Beyond Reformation?: An Essay on William Langland’s “Piers Plowman” and the End of Constantinian Christianity*, *Yearbook of Langland Studies*, 31 (2017).
- Review of G. Ronald Murphy, SJ, *Gemstone of Paradise: The Holy Grail in Wolfram’s Parzival*, in *Christianity and Literature* 58.1 (Autumn 2008): 105-107.
- Review of Eleanor Cook, *Enigmas and Riddles in Literature* in *Christianity and Literature*, 56.4 (Summer 2007): 694-699.
- Review of Joan M. Nuth, *God’s Lovers in an Age of Anxiety: The Medieval English Mystics* in *Reformed Review*, Autumn 2002.
- Review of Steven Justice, *Writing and Rebellion: England in 1381* in *Comitatus: A Journal of Medieval and Renaissance Studies* 26 (1995): 118-124.

### PAPERS PRESENTED AND INVITED ADDRESSES

- “Artificial Intelligence and Literary Intelligence,” annual meeting of the Colloquium on Violence and Religion, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, July 7, 2021.
- “Tolkien, Chaucer, and Girard’s Mimetic Theory: Desire, Rivalry, and Fairy-Story Endings,” Medieval Institute at WMU, online, May 11, 2021.
- “Playful Polarities of Perfected Community in Dante’s Paradiso,” Medieval Academy of America Annual Meeting, online, April 17, 2021.

- “The Playfulness of Dante’s *Paradiso*,” Second International Congress on Sport and Christianity, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, October 26, 2019.
- “From Character to Communion: Friendship in Mimetic Theory, Dante, and Tolkien,” *The Character of the University*, annual conference of the Center for Faith and Learning, Baylor University, October 19, 2019.
- “Modelling Conversion: Positive and Negative Mimesis in Communities of Care for Children with Intellectual Disabilities,” with Dennis Feaster, annual meeting of the Colloquium on Violence and Religion, University of Innsbruck, Austria, July 2019.
- “Crowdsourcing Rogers,” International *Piers Plowman* Society, University of Miami, April 6, 2019.
- “Friendship, Knowledge, and the Liberal Arts,” English Department Colloquium, Hope College, January 2019.
- “The School of Friendship: Rivendell, Hogwarts, and the Liberal Arts College,” Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Iowa, October 2018.
- “Mimesis, Friendship, and Truth,” annual meeting of the Colloquium on Violence and Religion, Regis University, Denver, July 2018.
- “A Non-Violent Nationalism? Tolkien’s ‘Mythology for England,’” annual meeting of the Colloquium on Violence and Religion, Universidad de Francisco Vitoria, Madrid, July 2017.
- “Called Together in Hope,” Convocation Address to the entering class, Hope College, August 2016.
- “Tolkien’s *On Fairy-stories* as Theory of Literature,” International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, May 2016.
- Participant in a panel discussion, “The Secret Lives of Proverbs: Considering the Intersection of Sentential Material and Meta-Sentential Contexts” International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, May 2016.
- “The Poetics of Enigma and the Theology of Participation in the Fifth Vision of *Piers Plowman*,” International *Piers Plowman* Society, University of Washington, July 2015.
- “Mimetic Theory Meets the Oxford Inklings: Girard, Lewis, Tolkien, Williams, and Barfield,” annual meeting of the Colloquium on Violence and Religion, St. Louis University, July 2015.
- “Langland as Reformist Agent of Secularism: An Account from Girard’s Mimetic Theory,” International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, May 2015.
- “Eschatological Imagination and the Medieval Poetics of Participation in Langland’s *Piers Plowman*,” annual meeting of the Colloquium on Violence and Religion, Freising, Germany, July 2014.
- “Enigma in the Medieval Curriculum: Langland’s Reading Lesson,” annual meeting of the Medieval Academy of America, April 2013.
- “‘A Dark Speakyng’: English Translations of 1 Corinthians 13:12 and What We Can See in Them,” celebration of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the King James Bible, Hope College, March 2012.
- “The Tearing of the Pardon, the Tearing of the Temple Veil, and Enigmatic Authority,” Fifth International *Piers Plowman* Conference, Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, April 2011.
- “Enigma as Conceptual Blend,” Workshop on Cognitive Allegory, University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, June 2009.
- “C. S. Lewis and René Girard on Myth: The Case of *Till We Have Faces*,” annual meeting of the C. S. Lewis and Inklings Society, Grand Rapids, March 2009.
- Joint lecture on Wendell Berry’s *The Unsettling of America* with Steve Bouma-Prediger, Valparaiso University, February 26, 2009.

