



Curriculum Vitae – Steven T. Varela

Professional Profile

Administrative and teaching expertise, specializing in teaching and learning with technology, hybrid, fully-online, and dual credit courses in higher education.

Expertise in distance learning pedagogy, instructional design, course development, and technology—both fully online and hybrid courses using learning management systems, wikis and websites.

Expertise in multimedia/multimodal teaching and learning.

Expertise in curriculum development, with experience in creating/writing textbooks, teaching manuals, student workbooks, editing, and textbook selection—all levels.

Expertise in web development, interface design, and usability.

Administrative experience in assessment, including standardized testing, grade level placement, learning outcomes, data analysis and interpretation, and test development.

Teaching expertise in Literature, Literary Theory, Rhetoric and Composition, Reading Education.

Administrative expertise in creating, conducting and supervising staff training and professional development workshops and materials.

Areas of research include *gamification*, social media, Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC's), gesture-based computing, instructional/lecture capture, mobile technology for teaching and learning.

Professional Preparation

2008	The University of Texas at El Paso	Educational Leadership and Foundations	M.Ed.
2006	The University of Texas at El Paso	Curriculum Specialist/Reading Emphasis	M.Ed.
2001	New Mexico State University	20 th Century Literature/Literary Theory	M.A.
1996	The University of Texas at El Paso	English and American Literature	B.A.

Appointments

2013-pres.	Associate Director, Academic Technologies, The University of Texas at El Paso
2011-2012	Senior Instructional Designer, Academic Technologies, UTEP
2001-2011	Senior Lecturer, Department of English, UTEP
2001-pres.	Adjunct Faculty, Department of English and Education, El Paso Community College



Grants/Contracts

- 2015 Varela, S. *Integrating Ethics: From Thought to Action* (Online Professional Development Modules Project in Ethics for Higher Education); 2015. Grant submitted to Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Grant Accepted and Disbursed: \$155,000. <http://ethics.utep.edu>
- 2014 Varela, S. Second Life Digital Collections. Proposal submitted to Smithsonian Latino Center. Contract Accepted and Disbursed: \$10,000.
- 2010 Brunk-Chavez, B., Varela, S., Shaffer, N., Storey-Gore, T, & Meeuwsen, H.J. Professional Development Modules Project in Reading Comprehension. Grant Proposal Submitted to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Grant Accepted and Disbursed: \$245,389.

Honors

Center of Excellence Award. Conferred by New Media Consortium, 2015.

Entering Student Program Outstanding Advocate (Team) Award. Conferred by The University of Texas at El Paso Office of Undergraduate Studies, 2015.

Featured Speaker. *3D Printing: The Inversion of Immersion*. Immersive Education Conference, Paris, France, 2015.

Keynote Speaker. *The 21st Century Student and Integrated Learning*. Power-Up Conference for El Paso Independent School District, 2015.

Keynote Speaker. *Immersive Learning through Gamification*. The International Sun Conference for Teaching and Learning, 2014

Nominated for UT Academy of Distinguished Educators, 2014.

Nominated for Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Star Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, 2011.

The University of Texas Regents Outstanding Teaching Award. Conferred by UT Regents, 2009.

Professor of the Year. Conferred by the College Assistance Migrant Program. The University of Texas at El Paso, 2005 and 2004.

Courses Taught

Education 1300: Mastering Academic Excellence Theme: "Student as Philosopher"

English 0310: College Reading and Communication Skills

English 0311: Basic English Composition

English 1301: Expository English Composition

English 1302: Research and Literary Analysis

English 1311: Expository English Composition



English 1312: Research and Critical Writing
English 1313: Writing About Literature
English 1611: Written and Oral Communication
English 2345: Introduction to Literature

English 111: Rhetoric and Composition
English 211: Writing in the Social Sciences

Women's Studies 3355: Women in Theatre

University 1301 Global Learning Community Theme: "Society Through Graphic Novels"
University 1301: Seminar in Critical Inquiry Theme(s) "Gamification," "Utopian and Dystopian Literature," Re-Defining Literature through the Graphic Novel."

Training and Certifications

Blackboard Collaborate Certification. The University of Texas at El Paso, 2014.

Digital Academies for Online and Hybrid Teaching, The University of Texas at El Paso, 2011.

Certificate of Completion, Blackboard Training, The University of Texas at El Paso, 2011.

Certificate of Completion/Professional Development, Blackboard Training, El Paso Community College, 2008.

Certificate of Completion/Professional Development, Course Re-Design and Online Technology Academy, University of Texas at El Paso, 2008

Certificate of Completion/Professional Development, WebCT Training, El Paso Community College, 2006.

Certificate of Completion/Professional Development, WebCT and Hybrid Classroom Instruction, University of Texas at El Paso, 2004.

