

Rita Zita
Fall 2018

Previous Degrees:

B.A., College of William and Mary, 2010

M.A., University of Georgia, 2012

Proposed Major and Minor Fields

Major: Nineteenth-Century British Literature (Professors XXX and XYZ)

First Minor: Eighteenth-Century British Literature (Professor ZZZ)

Second Minor: Rhetoric and Composition (Professor YXZ)

Dissertation Topic: Political Economy in Trollope's Late Novels

Dissertation Topic Research Plan:

[A 2-3 paragraph description of your project and plan of research should be entered in this space. Coordinate with your committee chair in completing this task. What follows is from a real PoS, albeit on a different topic]

In an interview with David Attwell in *Doubling the Point*, J.M. Coetzee states that his scholarly writing on the modernist writer Samuel Beckett is an effort 'to get closer to a secret, a secret of Beckett's that [he] wanted to make [his] own' (25). Consequently, the burgeoning metafictional scholarship on Coetzee's body of work explores the extent that Samuel Beckett has had on Coetzee's fiction and aesthetic interest. Coetzee's writing reverberates with Beckett's prose style in novels such as *Summertime*, *Youth* and *Boyhood* in a metafictional play on autobiography and fiction. Other than Beckett, Coetzee's writing also presents influences from eighteenth century writers such as Daniel Defoe and Samuel Richardson. For example, *Foe* has warranted a great deal of criticism on how Coetzee explores the novelistic techniques of Daniel Defoe in *Robinson Crusoe* and *Roxana* and creates a counter-discourse to one of the most influential authors in the history of the novel by *writing back* to European canonical texts. Another counter discourse to the European tradition is once more observed in Coetzee's 2003 Nobel Prize lecture where he presents a short narrative titled, 'He and His Man.' Coetzee's lecture returns to a concern that the author has frequently addressed in his fiction and non-fiction—the way the author and his literary creation interact. The lecture narrates Robinson Crusoe's story and the relationship with his 'man', Daniel Defoe. Hence, it is a philosophical piece on the theory of the novel, the writing process, and the eighteenth century. In *Age of Iron*, Coetzee links his novel to the eighteenth century epistolary novel. Patrick Hayes argues that Coetzee's protagonist 'embodies the intellectual and emotive legacies closely intertwined with the 'novel of sensibility' that Richardson pioneered for English letters' (133). Other novels in Coetzee's oeuvre are also experimental in prose style and narrative theory. *Elizabeth Costello* consists of lectures Coetzee gave in the eponymous voice of the protagonist, Elizabeth. In *The Childhood of Jesus*, Coetzee narrates the story of David utilizing the genre of the novel of education or the *bildungsroman*.

I plan on pursuing this topic by means of exploring J.M. Coetzee's writing and response to the traditions of the English novel, more specifically to the works of writers such as Daniel

Defoe and Samuel Richardson. Hence, this study bridges a solid connection between Coetzee and the theory of the novel and argues that Coetzee experiments in eighteenth and nineteenth century novelistic styles and the genre of the novel from its inception as well as its development. Moreover, my research sets itself apart from other studies on Coetzee because it is strongly involved with the metafictional proclivities of his oeuvre and links it to the history of the novel and narrative theory rather than exploring Coetzee through modernist writers such as Beckett and Kafka.

Proposed Preliminary Exam Date: Fall 2019

Research Tool/Language: German (exam) [can also be your language & webcape score]

Required Graduate Courses Completed

ENGL 500	Pro-Seminar	SIUC, Fall 2016	A
ENGL 598	Literary Theory	SIUC, Fall 2017	A
ENGL 597	Composition Theory	SIUC, Spring 2017	A

Pertinent Study to Date

<i>Major Area</i> Nineteenth-Century British Literature			
ENGL 467	Victorian Prose	UGa, Spring 2009	A
ENGL 422	Victorian Poetry	SIUC, Spring 2017	A
ENGL 530	19 th -C. English Literature (Nature/Romantic)	SIUC, Fall 2018	Current
ENGL 421	English Romantic Literature	SIUC, Fall 2016	A
ENGL 452	19 th -C. English Fiction	SIUC, Spring 2016	A
ENGL 530	19 th -C. English Literature (Images/Victorian)	SIUC, Fall 2018	Current

First Minor Area Eighteenth-Century British Literature

ENGL 466	The Age of Johnson	SIUC, Spring 2019	NextSem
ENGL 462	Restoration & 18 th -Century Drama	SIUC, Fall 2018	Current
ENGL 516	Restoration & 18 th -C Studies	SIUC, Spring 2017	A
ENGL 451	19 th -Century English Fiction	SIUC, Fall 2016	A

Second Minor Area Rhetoric and Composition

ENGL 492	History of Rhetoric	UGa, Spring 2009	A
ENGL 501	Research in Composition	SIUC, Fall 2016	A
ENGL 596	Language Studies: Modern Rhet Theory	SIUC, Fall 2017	A
ENGL 493	Special Topics: Writing through Tutorial	SIUC, Fall 2017	A

Committee Members' Signatures

_____, Chair
Name 1

Name 2

Name 3

Name 4

Graduate Studies Approval

_____, Director
Current DGS Name

Date