- Lectures on medieval mysticism for Prof. Chris Kaiser's course on the Life and Witness of the early and medieval church, Western Theological Seminary, November 2001, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010.
- "Fantasy and Violence: C. S. Lewis vs. René Girard," annual meeting of the Colloquium on Violence and Religion, Riverside, CA, June 2008
- "Making Riddles out of Scripture: The Poetics of Enigma in Langland's Commentary on First Corinthians 13," Fourth International *Piers Plowman* Conference, University of Pennsylvania, May 2007
- "The Medieval Poetics of Enigma and Christian Imagination," The World and Christian Imagination, Baylor University, Nov. 2006
- "Girardian Themes in Arthurian Literature," International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, May 2006.
- "Wendell Berry, Marilynne Robinson, and the Refiguring of Reality," Festival of Faith and Writing, Calvin College, April 2006.
- "A Theology of Imagination in the Liberal Arts at Hope College," Hope College Department of Philosophy series on the Liberal Arts, Sept. 29, 2005.
- "The Tearing of the Pardon and the Poetics of *Piers Plowman*," University of Texas at Austin, May 2005.
- Invited respondent at "Jewish and Christian Mysticism: Convergences and Divergences," the third annual conference of the West Shore Committee for Jewish/Christian Dialogue, Nov. 2004, GVSU Grand Rapids.
- "Medieval Philology Meets Modern Linguistics in the Oxford Inklings," 18th International Conference on Medievalism, St. Louis University, Oct. 2003.
- "The Enigmatic Mode in Pseudo-Dionysius, *The Cloud of Unknowing*, and Julian of Norwich," 36th International Congress on Medieval Studies, WMU, May 2001.
- "The Uses of Enigma in Middle English Lyrics: From Reading Right to Making Meaning," 35th International Congress on Medieval Studies, WMU, May 2000.
- "Culture out of Noise: *The House of Fame* and Cybernetics," Sewanee Mediaeval Colloquium, March 2000.
- "Violence and the Passion in Chaucer and René Girard," Arts and Humanities Colloquium Series, Hope College, February 22, 2000.
- Response to "Langland's Syncategoremic Imagination" by Christopher Cannon, Second International *Piers Plowman* Conference, Asheville, North Carolina, July 1999.
- "Enigmatic Discourse in the Banquet Scene of *Piers Plowman*," International Medieval Congress, Leeds, England, July 1999.
- "'Til I have Piers the Plowman': Langland's Enigmatic Apocalypticism," Sewanee Mediaeval Colloquium, March 1999.
- "Owen Barfield: Prophet of Postmodernism?" C. S. Lewis Centenary Celebration, Wheaton College, July 1998.
- "Fragment VII of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, Violence, and the Theory of René Girard." Annual meeting of the western section of the Conference on Christianity and Literature, Santa Clara University, May 1998.
- "Augustine's Hermeneutics of Enigma and the Historical Criticism of Medieval Literature." The annual meeting of the Medieval Association of the Pacific, Honolulu, March 1997.
- "The Poetics of Chaos: Emergent Systems in Two Medieval Allegories." The annual conference of the Society for Literature and Science, New Orleans, Nov. 1994.

**BLOG:** "Writing in the Dust," <https://cgruenler.wordpress.com/>.

#### **AWARDS AND HONORS**

Anne Middleton Prize from the International Piers Plowman Society for the best book in *Piers Plowman* studies of 2017-18

Hope College Andrew W. Mellon Scholars Program Mentoring Award, 2014

#### **GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

Hope College Jacob Nyenhuis summer grants for interdisciplinary collaborative research, 2019, 2021

Hope College Grand Challenges Initiative grant for curricular pathway on technology and society, 2018-19

Hope College Jacob Nyenhuis summer grants for student-faculty collaborative research, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2018

New Directions Initiative grant, Great Lakes Colleges Association, 2011

Hope College CrossRoads Project summer grants for student-faculty collaborative research, 2007, 2009, 2011

Hope College Faculty Development Grants, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2006, 2008

