

Sandra Weems, PhD

Associate Professor of English

Director, University Honors Scholars

Biography

Sandra Weems holds a PhD from the University of Florida in English, with an interdisciplinary concentration in medical humanities. She has taught at LMU since 2016 and directed the Honors Scholars Program since 2019. In 2023, she was honored with the Houston Award for Excellence in Professional Teaching. A native of New Orleans, she enjoys listening to many types of music, reading, gardening, and painting landscapes with acrylics. She also makes a mean jambalaya.

Education

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, GAINESVILLE, FL

May 2015, Ph.D. in English

With interdisciplinary collaboration in the College of Medicine, Dept of Medical Humanities

Dissertation: *The Poetics of Healing: Voicing Illness and Trauma in Literature, Narrative Medicine, and Reflective Writing*

December 2009, M.A. in English

With a focus on Early Modern British Literature

Thesis project: *Towards a Greater Subjectivity: Revisiting Early 17th-century Conduct Books*

December 2002, B.A. in English *cum laude*

With a minor in Teaching English as a Second Language

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY, ENGLAND

Summer Semester, Selwyn College, 1998

Teaching and Research Interests

British literature, medical/health humanities, narrative medicine, several types of writing, including the clinical uses of reflective writing, traumatology, collegiate honors pedagogy and administration.

Select Publications and Presentations

Publications

“Frances Hoggan.” Peer reviewed article. *Palgrave Encyclopedia of Victorian Women Writers*. https://link.springer.com/referenceworkentry/10.1007%2F978-3-030-02721-6_156-1 March 2020.

“Great War Poets and the Campaign for Empathy.” Peer reviewed article. *Emotions: History, Culture, Society*. Australian Research Council Centre for Excellence. Coauthored with Dr. Tom Bragg. Winter 2019.

Re-membering: Putting Mind and Body Back Together Following Traumatic Brain Injury by Ann Millet-Gallant. Peer reviewed book review, published by Med-Hum| Daily Dose, July 2017.

Narrative Medicine: Bridging the Gap between Evidence-Based Care and Medical Humanities by Maria Giulia Marini. Peer reviewed book review, May 2016. Coauthored with Paulette C. Hahn, MD. Centre for Medical Humanities, Durham University.

Presentations

“Creating a Learning Community for Honors Programs in the ACA.” Presentation. Appalachian College Association Symposium. Knoxville, TN. September 2023.

“Vexed Perspectives: Narrative Medicine and Charon’s Dr/Pt Divides.” Invited lecturer to 2nd-year medical students. UF College of Medicine, Gainesville FL. January 2023.

“‘Comfort Food’: Sustenance for Community and Healing in COVID-19.” 10th Annual International Health Humanities Consortium. Penn State University, virtual. March 2021.

“Intersubjectivity in the Doctor-Patient Relationship.” Invited lecturer to Medical Residents. University of Florida College of Medicine. January 2020.

LMU and Other Professional Service

Member, Place as Text and Small Colleges Committees, National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC), 2025 to present

Member, Board of Directors, Tennessee Collegiate Honors Council (TCHC), 2024 to present
President, Tennessee Collegiate Honors Council, 2023-2024

Evaluator, SACS-COC, 2024-present

Executive Committee Member, LMU Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) national leadership honors society, 2021-present

Member, Steering Committee, LMU Center for Interprofessional Education and Simulation. 2023-present.

Member, Steering Committee, LMU Quality Enhancement Plan, 2017-present.