LISA SMITH

Dean, Humanities and Teacher Education Division | Associate Professor of Teaching of English
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Pepperdine University, Seaver College, Malibu, California

Dean, Humanities and Teacher Education Division (2026-present)

Associate Professor of Teaching of English (2026-present)

Affiliated Faculty, Women's and Gender Studies program (2019-present)

Assistant Professor of Teaching of English (2020–2026)

Visiting Assistant Professor of English (2015-2020)

Adjunct Faculty, English (2006-2015)

University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware

Adjunct Faculty, English (1992-1993, 1998-200)

EDUCATION

Ph.D., M.A., English, University of Delaware

Dissertation: "The First Great Awakening in American Newspapers, 1739-1748" (J. A. Leo Lemay, advisor)

B.A., English and psychology (double major), University of Delaware, *summa cum laude*

Degree with Distinction (Lawrence H. Cohen, senior thesis advisor)

BOOKS

- *This is My Beloved: Embracing the Bridal Love of Jesus*, Wipf & Stock, 2024.
- *Hammer & Fire: Lessons on Spiritual Passion from the Writings and Life of George Whitefield*, Square Halo Books, 2024.
- *Godly Character(s): Insights for Spiritual Passion from the Lives of 8 Women in the Bible*, Square Halo Books, 2018.
- *The First Great Awakening in Colonial American Newspapers: A Shifting Story*, Lexington Books, 2012.
    - Reviewed by *American Periodicals*, *American Historical Review*, *Church History*, *Pennsylvania History*

SCHOLARLY ARTICLES, BOOK CHAPTERS, & ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

- "Using Comics to Teach Analytical Writing," in *Teaching Comedy*, edited by Bev Hogue, MLA Options for Teaching series, Modern Language Association, 2023, 193-200.
- "Distinguishing Marks of a Work of the Spirit of God," *Jonathan Edwards Encyclopedia*, edited by Harry S. Stout, Yale University Press, 2017, 149-151.
- "James Davenport," *Encyclopedia of Religious Revivals in America*, 2 vols., edited by Michael J. McClymond, Greenwood Press, 2007, 1:136-137.
- "'Some Perilous Stuff': What the Religious Reviewers Really Said About *The Scarlet Letter*," *American Periodicals*, vol. 6, 1996, 135-143.

- "Hawthorne and *The Christian Review*: Three New Discoveries," *Nathaniel Hawthorne Review*, vol. 21, no. 2, 1995, 24-28.
- "'The Livery of Religion': Reconciling Swift's *Argument* and *Project*," *English Language Notes*, vol. 31, no. 2, 1993, 27-33.
- Park, C., L. Cohen, and L. Herb, "Intrinsic Religiousness and Religious Coping as Life Stress Moderators for Catholics Versus Protestants," *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, vol. 59, 1990, 562-74.

SCHOLARLY CONFERENCE PAPERS

- "Women on Fire: Early American Spiritual Leaders Inspire," Imagining Histories: The Challenges of Working with Early American Women, Understanding Histories, Imagining Futures: 25 Years of SSAWW, Society for the Study of American Women Writers conference, Philadelphia, PA, November 8, 2025.
- "The Pulpit and the Pen: The Traveling Texts of George Whitefield's 1740 New England Preaching Tour," Traveling Texts: From Traditions to Religions, Twelfth International Conference on Religion and Spirituality in Society, Córdoba, Spain, June 2022 (virtual).
- "Writing a Friendship: The Letters of Sarah Osborn and Susanna Anthony," Modeling Traditions from the Margins: Non-Canonical Writings in Religious Systems, Eleventh International Conference on Religion and Spirituality in Society, Córdoba, Spain, June 2021 (virtual).
- "Toni Morrison's *A Mercy* as Pedagogy: Teaching Early American Women Writers," Race, Women, and the Market in Early America, Society of Early Americanists Biennial Conference, Eugene, OR, February 2019.
- "Beyond Strunk & White: Using Comics to Teach Students to Write Analytically," Comic Arts Conference, Comic-Con International, San Diego, CA, July 2017.
- "Target Audiences: Identifying and Connecting with Niche Communities," What Do You Want from Early America Roundtable, Society of Early Americanists Biennial Conference, Tulsa, OK, March 2017.
- "Engaging the Non-Major with Early American Literature," Teaching Early American Literature Roundtable, American Literature Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA, May 2016.
- "Newspaper Editors' Attitudes toward the Great Awakening, 1740-1748," Periodicals and American Literature, American Literature Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA, May 2004.
- "'Confusion From Order Sprung': Entropy in the Life of Clarissa Harlowe," Chaos, Death, and Madness: The Use of the Disruptive in Literature and the Arts, Baylor University, Waco, TX, April 1996.