Sluyter Fellowship, Hope College, 2000-1

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Grant, The Huntington Library, Summer 1999

Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, 1996-7

Lynn White, Jr., Fellowship, UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, 1996-7

Friends of English, Daniel G. Calder Memorial Dissertation Fellowship, UCLA, 1995-6

Collegium of University Teaching Fellows, UCLA, 1995-6

#### **TEACHING FIELDS**

English Literature to 1800, History of the English Language, Western Culture to 1500, Christianity and Literature, Literary Theory, J. R. R. Tolkien, Composition

#### **COURSES TAUGHT**

**Hope College**, Department of English, 1997-present

Engl 113: Expository Writing I (topic: Technology and Society)

Engl 231: World Literature I: Ancient to Renaissance

Engl 248: Introduction to Literature

Engl 270: British Literature to 1800

Engl 371: Arthurian Literature

Engl 371: Medieval Visionary Literature

Engl 373: J. R. R. Tolkien and Medieval Literature

Engl 373: Chaucer: *The Canterbury Tales*

Engl 375: The History of the English Language

Engl 395: English Internship Practicum Seminar

Engl 480: Introduction to Literary Theory

Engl 495/Rel 369: Theology and Literary Theory in Dialogue

Engl 490: Independent studies on the essay, devotional poetry, and Chaucer's early works

IDS 100: First-Year Seminar

IDS 171: Literature, History, and Philosophy in Antiquity and the Middle Ages

IDS 181: Mellon Scholars Seminar

IDS 402: Christianity and Literature (interdisciplinary senior seminar)

IDS 492: Friendship and Community (interdisciplinary senior seminar)

**Hope-Western Prison Education Program**, 2020

MCF 295: Friendship and Community (co-taught with Dennis Feaster as Muskegon Correctional Facility)

**University of California, Los Angeles**, Department of English, 1991-1995

Composition and Rhetoric

Critical Reading and Writing

Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales* (assistant)

English Literature 800–1660 (assistant)  
English Literature 1660–1832 (assistant)  
Shakespeare for non-majors (assistant)

**LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE (SELECTED)**

Co-director of the “Andrew W. Mellon Grand Challenges Presidential Initiative at Hope College,” a program for curricular innovation funded by an \$800,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, 2016-21. Interim director 2021-present  
Member of Anchor Plan Implementation Committee for First-Year Seminar, December 2021-present  
Editor of the *Bulletin* of the Colloquium on Violence and Religion, 2016-present (available at <http://violenceandreligion.com/>)  
Member of Curriculum Committee, 2013-18, 2020-21  
Organized summer program for students and faculty doing collaborative research in the humanities and social sciences, 2009-10, and 2012-16, 2021  
Director of General Education, 2013-18  
Director of Cultural Heritage Program, spring 2006-18  
Project Director for “Vocational Exploration at Hope College for Mid-Career Faculty and Others,” a \$20,000 grant from NetVUE (Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education), 2016-17  
Organizer and co-leader of Mimetic Theory Summer School, a one-week intensive course offered at Hope College with support from the Imitatio foundation, 2016  
Wrote and received a \$2,000 grant from the Lilly Fellows Network to organize “Cultivating Hope and Other Virtues,” a series of faculty discussions, 2011-12  
Faculty fellow of Center for Ministry Studies, 2012 to present  
Chairperson of Administrative Affairs Board, fall 2011 to spring 2014  
Member of Mellon Scholars Committee, spring 2010-18  
Member of CrossRoads Advisory Board, 2009-11  
Interim co-director of CrossRoads Project, summer 2009 to summer 2010  
Member of Academic Affairs Board, fall 2009 to spring 2010  
Member of Assessment Committee, fall 1999 to spring 2003 (secretary 2001-3) and fall 2009 to spring 2010  
Mentor in the college’s program for mentoring younger faculty, 2005-6, 2008-10, 2011-present  
Chairperson of Campus Life Board, fall 2004 to spring 2008  
Member of Religious Life Committee, fall 2004 to spring 2008

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Medieval Academy of America  
Colloquium on Violence and Religion  
International Piers Plowman Society  
Conference on Christianity and Literature

**SERVICE TO COMMUNITY**

Elder at Hope Church (RCA), member of consistory 2003-5, 2012-15  
Member of the Personnel Committee of Classis of Holland, RCA, 2008 to 2011