Stanford



Gavin Jones

Frederick P. Rehmus Family Professor of Humanities

English

Bio

BIO

Gavin Jones is the author of Strange Talk: The Politics of Dialect Literature in Gilded Age America (U of California, 1999), American Hungers: The Problem of Poverty in U.S. Literature, 1840-1945 (Princeton, 2007), Failure and the American Writer: A Literary History (Cambridge, 2014), and Reclaiming John Steinbeck: Writing for the Future of Humanity (Cambridge 2021). He has published articles on writers such as George W. Cable, Theodore Dreiser, W.E.B. DuBois, Sylvester Judd, Paule Marshall, Mark Twain, Herman Melville, and Zora Neale Hurston, in journals including American Literary History, New England Quarterly, African American Review, and Twentieth-Century Literature. Jones has edited a new version of a neglected classic of American literature, Sylvester Judd's "transcendental novel," Margaret: A Tale of the Real and Ideal, Blight and Bloom (1845), and is the coeditor (with Michael J. Collins) of The Cambridge Companion to the American Short Story (2023). He is currently working on two book projects: Zora Neale Hurston and the Art of Controversy and The Storytellers: The Work of Short Fiction in American Culture.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor, English

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Chair, Department of English, Stanford University, (2024-2027)
- Chair, Department of English, Stanford University, (2011-2015)
- Professor of English, Stanford University, (2008- present)
- Associate Professor of English, Stanford University, (2004-2008)
- Assistant Professor of English, Stanford University, (1999-2004)
- Junior Fellow, Society of Fellows, Harvard University, (1996-1999)
- Lecturer in American Literature, University of Sheffield, (1996-1996)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Violet Andrews Whittier Fellow, Stanford Humanities Center (2010-2011)
- Stanford Fellow, Stanford University (2006-2008)
- Gordon and Dailey Pattee Faculty Fellowship at the Stanford Humanities Center, Stanford University (2005-2006)
- Undergraduate Teaching Award of Phi Beta Kappa, Beta of California at Stanford University (2004)
- Research Fellow, Stanford Humanities Center (2001-2002)
- Outstanding Academic Title Award, for Strange Talk, Choice Magazine (2000)
- Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Graduate Prize Fellowship, Princeton University Center for Human Values (1994-1995)

- Degree Prize, Keble College, Oxford University (1990)

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Pre-Major Advisor, Stanford University (2011 - present)
- CAPER, Stanford University (2011 - 2012)
- Member, Stanford Humanities Center Executive Committee, Stanford University (2009 - 2013)
- Faculty member, Board of Judicial Affairs, Stanford University (2009 - 2010)
- Editorial board member, American Literature (2008 - 2011)
- Vice Chair, English Department, Stanford University (2008 - 2010)
- Co-chair Stanford Fellows, Stanford University (2007 - 2008)
- Chair of the selection committee, American Studies Association’s Constance Rourke Prize (2005 - 2005)
- Resident Fellow, Junipero House, Wilbur Hall, Stanford University (2003 - 2008)
- Faculty Coordinator, “American Cultures” Mellon Graduate Student Research Workshop (2001 - 2005)

PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- American Studies
- Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity (CCSRE)
- Modern Thought and Literature

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- B.A, Oxford University , English Language and Literature (1990)
- M.A., Princeton University , English (1993)
- Ph.D., Princeton University , English (1996)

Teaching

COURSES

2026-27

- 19th-Century American Literature Through the Short Story: ENGLISH 368 (Spr)
- Hemingway, Hurston, Faulkner, and Fitzgerald: ENGLISH 146C (Spr)

2025-26

- Contemporary American Short Stories: AMSTUD 177B, ENGLISH 177B (Spr)
- Gilded Age American Literature: ENGLISH 308B (Win)

2024-25

- American Moderns: Hemingway, Hurston, Faulkner, & Fitzgerald: AMSTUD 46N, ENGLISH 46N (Spr)
- American Story Cycles: ENGLISH 316 (Spr)

2023-24

- Contemporary American Short Stories: AMSTUD 177B, ENGLISH 177B (Spr)
- Gilded Age American Literature: ENGLISH 308B (Spr)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Orals Chair

Jordan Virtue

Doctoral Dissertation Advisor (AC)

Lydia Burleson

Doctoral Dissertation Co-Advisor (AC)

Katie Livingston

Doctoral (Program)