Certificate of Completion for Trainer, Texas Education Agency, Austin, TX, 2000.

Certificate of Completion for Trainer, Teacher's Population Education Training Project, Washington. D.C., 2000.

Certificate of Completion/Professional Development, Project-Based Learning, Houston, TX, 2000.

Certificate of Completion for Curriculum Instruction, NovaNet Learning University, 1999.

Certificate of Achievement/Professional Development, Paso Del Norte Literacy Council, 1999.

Certificate of Completion/Professional Development, TexTESOL State Conference, 1999.



Certificate of Completion for Curriculum Instruction, ELLIS Educational Software, 1998.

Certificate of Completion for Trainer and Test Coordination, CASAS (Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System) Workforce Standardized Tests, 1998.

College Reading and Learning Association Master Tutor Certification, El Paso Community College, 1998.

Papers and Presentations

"Using Digital, Immersive Multimedia to Engage Faculty: A Project for Integrating Ethics Across Disciplines." Immersive Education Conference. Paris, France. 2015.

"The 21st Century Student: Technology, Engagement, and Active Learning." Dallas, TX, 2015.

"Using Social Media Effectively in Higher Education." Transforming the Teaching and Learning Environment: The PASSHE Virtual Conference. Harrisburg, PA, 2015.

"Creating (and Maintaining) and Ethical Online Environment." Teaching Professor Technology Conference. Denver, CO, 2014.

"Transforming the Humanities with Virtual Worlds." New Media Consortium Conference, Portland OR, 2014.

"Making Educational Connections with Social Media." New Media Consortium Conference. Portland, OR, 2014.

"Drones, 3D Printing and Project-Based Learning." New Media Consortium Conference. Portland, OR, 2014.

"Interfacing Text and Academic Technologies: Developing the Online Graduate Technical and Professional Writing Certificate Program at University [Redacted for review]." Computers and Writing Conference. Pullman, WA, 2014.

"We Are Not IT, We Are AT: A New Paradigm for Informational Technology in Higher Education." INNOVATE Conference. Columbus, OH, 2014.

"Immersive Learning through Gamification." Keynote Presentation. The International Sun Conference for Teaching and Learning. The University of Texas at El Paso, 2014.

"The Teaching and Learning Laboratory: Preparing Faculty for Digital Course Development." 9th Annual Sloan Consortium International Conference on Online Learning. Lake Buena Vista, FL, 2013

"Moderating the Online Environment." Innovations in Online Learning Conference. San Antonio, TX, 2012.

"Re-thinking Curriculum: Focusing on Transfer." Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association Conference. Scottsdale, AZ, 2011.

"The Women in Refrigerators Syndrome: Teaching Feminism through Comics." Southwest Popular Culture Conference/PCA. San Antonio, TX, 2011.



"Feminism and Comics: A Panel Discussion on Graphic Novels, Manga and Zombies." Women's History Month Conference. El Paso, TX, 2011.

"Shifting Paradigms: Technology Enriched Curriculum and the Millennial Classroom." Border Learning Conference, Las Cruces, NM, 2011.

"Using Multimedia to Engage Faculty in Development Opportunities: A Project for Incorporating Reading Comprehension Across Disciplines." Ed Media 2010: World Conference on Multimedia, Hypermedia and Telecommunications. Toronto, Canada, 2010.

"Course Redesign as Remix: One Program's Adventures with Campus Relationships and Professional Development. Conference on College Composition and Communication. Louisville, KY, 2010.

"The Voice of Popular Culture in Academics." College English Association. San Antonio, TX, 2010.

"Comics, The Crue, and Composition: Transforming the English Composition Classroom." Southwest Popular Culture Conference. Albuquerque, NM, 2010.

"Writing Across the Disciplines." The Sun Conference. University of Texas at El Paso, 2010.

"Reading Rhetorically, Writing Well." A Better Beginning Conference. University of Texas at El Paso, 2009.

"(Re) Designing Composition: Teaching with Technology for the Millennial Generation." College English Association. Pittsburgh, PA, 2009.

"Re-Canonization: Transforming the English Curriculum with the Graphic Novel." Institute for Comic Studies. Arlington, TX. Nov. 2008.

"The In-Between Classroom: The Potential of Hybrid Classrooms at the University." Interactive Technologies Conference (sponsored by Society for Applied Learning Technology). Orlando, FL, 2008.

"Classroom Management: Rules or Freedom?" A Better Beginning Conference (sponsored by the College of Education). The University of Texas at El Paso, 2007.

"Challenging the "-Isms" 12th Annual Conference Association of Working/Poverty-Class Academics. The University of Texas at El Paso, 2007

"Teaching for Social Justice Through Collaboration." College English Association: Empathy and Ethics Conference 2007. New Orleans, LA, March 2007.

