

Christopher R Ostro

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Education

- 2014 MA (Classics), University of Colorado at Boulder
Focus on Roman elegy and late-antique literature
- 2010 BA (Classics, History, Comparative Literature), University of Michigan
Awarded High Honors in Classical Studies, Thesis: *Tacitean Echoes in Late Antiquity*

Research Interests

Censorship in the ancient world. Revolution in the ancient world. How empires fall. Reception of pre-Christian texts by early-Christian writers/thinkers/authorities. Heroism. Love and sexuality. Ancient and modern Satire. Pedagogy and Classics. Writing and Rhetoric Pedagogy. Teaching difficult topics. Authority in the classroom. Teaching first-generation college students. The rhetoric of online argumentation. The impact of AI on education.

Honors and Awards

Highest Rated Professor at CU (RateMyProfessor):	2014-2023
Certificate in College Teaching:	2014
GTP Silver Award for teaching:	2012
Received a competitive RA fellowship:	2011
Received Departmental Funding for full tuition and fees:	2010-2014

Presentations

Flip or Flop! Ways to flip your classroom successfully

Graduate Teacher Program, 04/01/2019

I gave a workshop for the GTP in the Spring 2019 about what a flipped classroom is, the benefits of this pedagogical technique, and how new teachers could use these ideas in their own classroom.

Back to Basics: The importance of building block concepts in the classroom

Graduate Teacher Program, 03/20/2017

I gave a workshop for the GTP in the Spring 2017 about the importance of remembering (and being prepared to explain) basic concepts for your field in every class.

Research Experience

University of Colorado at Boulder, Department of Classics

Research Assistant to Professor Peter Hunt, Fall 2010-Spring 2011

I assisted Professor Hunt with various aspects his research for his book, while also being mentored in the finer points of being a young professional in academia.

Teaching Experience

Instructor and Online Teaching Support Specialist, Program for Writing and Rhetoric, University of Colorado at Boulder

WRTG 3030 – Upper Level Writing about Science and Society, Spring 2022-Present

This position combined many of my previous contract roles. In this position I teach six courses per year, provide writing support for CU's Masters of Science in Organizational Leadership, plan social and training events, and provide course design support to Continuing Education.

Teacher, Mullen High School, Denver, Colorado

Mullen High School, Fall 2017-Summer 2018

I filled in at a prestigious private Catholic school as a Latin teacher. I then transitioned into the English department for the second and third trimester of the year (focusing on sophomores and juniors. In English, I taught remedial, standard, and honors sections. I taught American and British literature. I was responsible for all major teacher responsibilities including teaching, lesson planning, grading, and service work.

Lecturer, Program for Writing and Rhetoric, University of Colorado at Boulder

WRTG 3030 – Upper Level Writing about Science and Society, Fall 2018-Fall 2021

I designed and taught a section of an upper-level writing course intended for students in the STEM fields. The course focused on the differences between communicating with experts and communicating with a lay audience. Various types of writing (such as memos, emails, formal papers, executive summaries, presentations, etc.) were explored. I was responsible for all aspects of design, execution, and grading for the course.

WRTG 3020 – Upper Level Writing Seminars, Fall 2015-Fall 2021

After a year of working with the Program for Writing and Rhetoric, I was given the chance to design an upper-level course on a topic of my choosing. I designed a course titled "Heroism: from Troy to Baghdad" focusing on how to analyze and discuss

Western conceptions of Heroism. I was responsible for all aspects of design, execution, and grading for the course. I have also designed and taught another section of this course on “Comics and Graphic Novels” where we explore the history of comics, how they work, and their impact on other culture. I am also currently designing another course tentatively titled “Love and Longing” which will focus on Western discussions of love in various genres of literature.

WRTG 1250 – Advanced First-Year Writing Seminar, Fall 2015-Fall 2021

After a year of working with the Program for Writing and Rhetoric, I was given the chance to work with advanced first year students. I designed a freshmen-level writing course and was in charge of all aspects of design, execution, and grading of the course.

WRTG 1150 - First-Year Writing Seminar, Fall 2014-Fall 2021

After my work with the Program for Writing and Rhetoric between Fall 2012 and Spring 2014, I was offered a teaching position in that department. I designed a freshmen-level writing course and was in charge of all aspects of design, execution, and grading of the course.

Lead Graduate Teacher, Dept of Classics, University of Colorado at Boulder

Graduate Teacher Program, Academic year 2012-2013

Coordinating departmental graduate teaching, consulting for graduate teachers, and conducting video consultations for new and returning graduate teachers. Through the University of Colorado Graduate Teacher Program (<http://gtp.colorado.edu/>).

Graduate Instructor (GPTI), Dept of Classics, University of Colorado at Boulder

CLAS 1020 - Writing about the Ancient World, Argument from Evidence, Fall 2012-Spring 2014

The Classics department was asked to design and offer a course that would fulfill the lower level writing requirement, yet still be a classics course. I was asked to take this job, and to work with Jackie Elliott as an advisor in designing the course. I first received training from the Program for Writing and Rhetoric (Fall 2013), while also writing the syllabus. The next three semesters I offered the course. I designed and ran lectures and writing workshops three times per week, created assignments and evaluations, and also graded student work.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Dept of Classics, University of Colorado at Boulder

CLAS 1014/1024 – First/Second Semester Latin, Fall 2011-Fall 2012

With the consultation of Alison Orlebeke, I taught a Latin course that met four times per week and covered the finer points of Latin grammar. I designed and delivered my own lectures, tinkered with some pre-existing course material, and graded my own exams.

