

Crystal J. Zanders

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crystaljzanders.com

EDUCATION

2025	PhD	English and Education. University of Michigan (conferral 12/13/25)
2025		Digital Studies Certificate. University of Michigan
2018	MFA	Poetry. University of New Mexico
2010	MAT-S	Teaching-Secondary. Mississippi State University
2005	BA	Spanish. University of Tennessee at Martin

POST-SECONDARY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2018- 2025	University of Michigan (UMICH) Graduate Student Instructor- English Department Writing Program
2016-2018	Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) Adjunct Instructor- School of Adult and General Education
2015- 2018	University of New Mexico (UNM) Teaching Assistant -English Department
2014-2015	Hopkinsville Community College (HCC) Adult Education II Specialist- Adult Basic Education

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Gere, A., Curzan, A. Hammond, J., Hughes, S., Li, R., Moos, A., Smith, K., Van Zanen, K., Wheeler, K., & **Zanders, C.** (2022, December). Interchanges: Response to Shawna Shapiro. *College Composition and Communication*.

Day, J., Hughes, S., **Zanders, C.**, Van Zanen, K., Moos, A. (2021, October). What does a good teacher do now? Crafting communities of care. *Pedagogy*. 21 (3): 389–402. <https://doi.org/10.1215/15314200-9132058>

Gere, A., Curzan, A. Hammond, J., Hughes, S., Li, R., Moos, A., Smith, K., Van Zanen, K., Wheeler, K., & **Zanders, C.** (2021, April). Communal justicing: Writing assessment and the case for critical language awareness. *College Composition and Communication*.

Zanders, C. and Wilson, E. (2019, June) Holistic, local, and process-oriented: What makes the University of Utah's Writing Placement Exam work. *Assessing Writing*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.asw.2019.06.003>

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PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS

Zanders, C. (2024, April) "Cultivating care & activating activism: Empowering students through online pedagogy." Paper presented at Conference on College Composition and Communication's Annual Convention.

Zanders, C. (2024, April) "Unseen: Black Autistic Women's Masking Practices, Pressures, and Possibilities." Paper presented at Anne Ruggles Gere Symposium.

Zanders, C., Hammond, J., Hoffman, M., & Van Zanen, K. (2021, April) "Damned If We Do? Past Composition Practices as Sites of Moral Complexity and Ethical Negotiation (O-34)." Paper presented at Conference on College Composition and Communication's Annual Convention.

Van Zanen, K., Day, J., Hughes, S., **Zanders, C.,** & Moos, A. (2021, January). "What does a good teacher do now?: Crafting communities of care." Paper presented at the annual Writing and Well-Being and University of Reno Crossings Combined conference.

Zanders, C. (2020, March) "Valuing Linguistic Diversity." Paper accepted to present at Conference on College Composition and Communication's Annual Convention [Cancelled due to COVID-19]

UNIVERSITY COURSES TAUGHT

University of Michigan

Poetic Activism I & II

Pursing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (graduate course)

Exploring the English Language (TA)

First Year Writing

Technical and Professional Writing

University of New Mexico

English Composition I & II

Introduction to Creative Writing

Technical and Professional Writing

COMMUNITY COLLEGE COURSES TAUGHT

Central New Mexico Community College

Integrated Reading and Writing I & II (developmental course)

Hopkinsville Community College

G.E.D

Basic Skills Education Program (BSEP)

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AWARDS & HONORS

2024-2025	American Association of University Women Dissertation Fellowship
2022-2023	Oklahoma Center for the Humanities Fellowship
2021-2022	Tulsa Remote Grant
2018-present	Rackham Merit Fellowship
2020	Rackham Public Engagement Internship Program Grant
2017	Graduate and Professional Student Association Professional Development Grant
2012	National Endowment for the Humanities-Teaching Shakespeare Institute
2009	Learning and Educating through Alternative Programs (LEAP) scholarship

NON-TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2023-2025 Freelance Writer/Writing Fellow- Ecology Center
Write *More Life, Less Stuff* online series. Interview community members. Wrote/edited articles, emails, and blogs. Audited website.

2022, 2023 Research Assistant- University of Michigan
Analyzed (as part of a team) the responses to a survey for the Generative A.I. Project. Collected data from social media and online news outlets on responses to *The 1619 Project*.

2020 Hybrid & Remote Teaching Instructional Assistant- UMICH
Co-wrote the English Department Writing Program's *Online Teaching Resource Guide*. Co-Hosted "Teaching Jams," forums for instructors to commiserate, collaborate, and come together to create better educational experiences for our students. Worked with a team to redesign the graduate student online orientation.

2020 Intern-Michigan Humanities
Edited/revised educational content related and reviewed text for the Great Michigan Reads program. Audited grant application system for accessibility.

2019- 2020 Writer in Residence- Inside Out Literary Arts
Designed, assisted, and led writing workshops for teenagers at Marygrove School in Detroit.

2015-2017 Poetry Editor- Blue Mesa Review
Oversaw poetry selection during 2016 contest. Supervised undergraduate readers. Collaboratively planned, facilitated, and hosted the Works In Progress reading series.