Lydia Burleson

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Steinbeck in a Pandemic** *STEINBECK REVIEW*
  Jones, G.
  2021; 18 (1): 1-13
- **Failure and the American Writer: A Literary History**
  Jones, G.
  Cambridge University Press.2014
- **Lost in the City** *Carleton Watkins: The Stanford Albums*
  Jones, G., Richardson, J.
  Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Center for the Visual Arts.2014
- **Poor Poe: On the Literature of Revulsion** *AMERICAN LITERARY HISTORY*
  Jones, G.
  2011; 23 (1): 1-18
- **Excluded Middles: Social Inequality in American Literature** *The Blackwell Companion to American Literary Studies*
  Jones, G.
  edited by Levine, R. S., Levander, C.
  Oxford: Blackwell.2011
- **The Embarrassment of Naturalism: Feeling Structure in Frank Norris's McTeague** *Amerikastudien/American Studies*
  Jones, G.
  2010; 55 (1): 45-61
- **Introduction** *Margaret: A Tale of the Real and the Ideal, Blight and Bloom*
  Jones, G.
  University of Massachusetts Press.2009
- **American Hungers: The Problem of Poverty in U.S. Literature, 1840-1945**
  Jones, G.
  Princeton: Princeton University Press.2008
- **American Dialects** *The Blackwell Companion to the History of the English Language*
  Jones, G.
  edited by Momma, H., Matto, M.
  Oxford: Blackwell.2008
- **Before cultures: The ethnographic imagination in American literature, 1865-1920 (Book Review)** *MODERN PHILOLOGY*
  Book Review Authored by: Jones, G.
  2007; 105 (2): 402-405
- **Dialect** *American History through Literature, 1820-1870*
  Jones, G.

edited by Gabler-Hover, J., Sattlemeyer, R.
Detroit: Charles Scribner's Sons.2006: 336–340

- **Twain, Language, and the Southern Humorists** *A Companion to Mark Twain*
  Jones, G.
  edited by Budd, L. J., Messent, P.
  Oxford: Blackwell.2005: 125–140

- **Poverty and the limits of literary criticism** *AMERICAN LITERARY HISTORY*
  Jones, G.
  2003; 15 (4): 765-792

- **Poverty, Gender, and Literary Criticism: Reassessing Edith Wharton's The House of Mirth.** *Comparative American Studies*
  Jones, G.
  2003; 1 (2): 153-177

- **The multilingual anthology of American literature: A reader of original texts with English translations (Book Review)** *AMERICAN LITERARY HISTORY*
  Book Review Authored by: Jones, G.
  2001; 13 (4): 776-788

- **New World Babel: Languages and nations in Early America (Book Review)** *AMERICAN LITERARY HISTORY*
  Book Review Authored by: Jones, G.
  2001; 13 (4): 776-788

- **Those Gossamer Threads of Thought': The Supernatural Naturalism of Theodore Dreiser's Sister Carrie** *Essays in Arts and Sciences*
  Jones, G.
  1999; 28: 69-90

- **Strange Talk: The Politics of Dialect Literature in Gilded Age America**
  Jones, G.
  Berkeley: University of California Press.1999

- **The paradise of aesthetics: Sylvester Judd's 'Margaret' and antebellum American literature** *NEW ENGLAND QUARTERLY-A HISTORICAL REVIEW OF NEW ENGLAND LIFE AND LETTERS*
  Jones, G.
  1998; 71 (3): 449-472

- **"The sea ain' got no back door": The problems of Black consciousness in Paule Marshall's 'Brown Girl, Brownstones'** *AFRICAN AMERICAN REVIEW*
  Jones, G.
  1998; 32 (4): 597-606

- **Signifying songs: The double meaning of black dialect in the work of George Washington Cable** *AMERICAN LITERARY HISTORY*
  Jones, G.
  1997; 9 (2): 244-267

- **'Whose Line is It Anyway?' W.E.B. DuBois and the Language of the Color-line.** *Race Consciousness: African-American Studies for the New Century*
  Jones, G.
  edited by Fossett, J. J., Tucker, J. A.
  New York: NYU Press.1997: 19–34

- **DUSKY COMMENTS OF SILENCE, LANGUAGE, RACE, AND MELVILLE,HERMAN 'BENITO CERENO'** *STUDIES IN SHORT FICTION*
  Jones, G.
  1995; 32 (1): 39-50