

• Amy L Clark •  
Pine Manor College • 400 Heath St • Chestnut Hill, MA 02467  
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## Education

### 2002-2004 • MFA Creative Writing, Literature and Publishing • Emerson College

Thesis: *Wanting: a Collection of Short and Short Short Fiction*

GPA 3.95

### 1998-2002 • BA Creative Writing and Literature • Bard College

Senior Project: *The Last Possible Moment: a Collection of Short Fiction*

GPA 3.67

### Continuing Education

#### 2006 • Literature of Migration and Ethnicity • Harvard Extension School

GPA 4.0

## Teaching Experience

### 2007-Present • Assistant Professor of English Composition • Pine Manor College

#### Chestnut Hill, MA

- Composition courses developed and taught include CC110: Please Don't Steal My Jordans: wealth and its Discontents, and CC110: Math, METCO and Money: Public Education in America
- Composition courses taught include CC112: Controversial Issues.
- Creative Writing classes taught include EN205: Visiting Writers Seminar (Short Short Stories)
- Courses in development include CC110: Evil in Fiction and Film, and Teaching English and Critical Thinking in the Developing World (inspired by a collaboration with Sister Margaret Gannon, IHM, Marywood University, Scranton)
- Developed a new essay rubric for grading student essays.
- Service includes Moderator of the Executive Committee, Faculty Representative to Board of Trustees Committee on Education, member of the Library Committee, and member of the Recruitment and Retention sub-committee on Intellectual Culture. In addition, I developed and shepherded to production a new brochure for recruitment.
- Faculty Advisor to *Conifers*, the Pine Manor student literary journal, which, with my help, has become a national online literary journal of undergraduate writing and art
- Recipient of Divisional Release Time (Spring 2010) for work on my novel, *Palais Royale*

### 2009 • Visiting Lecturer of Critical Thinking and Writing • Newman Institute

Kigoma, Tanzania

- Workshops include Critical Reading in English for Students with Developing Skills, Teaching Critical Thinking for College and Beyond, Writing a Response, an Essay, and a Research Paper: teaching written English as a Second Language to First Year Students, and How to Achieve High-Impact Classrooms

**2006-2007 • Adjunct Professor of College Composition • Pine Manor College  
Chestnut Hill, MA**

- Composition classes taught include CC101: Ways of Seeing
- With my help, the Composition Department moved to a theme-based system of classes, and created and implemented a new way for students to progress through the course sequence. I also helped implement the annual Student Colloquium, in which students work independently and in collaboration to present information about their courses and what they have learned directly to an academic audience.

**2007-2008 • Writing Tutor • 826 Boston  
Roxbury, MA**

- Member of the Advisory Board
- Tutored writing at English High School in Jamaica Plain, MA through the 826 Boston program.
- Helped edit a book-length manuscript of student writing which was published by 826 Boston with the title *I Wish They Would Have Asked Me*.

**2002-Present • Writer, Manuscript Editor and Tutor • Private Consulting  
Boston, MA**

- Tutored high school students, college students, graduate students and professional adults in academic writing, expository essay, press releases, preparation for writing tests, English as a Second Language and writing for business
- Copyediting and substantive editing of both non-fiction and fiction manuscripts written by students and professional adults.

**2004-2007 • Writing Instructor • Cambridge Center for Adult Education  
Cambridge, MA**

- Creative writing classes taught include Fiction Workshop: Short Short Stories, Fiction Workshop: Revising Fiction, and Non-Fiction Workshop: Personal Essay Writing

**1999-2002 • Writing Tutor, ESL Instructor • Bard College  
Annandale-on-Hudson, NY**

- Writing tutor with the Academic Services Center
- ESL instructor, leading a conversation group focused on improving spoken English and written syntax, grammar and punctuation.

## **Courses Taught**

**CC 110: Please Don't Steal My Jordans: Wealth and its Discontents** (Pine Manor College)  
When poet reg e. gains wrote “i’m styling...smiling...looking real mean cuz/ it ain’t about bein heard just bein seen” in his poem “Please Don’t Take My Air Jordans” he was participating in a discussion about the things we will do to ourselves and each other in order to accumulate the

goods and services we most want. In this class, we focus our critical thinking skills on culturally inherited ideas about wealth, class, the American Dream, and the stuff we have to have to be considered cool, and do some investigation of the role of multi-national corporations in the new global economy. We try to answer some questions about why we want what we want, what it means to be cool, and what we need to get ahead in life. Students examine a variety of written and other materials in order to discover, refine, and learn to express their own ideas and opinions about the things that occur in our own lives, in our society, and in the world. Students learn how best to express ideas and opinions ---which words and sentences are most effective and why---so that their point of view can be articulated clearly and effectively in a series of rigorous, required essays throughout the semester.

**CC 110: Math, METCO and Money: Public Education in America** (Pine Manor College)

This class examines a topic most college students are already experts on: the kindergarten through twelfth grade experience of young Americans. Students in Math, METCO and Money look at what works and what doesn't in the classroom. We examine the culture of education in America and the system for training teachers and distributing funds for public schools. Students hone their critical thinking and communication skills by writing a series of rigorous, required essays about the history, pedagogy and politics of public education in America. If you have ever had a bad teacher, wanted to be a good teacher, or thought about the way you learn and why you want to, this class is for you.

