

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Distinguished Teaching Humanist Summer Workshop
May 28th-30th, 2025

Teaching at a Round Table:
Advanced Peer Review as a Foundation and a Catalyst for Student Learning

Imagine your students sitting at the edge of their seats, participating in an analysis of an assignment you have designed to help them examine course concepts. In the process of this discussion of their peers' work, light bulbs pop on as they more fully understand the goals of the assignment and the extent to which they are realizing them. At the same time, they are gaining a stronger understanding of the material—all through the opportunity that social interaction can provide.

Professor Stephanie Vanderslice, Director of the Arkansas Writers MFA Workshop at the University of Central Arkansas, will help us set the stage for such engagement in this three-day in-person discussion (three hours per day, plus a break for lunch) of how incorporating advanced peer-review techniques enhances learning by building an interactive, student-centered classroom. Topics will include an introduction to workshop-style instruction, its benefits and methods, along with hands-on exercises in which participants will imagine different models of classroom engagement specific to our particular disciplines. Everyone will leave with an assignment and advanced peer review framework specific to their discipline and goals. We will also cast forward, to envision how a peer-review infrastructure across the curriculum can deepen engagement and learning as students move into higher-level courses.

Stephanie Vanderslice is the author of *Rethinking Creative Writing* (2011), *Can Creative Writing Really Be Taught: Resisting Lore in Creative Writing Pedagogy* (2007 with Kelly Ritter, 2nd edition, 2017 with Rebecca Manery), *Teaching Creative Writing to Undergraduates* (2011 with Kelly Ritter), *Studying Creative Writing* (2015), *The Geek's Guide to the Writing Life: An Instructional Memoir* (2017), the novel, *The Lost Son* (2022), and *Teaching Creative Writing: An Essential Guide*. Current works in progress include the memoir, *Back to Me: Life, Death, and Rebirth in a Marriage* and a multigenerational novel-in-stories set in Astoria, Queens.

Please send a short statement of interest discussing how you could benefit from this workshop to Benjamin Grossberg, Distinguished Teaching Humanist (Grossberg@hartford.edu). Be sure to include your academic department at the University. Applications will be due May 15, 2025.

Accepted participants will receive some materials to read in advance of the workshop and \$500 upon its completion.

We will meet at 10:00 am each day and, with the break for lunch, finish at 2:00 pm.