Support Experience

Faculty Support, Online Teaching Academy, University of Colorado at Boulder

Continuing Education, Summer 2021-Present

The Learning Design Group teaches a course every summer that serves as an introduction to teaching online. This course covers a variety of topics, such as setting and building towards objectives, finding content, prioritizing accessibility, and communicating with students. I am embedded in this course as a faculty peer and I help direct discussions and answer questions. I assisted in the creation and editing of course content.

Instructor, Graduate Student Online Teaching Academy, University of Colorado at Boulder

Continuing Education, Spring 2021-Present

I run a version of the Online Teaching Academy that is intended for PhD students. This class places a bigger emphasis on the basics of teaching as many of the students are first-time teachers.

Assistant Hybrid Course Design Specialist, University of Colorado at Boulder

Continuing Education, Fall 2018-Fall 2021

I assist Evening Credit instructors in designing and improving their hybrid courses. This involves communicating with them, planning and offering workshops and open discussion sessions, sitting in on the classroom portion of their classes and other related activities designed to help them with their hybrid classes.

Writing Consultant, University of Colorado at Boulder

Continuing Education, MSOL Program, Fall 2017-Fall 2021

I work (remotely) with students in the Master of Science in Organization Leadership Program (MSOL) recently launched by the Continuing Education school at CU. These students are located all over the country and most have jobs, so our meetings occur remotely at all times of day. I also regularly communicate with the faculty to keep updated on writing assignments and reach out to struggling students. I am responsible for all scheduling, communication, and assistance in this position.

Writing Consultant and Tutor, National University – San Diego

National University Writing Center, Fall 2014-Summer 2023

I work (remotely) at a writing center that helps students work on their papers for courses, with a focus on non-traditional and ELL students. This assistance includes, but is not limited to: assisting with research, structuring arguments, correcting sentence-level errors, planning paper timelines, scaffolding writing projects and modeling best writing/research practices with these students.

Athletic Tutor, University of Colorado at Boulder

Herbst Academic Center, Spring 2012-Fall 2013

I worked one on one with student athletes at the University to ensure that they were understanding the material and not allowing their athletic responsibilities undermine their academic pursuits. In my role as a tutor I tutored the following courses:

WRTG 1100 - First Year Writing and Rhetoric

CLAS 2124 - Intermediate Latin

HIST 1010 - Western Civ: Antiquity to 16th Century

HIST 1020 - Western Civ: 16th Century to Present

HIST 1015 - History of the US until 1865

HIST 1025 - History of the US since 1865

CLAS 1140 - Bread and Circuses: Society and Culture in the Roman World

HIST 4016 - Early African American History

Tutor, Private

Ann Arbor, MI and Boulder, CO, Fall 2008-Present

I've tutored a number of students at both the college and high school level. Topics have included:

College Readiness

Essay Writing

Editing

Latin Grammar/syntax

Greek Grammar/syntax

Roman and Greek culture

Roman Authors (Including Catullus, Ovid, Horace, Caesar, and Vergil)

History (Various regions, including England, US, France, Rome, Greece)

Standardized Test Taking

Academic Service

CE Happy Hours

Co-planner and facilitator, Fall 2020-Present

In response to the alienation and anxiety many faculty and staff reported due to the sudden onset of the Covid-19 Pandemic, I partnered with Blazey Heier to host regular Happy Hours on Zoom. These meetings aimed to create a sense of community while we were all working disparately as well as to get an idea of what sorts of problems people were running into. Even after the return to campus, we've continued these.

CE Lunch and Learns

Co-planner and facilitator, Fall 2020-Present

In response to the alienation and anxiety many faculty and staff reported due to the sudden onset of the Covid-19 Pandemic, I partnered with Blazey Heier to host regular Lunch and Learns on Zoom. Topics have included a variety of administrative issues as well as in-classroom issues. Even after the return to campus, we've continued these.

Frascona Teaching Excellence Award Committee

Committee Member, Spring 2023-Present

I serve as a non-Leeds representative on the committee for the Frasona Teaching Excellence Award, which is an annual award the Leeds School of Business gives out every year. This involved observing courses, taking notes, reading student nominations and letters, and regular meetings.

CE Policies and Procedures Committee

Committee Member, Spring 2023-Present

I serve as a member on the CE Policies and Procedures Committee. This body is in charge of updating the way CE interacts with students and I am on the committee to provide a faculty perspective.

United Government of Graduate Students

Chair of Student Affairs, Spring 2012-Spring 2013

I joined the United Government of Graduate Students in August of 2011, due to a concern for graduate student rights, and by the next semester I'd been asked to become the Chair of Student Affairs. This involved meeting regularly with multiple officials around campus (including the Dean of Student Affairs), sitting on a number of committees, and running a few.

Classics Department Faculty Board

Ph.D. Student Representative, Fall 2011-Spring 2013

I represented the graduate community of the classics department, and reported back to them about the direction of the department. I also assisted in a few committees.

Languages

English: Native Speaker

Latin: Fluency in reading

Ancient Greek: Near-fluency in reading

Modern Greek: Intermediate in speaking/reading

German: Intermediate in reading

Python (programming): Beginning

Last updated: September 7th, 2023