

# Mikhail Kleynman

mikhailkleynman@gmail.com

## EDUCATION

Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, 2020 – 2026 (expected)

PhD in English

Certificate in College Teaching

M.A. in English (2023)

**Awards:** James B. Duke Fellowship, University Scholars Fellow, Kenan Institute for Ethics Summer Dissertation Award

Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, 2015 – 2019

B.A. *summa cum laude* in English (with honors) and Economics | Minor in Political Science

**Awards:** English Department Faculty Prize (First Place), Irving D. Blum Writing Prize, Drioux Scholarship in English Literature, Milton Friedman Award in Economics, John C. Daniel Award in Economics

## DISSERTATION

*A Matter of Life and Debt: American Fiction, Film, and Finance*

Chair: Michael D'Alessandro

Committee Members: Nancy Armstrong, Michael Hardt, Roberto Dainotto

## PUBLICATIONS

"Blood, Money: The 21st-Century Western and the Logic of Repayment," *American Literature*, vol. 97, no. 2, 2026.

"Empty Futures: The Logic of Multiversal Narratives," accepted for publication in *Arizona Quarterly*.

"Arthur Gordon Pym's Bad Readings: Looking for Clues in Poe's Novel," preparing for submission.

## SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS

"Empire and the Invisible Deaths of *Jane Eyre*," panel presentation at the International Nineteenth-Century Studies conference, June 2025.

"States of Indebtedness in Cormac McCarthy's Fiction," panel presentation at the American Literature Association conference, May 2025.

## UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Duke University, Summer 2026

*Instructor of Record (English 290/Cinematic Arts 290: AI in Science Fiction Film)*

- Designed this seminar-style film course aimed at introducing majors and non-majors alike to film analysis and masterworks of the science fiction genre (full enrollment of 18 students).
- Course includes systems like exit tickets and mid-semester surveys to allow students to offer

feedback/share concerns.

- Class time is split between film analysis, discussions, and writing workshops, with particular emphasis on helping students craft compelling essays of film analysis and critique.

Duke University, Spring 2024

*Instructor of Record (Eng 90s: Detective Fiction and Film)*

- Designed and taught a 15-student seminar on the development of detective fiction as a genre, with films, novels, and short stories spanning from 1841 to the present.
- Covered a diverse range of authors and filmmakers, chiefly from America, the United Kingdom, and Asia.
- Held writing workshops as well as weekly office hours that all students attended at least once.
- Student evaluations for the quality of the course averaged 4.57/5, outperforming both Duke and departmental averages.

Duke University, Fall 2023

*Teaching Assistant (Eng 290s: American Hauntings from Poe to Pop Culture)*

- Sat in on Prof. D'Alessandro's course; discussed pedagogical approaches & course design.
- Taught one session of the class, lecturing and leading discussion on Kubrick's *The Shining*.

Duke University, Fall 2022

*Teaching Assistant (America Dreams American Movies)*

- Graded student writing assignments, offering feedback on substance, style, and prose clarity.
- Helped Prof. Targovnick with the visual media, providing film clips/edits for class use.

Duke University, Spring 2022

*Teaching Assistant (Classics of American Literature)*

- Assisted Prof. Strandberg with creating assignments and evaluating student performance.

Duke University, Fall 2021

*Teaching Assistant (Literature and the Pursuit of Happiness)*

- Taught two full sessions of the course, leading 15 students in a discussion of Colson Whitehead's *The Underground Railroad*.
- Provided weekly feedback to Prof. Tennenhouse on students' writing assignments and helped grade papers.

## **EDITING EXPERIENCE**

*Novel: A Forum on Fiction*, Jan 2023 – August 2023

*Assistant Editor*

- Screened article submissions for accordance with *Novel's* needs, deciding whether to forward for peer review or reject.
- Updated our submission tracking system, making it easier to follow up with peer reviewers and ensuring that authors received feedback in a timely manner.

## **OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Self-employed, 2016 – present

### *Private Tutor*

- Have worked 1:1 with over 200 students (ranging from high schoolers to mid-career professionals).
- Primarily serve as a writing coach and editor for independent academic/intellectual projects.
- Recent examples of my students' work include a published article on hostage diplomacy; creative writing portfolios; and successful applications to undergraduate, professional, and postgraduate programs.

Lycée Gaston Fébus, Orthez, France, 2019 – 2020

### *English Teaching Assistant (TAPIF)*

- Designed and taught an English literature course for French high school students.
- Classroom work prioritized student-led discussion with occasional input/direction from me.

## **LANGUAGES**

Russian, French