INVITED TALKS

- "Jesus the Coming Bridegroom-King," Harbor: Pepperdine Bible Lectures - Your Kingdom Come, Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA, May 8, 2025.
- "Forgotten Wisdom: Jesus the Bridegroom for a New Generation," Pepperdine University Libraries, Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA, March 18, 2025.
- "Persevering Passion: Lessons on Spiritual Zeal from George Whitefield," Harbor: Pepperdine Bible Lectures - Running with Perseverance, Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA, May 1, 2024.
- "George Whitefield and the Holy Spirit," Return to Narnia: Creativity, Collaboration, and Community, Square Halo Conference, Lancaster, PA, March 8-9, 2024.
- "Heroes from History," Return to Narnia: Creativity, Collaboration, and Community, Square Halo Conference, Lancaster, PA, March 8-9, 2024.
- "Zeal for the Lord: George Whitefield and the First Great Awakening," White Clay Creek Presbyterian Church, Newark, DE, February 25, 2024.
- "Preaching to the Masses: George Whitefield and the Public Humanities," Humanities and Teacher Education Symposium with Pepperdine University Libraries, Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA, September 6, 2023.
- "Chasing Table Scraps: How to Engage Creatively with a God Who Loves Us," Ordinary Saints: Creativity, Collaboration, and Community, Square Halo Conference, Lancaster, PA, February 17-18, 2023.

- "Friends Don't Let Friends Miss Revival: George Whitefield on Making Friends and Creating Community," Ordinary Saints: Creativity, Collaboration, and Community, Square Halo Conference, Lancaster, PA, February 17-18, 2023.
- "Women of the Bible and Their Impact," Women's History Month Lecture, Pepperdine University Libraries, Malibu, CA, March 30, 2022.
- "Julia A. J. Foote and the Power of God's Word," Debbie Keever Ministries, April 2021 (virtual).
- "Increasing Your Spiritual Passion," Office of the Chaplain, Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA, October 10, 2019.
- "How Can I Increase My Spiritual Passion," Spirituality: God With Us, University Series Lectures, St. Jude the Apostle Church, Westlake Village, CA, March 21, 2019.
- "Investing in the Life of the Spirit," Women's Retreat, Moorpark Presbyterian Church, Moorpark, CA, January 4-6, 2008.
- "Living and Ministering in God's Love," Women's Retreat, Cornerstone Presbyterian Church, Kemblesville, PA, February 19-21, 2006.
- "Lay Leadership in the First Great Awakening," Washington Crossing United Methodist Church, Washington Crossing, PA, April 16, 1999.

ESSAYS & WEB CONTRIBUTIONS

- "Anne Dutton: A Mother in Israel," *Strong Allies: Creating, Cultivating, Restoring*, Square Halo Books, 2026.
- "Mentoring: Sharing the Road," *Ordinary Saints: Living Everyday Life to the Glory of God*, Square Halo Books, 2023.
- "Leadership Without a Title: Sarah Edwards," *Womenleaders.com*, Christianity Today, November 16, 2015.
- "Mentoring is More Than Teaching," *Womenleaders.com*, Christianity Today, September 14, 2015.

