

Stanford



Joseph Kidney

Lecturer, Civic, Liberal, and Global Education

Bio

BIO

Joseph Kidney is a Lecturer for Civic, Liberal, and Global Education (COLLEGE). He received a PhD in English Literature from Stanford University in 2024. An early modernist, his work looks at sixteenth-century literature, particularly drama, against the backdrop of the European and English Reformations. His dissertation examined the sometimes complementary, sometimes contradictory projects of Reformation and Renaissance as they drastically reshaped intellectual culture and gave rise to new forms of vernacular literature. In this project and elsewhere, he has a particular interest in classical reception, rhetorical theory, early modern humanism, Renaissance comedy, and the cultural transformations regarding attitudes to the dead.

His academic publications include work on the dramatists Nicholas Udall, William Shakespeare, and John Webster, drawing on early modern thought ranging from theology to proto-scientific treatises. Other work supplements these historicist approaches with twentieth- and twenty-first-century methodologies derived from queer theory, considerations of metatheatricality, and genre theory. He has also published on pedagogy, articulating strategies for teaching old plays in modern classrooms. He has taught, as instructor of record, classes on Shakespeare and on Renaissance Literature, and served as a teaching assistant for literary surveys from Beowulf to Jane Austen, as well as for Poetry and Poetics. He has worked as an assistant editor for the Stanford Global Shakespeare Encyclopedia and as a Graduate Coordinator for Stanford's Renaissance working group.

Outside of academia, he has received numerous awards for poetry, including, most recently, the Grand Prize in Arc Poetry Magazine's Poem of the Year contest. His poems have appeared, among other places, in Best Canadian Poetry 2024 and been nominated for a National Magazine Award. A full length debut will appear in March 2025.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Lecturer, Civic, Liberal, and Global Education

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- PhD, Stanford University , English Literature (2024)
- MA, McGill University , English Literature (2016)
- BA & Sc., McGill University , Organismal Biology and English Literature (2014)

Teaching

COURSES

2025-26

- Citizenship in the 21st Century: COLLEGE 102 (Win)
- Pox, Plague, and Pestilence: A Germ's Eye View of World History: COLLEGE 122 (Spr)
- Why College? Your Education and the Good Life: COLLEGE 101 (Aut)

2024-25

- Citizenship in the 21st Century: COLLEGE 102 (Win)
- Utopia, Dystopia, and Technology in Science Fiction: COLLEGE 113 (Spr)
- Why College? Your Education and the Good Life: COLLEGE 101 (Aut)

2023-24

- Essential Shakespeare, Shakespearean Essence: ENGLISH 115H (Aut)