

APRIL SOJOURNER TRUTH WALKER PICARO

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EDUCATION

PMP, Certified Project Management Professional, Project Management Institute, 2021

M.F.A in Creative Writing, Hollins University, Roanoke, VA, May 2013

B.A. in English and Creative Writing, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, May 2011
Summa Cum Laude for Honors Thesis, *To A Dark David*

HONORS AND AWARDS

Featured Reader & Contributing Poet, “Praisesong for the People” Academy of American Poets Project in Connection with Texas Poet Laureate, 2024

Friday Feature, Torch Literary Arts, 2022

Featured Reader, Torch Literary Arts 10th Anniversary Reading Series, Austin, TX, 2016

Cave Canem Graduate Fellow, Cave Canem Retreat, University of Pittsburgh at Greensburgh, 2013, 2012 & 2015

Finalist, Glascock Intercollegiate Poetry Contest, Mount Holyoke College, 2011

Recipient of Grace Abernathy Scholarship in Creative Writing, Emory University, 2011

PUBLICATIONS

“It’s 11 Something on a Saturday Evening” *Ebony Tomatoes Collective*, Fall 2025

“11:45am” *Callaloo*, Spring 2025

“In Praise of the Cleaning Lady” *Praisesong for the People*, Fall 2024

“The Moon Aligns” *The Oklahoma Women’s Journal*, Fall 2022

“Social Studies” *Torch Literary Review*, February 2022

“We Staycation” *Bat City Review*, Issue 13, Spring 2017

“Viewfinder,” *Occupoetry*, Issue 4, October, 2014

“Searching” and “Witness,” *Kalyani Magazine*, Issue 2, Spring, 2013

“Verdict” and “Uncanny,” *The New Sound: A Journal of Interdisciplinary Art & Literature*, Spring, 2013.

“Beyond Dealey Plaza,” *Toe Good Poetry*, Summer, 2013.

“The Peabody Duckmaster, Memphis TN, 1940,” *Cave Canem Anthology XIII: Poems 2012-2013*, forthcoming.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Mythology Adjunct, Oklahoma City Community College, Spring 2019, Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Spring & Fall 2022. Taught multiple sessions each semester exposing students to the rich cultures of the world and fostering conversation and new insight into world mythologies through discussion forums, written essay assessments and creative arts optional extracurricular assignments. Also served as a mentor to new adjunct faculty.

English Composition II Adjunct, Oklahoma City Community College, Spring, Summer and Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Fall 2019, Summer & Fall 2021, Summer & Fall 2022. Taught (1) session each semester both in the classroom and online incorporating the critical and abstract thinking skills taught in Creative Writing seminars to provide students with a more authentic way of developing their voice in analytical rhetorical essay writing. Also served as an Honors Thesis Advisor for a graduating student.

Introduction to Literature Adjunct, Oklahoma City Community College, Fall 2018. Taught survey course broadening students’ understanding of various genres including short story, poetry, drama, and the novel, sharpening their ability to analyze literary forms through analysis and critical theories.

Comparative Religions Adjunct, Oklahoma City Community College, Spring, 2017, Spring 2018. Taught religious survey class, that focused on the historical and cultural context in which religions develop, using both visual and literary art to emphasize the similarities in the development and spread of Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, & Islam.

Critical Thinking Adjunct, Oklahoma City Community College, Fall 2017. Taught (1) session for American Fidelity employees seeking to finish their degree at Oklahoma City Community College. This course involved a hybrid online/in-person teaching style and used both current events and historical instances to foster debate grounded in critical thinking philosophies.

English Composition I Adjunct, Oklahoma City Community College. Fall 2017, Fall 2019. Taught (1) session each semester both in the classroom and online ensuring that students had a strong foundation of the mechanics of grammar, language, and vocabulary prior to advancing their skills in the rhetorical triangle, personal narrative and the development of a classical analysis essay.

Writing Seminar Session Leader, Oklahoma City, Fall 2014 & 2015. Created college prep seminar for middle to high school aged students at the Estes Park Church of Christ. Developed and taught writing seminar – *5 Steps to a Successful College Application Essay* – designed to

provide students with the tools required to create a story that markets them as the best candidate for any school