**CC112: Controversial Issues** (Pine Manor College)

The theme of this course is "Controversial Issues in Contemporary Society." In "Controversial Issues in Contemporary Society," we explore topics and questions about which people have interesting and often strong or entrenched positions. We learn to spot strong and weak arguments for and against a topic, and explore what we think and feel about these important, controversial issues. This course builds on the skills and experiences introduced in CC101 or CC111 by introducing more challenging academic content and more analytical writing, including a research paper. In this course, we summarize, analyze, synthesize and evaluate information and multiple texts, and learn to formulate well-thought-out and persuasive positions about important issues in our lives, our society, and the world.

**EN205: Visiting Writers Seminar** (Pine Manor College)

This dynamic course combines in-class writing exercises, workshop critiques and a lecture series of visiting fiction writers. The visiting writers bring their literary expertise and creative vision to our classroom. This semester's theme is short short fiction, so we will be studying the style and content of literary short short fiction. The visiting authors, Pamela Painter and Steve Almond, are experts in this field. Steve Almond will give a campus-wide reading and sign books, and Pamela Painter will lead a workshop. Short short fiction has been described by Mark Strand as a story that "can do in a page what a novel does in two hundred," and by William Heyen as "a roll-top desk on a surfboard." In this class we will explore the potential of the genre and you, the writer. Each student will write one short piece every week for the class to critique in workshop. Short short fiction can be written anywhere, by anyone. Not every piece you write for this class will be perfect, some may even be awful. But this is how we learn to create stories: by writing and writing, and writing. From a writer's perspective, this is one of the great things about short short fiction, that you needn't pour every ounce of your soul and every minute of your day into every piece, so each can be modified, re-envisioned, or even thrown away with relative ease in order that the writer begin again. This semester, author Steve Almond will visit campus for a dinner with students and a reading and book signing, and author and professor Pamela Painter will lead a guest workshop.

**CC101: Ways of Seeing** (Pine Manor College)

The theme of this course is “Ways of Seeing.” This theme is designed to facilitate critical thinking about the world in which we live. We will examine a variety of written and other materials in order to discover, refine, and learn to express our own ideas and opinions about the things that occur in our society and our world. We will learn how best to express our ideas and opinions --which words and sentences are most effective and why—so that other people can understand our meaning and learn from our individual points of view. College Composition 101 is designed to prepare students for the writing demands of other courses at Pine Manor, and to develop a student’s control of the proper use of the English language and give her confidence in her writing skills. This class will also encourage students to become alert, active members of our culture through the use of critical thinking and an applied knowledge of how language informs our experience.

**Fiction Workshop: Revising Short Fiction** (CCAIE)

This class will focus on re-envisioning and rewriting short fiction, with the assumption that any piece can be challenged, improved and deepened with further attention to story and character development. This will be accomplished through assignments, discussion of technique, and class critique. Stories will be enlarged with exercises and honed with respect to language. To take this class you must have previous experience with the fiction workshop, at least one short story that you care about enough to perfect and a willingness to work hard at making it publishable.

**Non-Fiction Workshop: Personal Essay** (CCAIE)

The personal essay is a challenging form with a rich tradition dating back to the Renaissance. Writers of all breeds have employed the essay to convey those ideas, musings, and arguments which won’t fit neatly into poetry, fiction, or drama. Contemporary writers have found it versatile enough for the expression of the philosophical, the analytical, the observational, the humorous, and the nostalgic. In this course, we will discuss each other’s essays as works-in-progress, making suggestions for revision. We will also read and discuss classic and modern works of the form, and consider the publishing market for personal essays. Students will end with at least one essay to submit for possible publication.

**Fiction Workshop: Short Short Stories** (CCAIE)

Short short fiction has been described by Mark Strand as a story that “can do in a page what a novel does in two hundred,” and by William Heyen as “a roll-top desk on a surfboard.” In this class we will explore the potential of the genre and you, the writer. Each student will write one short piece every week for the class to critique in workshop. Short short fiction can be written anywhere, by anyone. All levels of writing experience welcome.

**Publications**

Clark, Amy. “This is That One.” *Quick Fiction*. Forthcoming, Fall 2010.

Clark, Amy. “So here I am (a review of “You, Me and the Bourgeoisie”).” Aught Music Blog. Forthcoming, November 2009.

Clark, Amy. “A Few Well-Chewed Morsels: a review of Amelia Gray’s *AM/PM*.” *The American Book Review*. Forthcoming, November 2009.

Clark, Amy. "Standards for Grading the Life of an Adjunct Composition Professor." *Mcsweeney's Internet Tendency*. 9 November 2009.  
<http://mcsweeneys.net/2009/11/9/clark.html>

Clark, Amy. "Our Lady of Sabattus St." *Hobart*. Summer 2009: 71-81.