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SECONDARY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2012-2014 Ripley High School- Lauderdale County Schools
English Teacher
- 2008-2012 Overstreet (Alternative) School- Starkville School District
English Teacher / G.E.D. Instructor
- 2007-2008 West Point High School- West Point School District
Spanish Teacher

FREELANCE PUBLICATIONS

Zanders, C. & Sanchez, K. (2025, Feb. 5). Cultivating community through seed saving and sharing. *More Life, Less Stuff*. <https://www.ecocenter.org/more-life-less-stuff/cultivating-community-through-seed-saving-and-sharing>

Zanders, C. (2024, Dec. 16). A less stuff holiday. *More Life, Less Stuff*. <https://www.ecocenter.org/more-life-less-stuff/less-stuff-holiday>

Zanders, C. (2024, Nov. 25). Sharing stuff creates community. *More Life, Less Stuff*. <https://www.ecocenter.org/more-life-less-stuff/sharing-stuff-creates-community>

Zanders, C. (2024, Nov. 25). A community shares through reuse programs. *More Life, Less Stuff*. <https://www.ecocenter.org/more-life-less-stuff/community-shares-through-reuse-programs>

Zanders, C. (2024, Sept. 19). How our stuff can be reused to welcome and build community. *More Life, Less Stuff*. <https://www.ecocenter.org/more-life-less-stuff/how-our-stuff-can-be-reused-welcome-build-community>

Zanders, C. (2024, July 22). More life, less plastics. *More Life, Less Stuff*. <https://www.ecocenter.org/more-life-less-stuff/more-life-less-plastics>

Zanders, C. (2024, June 3). Fighting food waste & feeding folks in our community. *More Life, Less Stuff*. <https://www.ecocenter.org/more-life-less-stuff/fighting-food-waste-feeding-folks-our-community>

Zanders, C. (2024, May 30) K-12 students work together to stop food waste. *More Life, Less Stuff*. <https://www.ecocenter.org/more-life-less-stuff/kids-stopping-food-waste>

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BLOGS

Zanders, C. (2023). Crystal's journal: How can we make green options available for folks to choose? [blog]. *Ecology Center*. <https://www.ecocenter.org/plastic-pollution-and-zero-waste/reflections-prolific-plastic-during-plastic-free-july/crystals>

Zanders, C. (2022). Who's business is it? Freedom vs. societal responsibility [blog]. *Oklahoma Center for the Humanities*. <https://humanities.utulsa.edu/whose-business-is-it-freedom-vs-societal-responsibility/>

Zanders, C. (2017). Writers' guide to self-care[blog]. *Blue Mesa Review*. <http://bmr.unm.edu/2017/01/06/writers-guide-to-self-care/>

Zanders, C. (2016). Four reasons you should submit to literary magazines [blog]. *Blue Mesa Review*. <http://bmr.unm.edu/2016/06/30/4-reasons-you-should-submit-to-literary-magazines/>

Zanders, C. (2015). Five signs your man is living a secret literary life [blog]. *Blue Mesa Review*. <http://bmr.unm.edu/2015/10/28/five-signs-your-man-is-living-a-secret-literary-life/>

SELECTED CREATIVE PUBLICATIONS

Zanders, C. (2018, March 30). At a feminist craft talk [poem] & Why I don't talk about race with my white friends [poem]. *WusGood?* <http://wusgood.black/2018/03/crystal-zanders/>

Zanders, C. (2018, January). Mississippi [poem], For the pregnant girl who couldn't spell her last name [poem], You will be offended if you recognize yourself in this poem [poem], Remembered [poem] & The River II [poem]. *Rigorous*, Vol. 2(1). <http://www.rigorous-mag.com/v2i1/crystal-j-zanders.html>

Zanders, C. (2017, July 20). Defense of dysfunction [poem], Lessons in loneliness [poem], Grenade [poem], & The river III [poem]. *Mud Season Review*, (31). <http://mudseasonreview.com/2017/07/poetry-issue-31/>

Zanders, C. (2017). Chitterlings [poem]. | *tap | lit*, (3). <https://www.taplitmag.com/crystal-zanders>

ACTIVE TEACHING CREDENTIALS

2022-2027	Oklahoma	License No: 451658
	English 5-12, Spanish Pre-K-12, Psychology/Sociology 5-12, US History, OK History, Government & Economics 5-12, World History & Geography 5-12	

2019-2026	Mississippi	License No: 1971678
	English 7-12, Spanish K-12, Social Studies 7-12	

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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2024	Teaching Social Action Institute
2023	Race, Research and Justice Jumpstart Virtual Conference
2021	Women of Color at the Academy Retreat
2021	Digital IDEAS Summer Institute
2019	Race and Social Justice Institute
2019	Practice-Based Teacher Education Workshop
2019	Modern Languages Association Conference
2016,2017	Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference
2015	Nonfiction Now Conference
2012	Teaching Shakespeare Institute- National Endowment for the Humanities
2013-2014	Tennessee Department of Education Common Core Intervention Training
2012	PREPS/MAPE Conference- Making Common Core Work for All
2011	Science and Social Studies Integration with Literacy and Technology for Teachers (SSILTT) Workshop
2011	Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training & Certification
2010	Alternate Route Teacher Summer Conference

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

2023-present	Modern Language Association member
2018-2025	Graduate Employees Organization member
2013-2014	Professional Educators of Tennessee member
2007-2012	Mississippi Professional Educators member

COMMUNITY SERVICE

2021, 2023	Poetic Justice, volunteer
2017	#Metoo Monologues: A Benefit for Crossroads for Women, reader
2016	Revive: A Benefit for the Southwest Women's law Center, reader