PODCAST EPISODES

- "Leadership in the Next Generation with Dr. Lisa Smith: Trust, Collaboration, and Courage," *The Life You're Made for with Dr. Heather Penny*, season 5, episode 6, November 19, 2025.
- "The Untold Story of the First Great Awakening with Historian Dr. Lisa Smith," *Called for More*, episode 70, October 13, 2025.
- "Giving the Grace to Fail with Dr. Lisa Smith," *The Life You're Made for with Dr. Heather Penny*, season 3, episode 11, March 12, 2024.
- "Hammer & Fire: A Conversation with Author Lisa Smith," *The Square Halo*, episode 15, February 7, 2024.
- "Galvanizing Hope and Passion with Dr. Lisa Smith," *The Life You're Made for with Dr. Heather Penny*, season 2, episode 19, June 21, 2023.
- "Contemplation," *Naming the Animals*, episode 3, June 21, 2022.
- "Mentors and Relationships with Lisa Smith," *Beyond the Building*, episode 37, February 14, 2021.

MEDIA

- "Pepperdine Marks 25 Years of Women's and Gender Studies with Archival Project and Alumni Stories," Seaver Newsroom, April 16, 2026.
- "Back to the Past: Dr. Lisa Smith and the Genesis Lab Innovate New Virtual Reality Assignment," Seaver Newsroom, November 11, 2022.
- "Finding Spiritual Rest in an Anxious World." *Currents: Beauty From Ashes*, Lindsey Sullivan, vol. 116, May 2, 2021.
- "Class Action Hero," *Pepperdine Magazine*, Sara Bunch, vol. 10, no. 1, Spring 2018, 34-37.

- "Profile: English Professor Lisa Smith Promotes Students' Spiritual Well-Being. " Pepp Post, Lindsey Sullivan, 17 March 2018.

RESEARCH GRANTS

- Faculty Research Retreat Grant, Office of the Vice Provost, Pepperdine University, April 2026
- Faculty Research Retreat Grant, Office of the Vice Provost, Pepperdine University, October 2024
- Faculty Research Retreat Grant, Office of the Vice Provost, Pepperdine University, May 2024
- Pandemic Research Recovery Grant, Dean's Office, Pepperdine University, March 2022

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Pepperdine University, Seaver College, Malibu, California

- ENG 495 English Internship
- ENG 431 Gender and Spirituality in Early American Literature (English major course)
- ENG 380 Passion and the Pen: Documents of the First Great Awakening
- ENG 380 Gender and Spirituality in Early American Literature
- ENG 380 Gendered Voices
- ENG 380 Early American Women Writers
- ENG 380 Outsiders in Early American Literature
- ENG 380 Myth and Religion in Early American Literature
- ENG 330 American Literature
- ENG 315 Literary Study

- ENG 307 Writing for Business
- ENG 301 Spiritual Writing
- ENG 101 English Composition I: Comics Edition
- ENG 101 English Composition I

- AMST 620 Directed Readings in American Studies (M.A. capstone course)
- FOR 101 Foundations of Reasoning
- GSHU 199 First-Year Seminar: Spiritual Autobiography
- HUM 313 Western Culture III: Resistance and Change
- WMST 300 Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies

University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware

- ENG 312 Written Communication in Business
- ENG 301 Advanced Composition
- ENG 200 Approaches to Literature
- ENG 110 Critical Reading and Writing

TEACHING AWARDS

- Howard A. White Award for Teaching Excellence, Pepperdine University, 2023
- Brett J. Love Award for Teaching Excellence, Humanities and Teacher Education Division, Pepperdine University, April 2010
- Teacher of Influence, Women's Basketball Team, Pepperdine University, October 2009

PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- Dean, Humanities and Teacher Education Division, Seaver College, August 2026-present

