Jennifer M. Townsend

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**EDUCATION**

Wayne State University, Detroit, MI. Completed doctoral qualifying exams with Distinction with a concentration in American cultural studies and an additional concentration in film studies. Dissertation topic: “Is Time Long, Or Is It Wide?: Popular Culture and The Space of Collective Memory”, an examination of public spaces--both the screen and the structure—and their role in the construction of public memory.

Wayne State University, Detroit MI: M.A. in English with a concentration in film studies. Master’s Thesis: “Is There Anything Good on TV Tonight?: Looking for Answers in *The Street*”, an exploration of the changing nature of television criticism and its often hostile relationship with the world of academic theory.

Wayne State University, Detroit MI: B.A. in English, Magna Cum Laude with a concentration in creative

writing.

## ACADEMIC HONORS

Thomas C. Rumble University Graduate Fellowship, Wayne State University.

Excellence in Teaching Award/Adjunct Faculty, WSU.

Excellence in Teaching Award/Grad. Assistant, WSU.

Graduate Teaching Assistant II Scholarship, WSU.

Graduate Teaching Assistant I Scholarship, WSU.

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|  | **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE** |

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***College for Creative Studies***

Documentary Film: (Re)presenting the Real

History of Film

Introduction to Film

Science Fiction Film and the Anxiety of Change

The Art of Argument

Technical Writing

Writing for Art and Design

***Wayne State University***

Basic College Writing

Introduction to College Writing

Intermediate Composition

Technical Communication

Project 350, a college prep summer course for at-risk students that emphasized individual mentoring and

guidance.

Chicano-Boriqua Studies in Composition, a special section of College Writing that emphasized the deep

cultural roots of Hispanic students as a way to foster and promote academic success.

Introduction to Film

Introduction to Fiction

**ACADEMIC FOCUS**

The study of film as one of the 20th and now the 21st century’s most important and influential forms of artistic expression is my major area of teaching and research. Film is a living art, constantly changing, evolving and adapting in response to the needs and demands of a global audience. My teaching and research explore a variety of critical and theoretical approaches in order to examine and critique the social, political, economic, historical, cultural, artistic, and technical aspects of film. Introduction to Film and Documentary Film emphasize meaning-making and authorship/ownership in an age of social media and digital technologies while Science Fiction Film explores the often-contentious relationship between human existence and technology, including SF film’s own history as the cinema of attractions and spectacle. Film History traces the means and mechanisms by which film has come to elicit powerful aesthetic and emotional experiences, provide insights into diverse cultures, and challenge established ways of thinking.

In teaching composition, the courses are designed to be responsive to the research and writing needs and

interests of a highly diverse student population as well as their future discourse communities both

professional and academic. The profound impact of social media and digital technologies on the art and

practice of written and spoken communication genres is a key conceptual area of both teaching and research.

Reflection, metacognition, and transference of skills are embedded into traditional writing and research

assignments such as a research paper or PowerPoint presentation as well as the construction of digital

genres such as a web page or video game.

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Modern Language Association

Society for Cinema and Media Studies