Clark, Amy. "guest post" Sean Blog. 22 July 2009.  
<http://seanlovelace.com/2009/07/21/guest-post-amy-clark-bringing-dzanc-books-best-of-the-web-words/>

Clark, Amy. "Forearm and Elbow" *Best of the Web 2009*. Ed. Lee K. Abbott. Chicago: Dzanc Books, 2009. 133.

Clark, Amy. "Letters from the Other Side of Jail, or: what I was thinking while you were talking." *Action, Yes Quarterly*. Spring 2009.  
<http://www.actionyes.org/issue9/clark/clark1.html>

Clark, Amy. "After Dinner." *Quick Fiction*. Apr. 2008: 1.

Clark, Amy. *Wanting. A Peculiar Feeling of Restlessness: Four Chapbooks of Short Short Fiction by Four Women Authors*. Brookline: Rose Metal Press, 2008.

Clark, Amy. "Quarters." *42 Opus*. 25 February 2008. <http://42opus.com/>

Clark, Amy. "Forearm and Elbow." *Juked*. 19 February 2008.  
<http://www.juked.com/2008/02/forearmelbow.asp>

Clark, Amy. "Wanting." *Fringe Magazine*. 1 Feb. 2007.  
[http://www.fringemagazine.org/issue\\_08\\_shortshort.htm](http://www.fringemagazine.org/issue_08_shortshort.htm)

Clark, Amy. "How to Burn a House." *Brevity and Echo*. Ed. Abigail Beckel and Kathleen Rooney. Brookline: Rose Metal Press, 2006: 56-57.

Clark, Amy. "Dear Mr. President." *Brevity and Echoes*. Ed. Abigail Beckel and Kathleen Rooney. Brookline: Rose Metal Press, 2006: 38.

Clark, Amy. "Looking for Nick Westlund on the MBTA." *Quick Fiction*. 11 Oct. 2006  
<http://www.quickfiction.org/features/story.php?pk=42>

Clark, Amy. "How to Burn A House." *Quick Fiction*. Apr. 2006: 12-13.

Clark, Amy. "Dear Mr. President." *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*. 10 Jan. 2006.  
<http://www.mcsweeneys.net/letters/president/>

Clark, Amy. "Things I Have Wanted to Be When I Grow Up." *Louis Liard*. Summer 2004: 22.

Clark, Amy. "look see the day." *Louis Liard*. January 2003: 36

Clark, Amy. "so there's this mountain." *Read Magazine*. March 1994.

## Lectures, Readings, and Guest Teaching

- June 2009 • Guest lecturer • Newman Institute of Social Work, Kigoma, Tanzania  
Workshop: Critical Reading in English for students with developing skills  
Workshop: Teaching Critical Thinking for College and Beyond  
Workshop: Writing a Response, and Essay, and a Research Paper: teaching written English as a Second Language to first year students  
Workshop: How to Achieve High-Impact Classrooms
- January 2009 • *Reader* • National Writer's Union Boston Chapter Annual Winter Book Party, Cambridge, Ma
- September 2008 • *Featured Reader* • Dirty Water Reading Series, Boston, MA
- July 2008 • *Featured Reader* • Brookline Booksmith, Brookline, MA
- July 2008 • *Reader* • Dire Literary Series, Out of the Blue Gallery, Cambridge, MA
- June 2008 • *Featured Reader* • Longfellow Books, Portland, ME
- May 2008 • *Featured Reader* • Jamaicaaway Books, Jamaica Plain, MA
- May 2008 • *Featured Reader* • Rhythm and Muse, Jamaica Plain, MA
- May 2008 • *Lecturer* • Thursday Morning Lecture Series at CCAE  
Lecture: "Human Diversity and Perversity"
- April 2008 • *Featured Reader* • Pine Manor College
- September 2007 • *Reader* • Fringe Reading Series
- March 2007 • *Reader* • Brevity and Echo reading at Emerson College
- February 2007 • *Reader* • Brookline Booksmith small press series
- December 2006 • *Reader* • Quick Fiction's Double Digit Debacle
- April 2005 • *Lecturer* • Thursday Morning Lecture Series at CCAE  
Lecture: "Conversations With History and Ourselves"
- October 2005 • *Writing Instructor* • Annual Fall Writer's Conference at CCAE
- March 2005 • *Fiction Presenter* • University of Connecticut
- April 2005 • *Writer in Residence* • Leavitt Area High School
- April 2004 • *Writer in Residence* • Leavitt Area High School

## Awards

- Pine Manor College Division of Arts and Humanities Release Time (2010)
- Rose Metal Press First Annual Chapbook Contest: Short List (2006)
- Emerson College Graduate Non-Fiction Award: First Place (2004)
- Lotte Kaliski Foundation for Gifted Youth Grant (2001)
- Bowler Poetry Prize: First Place (1994)

## Professional Affiliations

- Member of the National Writers Union UAW Local 1981/AFL-CIO
- Member of the Advisory Board of 826 Boston children's writing center
- Member of the Advisory Board of The Parlor writing center
- Faculty Advisor for *Conifers* literary journal [pmc.edu/conifers](http://pmc.edu/conifers)
- Professional website: [www.overtimewriting.com](http://www.overtimewriting.com)

## **References Available Upon Request**