- Career Champion, Pepperdine Career Center faculty partner, 2024-present
- Faculty Sponsor, Greek InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, 2018-present
- Mock Class Instructor, HUTE Admissions Event, September 28, 2026
- English program professional development workshops, co-chair, in partnership with Pepperdine Career Center and Pepperdine Alumni Affairs, 2018-2026
    - Diverse Careers for English Majors: Panel with a Sound Editor Zach Pino and Attorney Matt Ladew, September 17, 2025
    - Surprising Careers for English Majors: A Conversation with Disney Employee Rachel Moran, October 23, 2024
    - Surprising Careers for English Majors: A Conversation with FBI Agent Candyce Ha, October 4, 2023
    - Making a Life and Living with Literature and Creative Writing: A Conversation with Jessica Hooten Wilson, March 14, 2023
    - Starting Your Career in a Post-COVID World, October 12, 2022
    - How to Leverage Your English Degree, October 7, 2021
    - Building Your Professional Network, October 15, 2020 (virtual)
    - Career Trek: Sage Publishing, Thousand Oaks, California, November 7, 2019
    - LinkedIn Workshop, October 17, 2018
- English program recruitment committee, 2017-2026
- Respondent, Panel Discussion on Michael Ditmore's *Texting the Nation*, Pepperdine University Libraries, April 1, 2026
- Faculty Mentor, New Faculty Mentoring Program, Faith and Pedagogy Conversations 2026, Westlake Village Inn, Westlake Village, California, March 14, 2026
- Welcome Chapel, Investing in Your Faith Journey, in partnership with Lauren Haberstock and the Payson Library Genesis Lab, 2024-2026
- Admitted Students Day faculty, English program, 2017-2026
- FOR 101 Foundations of Reasoning all-day faculty workshop, May 12, 2025
- Secretary, Fixed-Term Faculty Committee, 2023-2025
- Career Center External Program Review Lunch, invited contributor, February 27, 2025
- Faculty contributor, development of required first-year course, FOR 101 Foundations of Reasoning, 2022-2024
- Faculty Research Panel, ENG 201, November 1, 2024
- University Committee for Teaching Excellence, May-August 2024
- Panel Member, SoCal Swing: Academics at Pepperdine Panel, Undergraduate Admissions Office, for high school academic counselors, February 5, 2024
- Invited leader, Opening Prayer Exercise, Faculty/Staff Spiritual Formation Retreat, Office of the Chaplain, January 26, 2024
- Invited speaker, Pepperdine Parent and Family Book Club, *Godly Character(s)*, January 24, 2024
- Invited speaker, "What Does a Passionate Christian Look Like Today?" The Veritas Forum, Pepperdine University chapter, November 2, 2023
- Featured guest, Sacred Reading: A Midday Pause for Prayer, Listening, Connection, and Reflection, Plueger Sacred Reading Series, Pepperdine University Libraries, September 13, 2023
- Ad Hoc Grade Dispute Committee, summer 2023
- Coordinator, Humanities and Teacher Education Research Symposia, 2022-2023
- Faculty Spiritual Mentor, HUB for Spiritual Life, 2015-2022
- Panel Member, Committee on Women Faculty Fall Caucus, "Getting Your Kid into College," November 16, 2022
- Search Committees
    - Tenure-track Assistant Professor of English, Fall 2026
    - Tenure-track Assistant Professor of Rhetoric and Composition, Fall 2021
    - Visiting Assistant Professor of History, Fall 2019
- Faculty Supervisor, English program internship, Mia Zendejas, summer 2022

- Second Advisor, student research paper, Jackie Powlis, "My Favorite Teacher I Never Had," *Kappa Delta Pi Record*, 58:1, 48, Jan. 24, 2022
- English Program Budget Subcommittee, fall 202
- US Fulbright Award mentor, Rebecca Pankratz, South Korea, 2019-2020
- Reader, Junior Writing Portfolio, 2015-2018

