

# Lara Colleen Alvarenga

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## Objective

Seeking a faculty position with a focus in English literature, language arts and reading.

## Experience

**Mansfield Timberview High School, Arlington, TX** **08/2016 – Present**

AP English Literature and Composition and English II teacher. Regularly assesses data in order to design purposeful lessons geared towards the needs of students. Differentiates classroom instruction to ensure that students are met where they are, and then provides appropriate rigor necessary to build students to the level that they need to be. Developed individual course syllabi, organized theme-related units of study, prepared and delivered assignments, provided regular and timely feedback to students. Maintains student attendance and course grade records.

**Cedar Valley College, Dallas, TX** **08/2015 - Present**  
**Adjunct Professor**

Offers an intensive study of writing processes, from invention and researching to drafting, revising, and editing on both an individual and collaborative level. Emphasizes effective rhetorical choices, including audience, purpose, arrangement, and style. Provides the necessary strategies and techniques for developing research-based expository and persuasive texts, including primary and secondary research methods; critical reading of verbal, visual, and multimedia texts; systematic evaluation, synthesis, and documentation of information sources; and critical thinking about evidence and conclusions. Well versed in online instruction and provides both online and hybrid course in composition. Engages students in content through various media methods, including discussion boards, blogs, applicable video and audio.

**David W. Carter High School, Dallas, TX** **08/2013 – 08/2016**  
**Teacher/Department Chair**

Lead AP English Language and Composition as well as AP English Literature and Composition teacher. Redesigned Carter's AP English program to be aligned with the College Board's standards, resulting in our first qualified scores on the AP Exam in a span of seven years. Successfully piloted Carter's first Dual Credit Composition course, which offers our students the ability to earn credit for two semesters of college level English. Regularly assesses data in order to design purposeful lessons geared towards the needs of students. Differentiates classroom instruction to ensure that students are met where they are, and then provides appropriate rigor necessary to build students to the level that they need to be. Developed individual course syllabi, organized theme-related units of study, prepared and delivered assignments, provided regular and timely feedback to students. Maintains student attendance and course grade records. Supported students in the revival of a student body newspaper, *The Cowboy Chronicle*. Serves as the Junior Class sponsor. Organizes educational enrichment activities, fundraisers, and student service opportunities. Serves as the Department Chair for English Language Arts and Reading. Organizes departmental meetings, professional development opportunities, collaborative work sessions, and supports a team of ten teachers.

**California Baptist University, Riverside, CA** **09/2012 – 08/2013**  
**Adjunct Professor**

Offered a literature-based approach to narrative writing, descriptive writing and literary analysis. Specialized in introductory studies in writing styles and conventions as well as research techniques and materials in the major subject areas of study. Utilized various media and technological formats to enhance the student-learning environment. Held regular office hours to support student learning outside of class meetings. Developed individual course syllabi, organized theme-related units of study, prepared and delivered assignments, provided regular and timely feedback to students. Maintained student attendance and course grade records. Served as lead advisor to student run chapter of the International English Honors Society. Organized educational enrichment activities, fundraisers, and student service opportunities.

**Law Office of Alvarenga & Clark, San Bernardino, CA**

**12/2004 – 12/2010**

**Office Manager**

Managed all financial and organizational aspects of a small law firm including: payroll, accounts payable and receivable, human resources, benefits administration, hiring, scheduling, client relations, file management and maintenance. Supervised clerical staff and implemented digital storage system.

## Education

**California Baptist University, Riverside, CA**

**09/2011 - 08/2013**

English Literature

**Master of Arts**

**California State University – Fullerton, Fullerton, CA**

**08/2003 - 08/2004**

English

**Bachelor of Arts**

**Sonoma State University – Rohnert Park, CA**

**08/2000 - 05/2003**

English and Undergraduate Studies

## Skills

- Excellent written and oral communication.
- Dedicated to goal setting, implementation and time management.
- Active listener and effective in group instruction as well as individual counseling.
- Commitment to research, professional development, student organizations and community outreach.
- Successfully integrates technology in the classroom.
- Adaptable in changing situations and circumstances.

## Presentations

**“The Various Faces of Lady Macbeth: Negotiations through Culture and Gender in Filmic Characterization”**

\*Shakespeare Conference – La Verne Shakespeare Center

April, 2013

\*University of La Verne, La Verne, CA

**“Things Fall Apart: A Narratological Look at the Importance of the Preservation of Culture”** \*(Dis) Junctions

2012 – Narratives Mediated

April, 2012

\*University of California, Riverside, CA

## Thesis

2012 – 2013

“A Sense of Place: The Connection between Recollection, the Natural Environment and the Spiritual World,” is parallel textual analysis of William Wordsworth’s Ode: Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood (1806) and Terrence Malick’s film *The Tree of Life* (2011). It amplifies the significance of an intimate relationship between humanity and the natural environment and reinforces the assertion that there is an integrated relationship between a human being and the natural environment, which provides the basis for maintaining or restoring the balance of all aspects of life through the recognition of the natural environment as a place of refuge and a source of replenishment. An Eco critical evaluation of the significance of the human-and-nature connection as seen through the reflections of Wordsworth’s speaker and Malick’s narrator facilitates a narratological criticism concerning the levels of narration within the given text, while examining how these levels contribute to the relationships described above in order to exhibit the subsequent discoveries of a connection between the natural environment and the spiritual world.

## **Affiliations/Memberships**

- International English Honors Society, Sigma Tau Delta Spring 2013 – Current

## **Interests**

- British literature, American literature, multicultural literature, non-Western literature, composition, rhetoric, literary criticism and media studies.
- Development of student organizations, service opportunities and community outreach programs.