"Blended Learning and the College Classroom." Border Learning Conference. El Paso, TX. February 2007.

"Interdisciplinary Classrooms and Critical Pedagogy." A Better Beginning Conference (sponsored by the College of Education). The University of Texas at El Paso, 2006.



"Dispelling the Myths of Online Learning: Nothing Lost, Efficiency Gained." Interactive Technologies Conference (sponsored by Society for Applied Learning Technology). Washington, D.C, 2005

"Look Who's Talking? Assessing Group Work Via WebCT." Sun Conference, University of Texas at El Paso, 2005.

"Access or Excellence: The University of Texas at El Paso." Conference on College Composition and Communication (Opening the Golden Gates: Access, Affirmative Action, and Student Success). San Francisco, California, 2005.

"A Critical Pedagogy: Piecing Together Our Student's Fragmented Education"; New Mexico Association of Community Colleges: Western States Consortium for Faculty Development Conference; Las Cruces, NM, Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 2004.

"Managing Composition Programs in Times of Financial Stress." Panel Presentation. Conference on College Composition and Communication (Making Composition Matter: Students, Citizens, Institutions and Advocacy). San Antonio, TX, 2004.

"The Liberatory Classroom: Is Student Responsibility and Critical Thinking Better Learned Through Rules or Freedom?" The Sun Conference. University of Texas at El Paso. March 2003.

"Dispelling the Myth of Woman as the Second Sex: A Discussion on Gender (In) Equality." Women's Spirituality Conference. Centro Mujeres de la Esperanza. February 2005, 2003.

"Teach a Parent, Reach a Child: The Value of English as a Second Language in the Home." Leadership Parenting in the 21st Century Conference. Ysleta Community Learning Center. El Paso, TX. June 3. 2000.

"James Joyce and Hanif Kureishi: A Study of Contemporaneity, Personal Identity, and Autonomy." Graduate Arts and Research Symposium. New Mexico State University. Las Cruces, NM. February 2000.

"The New Language of Shakespeare: Using Literature in an Adult Basic Education Curriculum." Paso Del Norte Literacy Conference. El Paso, TX. October 1999.

Workshops

"Should You Flip Your Class?" Center for Excellence in Teaching in Learning. The University of Texas at El Paso, 2015.

"Technology and the 21st Century Classroom." Center for History Teaching and Learning. The University of Texas at El Paso, 2015.

"Where We Are; Where We Are Going in Online Teaching and Learning." Pre-Conference Workshop for The International Sun Conference for Teaching and Learning. The University of Texas at El Paso, 2014.

"Game-Based Interactions." Pre-Conference Workshop for Innovations in Online Learning Conference. University of San Antonio, 2012.



"Multi-Modal, Multi-Discourse Teaching and Learning." Pre-Conference Workshop for University of Texas at El Paso Sun Conference. 2011.

"Digital Storytelling." Faculty Development for Entering Student Program. University of Texas at El Paso, 2011.

"Reading Critically Across the Disciplines." Faculty Development El Paso Community College, 2011.

"The Future of Your Classroom: Wiki's and Photostories." Faculty Development El Paso Community College, 2009.

"Strategies to Improve Students' Reading Comprehension in Any Discipline" CETal Workshop. University of Texas at El Paso, 2011, 2010 and 2009.

"Gender Ideologies and the Classroom." Faculty Development. El Paso Community College: 2006.

"Teaching for Social Justice." Faculty Development. El Paso Community College: 2004, 2003.

"Classroom Leadership: What is Your Teaching Philosophy?" Academy for Instructional Excellence. El Paso Community College: 2004.

Publications/Book Reviews

Online Orientation Modules. Institutional use at The University of Texas at El Paso, 2014.

Varela, S. and Delgado, O. "Crossing Borders with a *Maus* and a Dragon: The UTEP/John Jay Collage Global Learning Community." Chapter in Global Learning Community Anthology, Penguin Publishing, 2014.

Varela, S. and Hill, J. "Digital Storytelling: From the Traditional to the Technological." Virtual Education Journal, June 2013.

A Guide to First-Year Composition. 14th, 13th, 12th, 9th, 8th editions. 2011, 2010, 2009, 2004, 2001.

Book Review: The Brief Penguin Handbook, 3rd edition, for Pearson/Allyn- Bacon, 2008.

Book Review: Compose, Design, Advocate for Pearson/Allyn-Bacon. 2007.

Book Review: The Magazine Reader for Bedford St. Martin's, 2006.

Book Review: The Brief Penguin Handbook, 2nd edition, for Pearson/Allyn- Bacon, 2006

Professional Memberships

The Sloan Consortium (Sloan-C)

New Media Consortium (NMC)

College English Association



National Council of Teachers Association

Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association

Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association

Sigma Tau Delta—The International English Honor Society