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Founding Member, Westlake Women's Reading Salon, Westlake Village, California, 2024-present
- Square Halo Summer Series 26 | August Conversation, Spiritual Formation, workshop with Lisa Smith and Amy Knorr (virtual), August 8, 2026
- Guest lecturer on the First Great Awakening, Sunrise of Westlake Village retirement community, Thousand Oaks, California, April 17, 2026
- Instructor for weekly adult class Living Out Revival, Growth Night, Lighthouse Church, Newbury Park, California, October-November 2025 (based on *Hammer & Fire*)
- Instructor for weekly adult class Insight for Spiritual Passion, Growth Night, Lighthouse Church, Newbury Park, California, February-April 2025 (based on *Godly Character(s)*)
- Adult Small Group Co-Leader, Lighthouse Church, Newbury Park, California, 2023-2025
- Community Mentor, Student Leadership Program, Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute, Simi Valley, California, 2020-2024
- Adult Small Group Sermon Guide Writer, Lighthouse Church, Newbury Park, California, 2024
- Women and Philanthropy Virtual Focus Group, Women's Leadership Initiative and Office of Development and Alumni Relations, University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware, November 10, 2023
- Leader, Westlake International House of Prayer, Westlake Village, California, 2018-2023
- Contributing Writer and Speaker, Debbie Keever Ministries, 2021-2023
- External Reviewer, English program, Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, California, August 2022
- Lead Adult Small Group Curriculum Content Developer and Writer, Calvary Community Church, Westlake Village, California, 2011-2022
- Adult Small Group Leader, Calvary Community Church, Westlake Village, California, 2011-2022
- Reader, essay on Toni Morrison's *A Mercy* for *Studies in American Fiction*, August 2020
- Founding and Executive Board Member, Conejo Valley League, Boys Team Charity, Westlake Village, California, 2011-2019 (Co-President, 2016-2017)

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

- *The Coquette* and *The Boarding School*: A Norton Critical Edition Speakers Series Event (webinar), Bryan Waterman, New York University, October 1, 2026
- Navigating Student Concerns: University Resources, Roles, and Responsibilities, Title IX & VI Office, Pepperdine University, October 1, 2026
- Title IX & Title VI Foundations Training, Natasha J. Baker, Managing Attorney, Novus Law Firm, facilitated by Pepperdine University, July 22, 2026
- Advanced Gemini: Unlock Gemini's Built-In AI with Workspace Integration, IT Training, Pepperdine University, May 18, 2026
- Gemini Essentials, IT Training, Pepperdine University, May 12, 2026
- Digital Accessibility Fundamentals Workshop, Technology and Learning, Pepperdine University, March 23, 2026
- "Meeting Our Responsibilities to Students: The Urgency of Reform in General Education," Cornerstone: Learning for Living, The Teagle Foundation, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, October 16-17, 2025
- Pedagogy Learning Community, Humanities and Teacher Education Division, Pepperdine University, 2021-2025
- Mid-Career Faculty Retreat, Center for Faith and Learning, Pepperdine University, Florence, Italy, December 14-21, 2024

- "Origin and Identity of the Stone-Campbell Movement," Harbor Bible Lectures, Pepperdine University, May 7, 2025
- Supporting Neurodiverse Students panel, SEED and the Center for Teaching Excellence, Pepperdine University, March 19, 2025
- Luncheon workshop on Specifications Grading with Dr. Joshua Bowman, Pepperdine University, February 11, 2025
- Learning from Notre Dame's "God and the Good Life" class with Meghan Sullivan, Pepperdine University, February 6, 2024
- Resilience-Informed Skills Education faculty training, Pepperdine RISE Program, Pepperdine University, August 2023
- Tech Refresh/AI Boot Camp, Humanities and Teacher Education Division, Pepperdine University, August 9, 2023
- Civil Discourse Seminar with Duke University professor John Rose, Pepperdine University, May 16-18, 2023
- Seeking Education Equity and Diversity (SEED), national program, Pepperdine University, May 31-June 6, 2022
- Pedagogy of Jesus, Dr. Terrelle Sales, Center for Teaching Excellence, Pepperdine University, January 2022
- Rapid Onboarding to Online Teaching, Center for Teaching Excellence, Pepperdine University, July 27 & 29, 2020
- High Anxiety: Liberal Arts and the Race to Success, Gaede Institute for the Liberal Arts, Westmont College, Santa Barbara, California, March 21-23, 2019
- Certification, Secondary English Education, University of Delaware, 1991

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHPS (past and present)

- Modern Language Association
- Society of Early Americanists
- Society for the Study of American Women Writers
- Christianity and Literature
- Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality
- Religion in Society Research Network
- National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity