Donald Wright

# Current Position

Associate Professor of French and Arabic

Director of Middle Eastern Studies

Chair, Department of Global Languages and Cultures

Hood College

401 Rosemont Ave, Frederick, MD 21701

# Specialization

Arabic language, culture and history, conflict resolution in the Middle East, US foreign policy with the Middle East. 19th and 20th century France, post-colonial studies, Proustian studies.

# Diplomas

2006: Arabic language and civilization proficiency diploma, University Mohammed Khamese, Rabat Morocco, distinction: très bien (high honors).

May 2003: PhD in French Literature, Université Paris IV – Sorbonne on the intertextuality between Proust and medical discourse (*Souffrance et torture : une esthétique de la cruauté et de la science dans l’œuvre de Proust*), under the direction of Antoine Compagnon, distinction: très honorable félicitations du jury (high honors).

June 1999: D.E.A (Diplôme d’études approfondies) in Art History, Université Paris IV, Sorbonne on religious painting in France during the Third Republic (*Science et religion dans la peinture française moderne*), under the direction of Bruno Foucart, distinction: très bien.

June 1998: D.E.A (Diplôme d’études approfondies) in French Literature, Université Paris IV, Sorbonne, under the direction of Antoine Compagnon, distinction: très bien.

October 1997: A.B.D in French language and literature, University of Pittsburgh.

May 1994: Masters in French language and literature, University of Pittsburgh.

June 1991: B.A. in French and statistics, The Pennsylvania State University.

# Honors and Distinctions

2016: McCarell Grant to document testimony of human rights violations in Iraq for use in criminal investigations and eventual trials at the International Court of Human Rights in the The Hague.

2015: Summer Research Institute Grant awarded for research with two students (Taylor Tolbard and Matthew Hassaine) for research on collective identity and the Armenian genocide. *Bibliothèque nationale de France, Institut du monde arabe*, Paris, France.

2014: Scholar in residence for the National Endowment for the Humanities lecture series *Bridging Cultures: Muslim Journeys. Connected Histories*. Frederick Public Library, Maryland.

2014: Summer Research Institute Grant awarded for research with a student (Gary Higginbothem) on the function of public space in Morocco. Rabat/Fez, Morocco.

2013-2014: Scholar in residence for the National Endowment for the Humanities lecture series *Bridging Cultures: Muslim Journeys. Literary Relfections*. Frederick Public Library, Maryland.

2012: Summer Research Institute Grant awarded for research with a student (Jackson Monzon) on the history of photography in Morocco. *Maison de la photographie*, Marrakesh, Morocco.

2011: McCardell Grant for research on the distinction between public and private space in Morocco.

September 2011: Asked by President to give speech on research to members of the Board of Associates of Hood College.

May 2011: Chosen by student body to give speech on diversity at the ANAHANA –I Multicultural Banquet.

2009: Awarded the “Essential Piece” Prize by the Office of Multicultural Affairs at Hood College for the promotion of multicultural diversity on campus.

June 2004: Publication scholarship awarded by the Sorbonne.

September 1998-1999: Chateaubriand Fellowship, scholarship awarded by the French government for research.

# Publications

**Books:**

Work in progress: *Public and Private Space in the Muslim Cityscape*.

2012: *L’Antiquité moderne*. Paris, L’Harmattan. In the collection « *Historiques »* under the direction of Bruno Péquignot, Sorbonne Nouvelle, and Denis Rolland, l’Institut d’études politiques de Paris.

2007: *Du discours médical dans* À la recherche du temps perdu, Paris, Honoré Champion. Preface by Antoine Compagnon, Collège de France.

**Articles and Interviews:**

Under review: “Lost in the Medieval Labyrinth: Colonial Urbanism in Morocco’s Imperial Cities.” *Journal of Mediterranean Studies*.

2015: “Gulf Nation Summit at Camp David,” *Frederick News Post.* May 12, 2015.

2013: “Five Questions on Syria with Donald Wright,” *Frederick News Post.*

September 16, 2013

2011: *What’s Happening in Libya*, Frederick New Post. October 2011

2011: *Proust et le langage de l’âme, étude du vocabulaire scientifique chez Proust*. In the collection *Les Paradigmes de l’âme.* Université de Paris IV – Sorbonne. Presses universitaires de la Sorbonne Nouvelle.

2000: *From Jewelry to Jets*, exhibition catalogue, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA. Assistant editor, researcher.

# Recordings

2010: *De la tanagra à l’hystérie: dégénérescence et décadence du modèle antique*. Université de Paris IV – Sorbonne. [www.crp19.org](https://email.hood.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=7e0a9b63eecf496fb881418edf813d23&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.crp19.org)

2017: *Documenting Humans Rights Violations in Iraq*. Brigham Young University – Kennedy Center for International Studies. <https://youtu.be/tz-sx2snzhM>

# NEH Scholar in Residence Lecture Series “Muslim Journeys” – 2014

**Series 1**

January 23rd – “*The Arabian Nights* – Spells, Magic and Identity during the Abbasid Caliphate”

February 20th – “The Rise of Sufism”

March 20th – “Political Identity in Modern Turkey”

April 17th – “The Onion Effect – Peeling Away the Many Layers of Moroccan Society”

May 15th – “Muslim Immigrants in the European Union”

**Series 2**

August 25th – “The Middle East as Part of Asia”

September 15th – “The House of Wisdom: Muslim Science during the Middle Ages”

October 6th – “Andalusia and the Iberian Muslim Heritage”

October 27th – “Arab Attempts at Writing History: the New Historical Narrative”

November 17th – “The Undocumented History of a People Living in a War Zone: The Iraqi Struggle for Identity”

# Conferences and Guest Lectures

2017: *Documenting Human Rights Violations in Iraq*. Brigham Young University – Kennedy Center for International Affairs. Keynote graduation address. April 26, 2017.

2015: “Lost in the Medieval Labyrinth: Colonial Urbanism in Morocco’s Imperial Cities.” *Annual Conference Mediterranean Studies Association*. Athens, Greece. May 20-24, 2015.

2015: *The Spatiality of Power*. Haigazian University. Beirut Lebanon. March, 2015.

2015: *The Legality of Profiling at the end of the Obama Era.* Guest lecture. Haigazian University. March 2015.

2013: *Disappearing Diversity in the Middle East*. Introductory address at the international conference: *Religion and Politics in the Middle East.*

2013: *Religion and Politics in the Middle East.* Organizer of international conference at Hood College in coordination with Haigazian University, Beirut, Lebanon.

2011: *How to Build a Museum: Museumography and the Classical World During the Third Republic in France*. Nineteenth-Century French Studies Association. University of Pennsylvania.

2010: *De la tanagra à l’hystérie: dégénérescence et décadence du modèle antique*. Guest Lecture. Université de Paris IV – Sorbonne.

2010: *Les images de la décadence et l’autre colonialisé: la création d’une identité culturelle*. L’Alliance française. New Delhi.

2010: *Collecting at the Turn of the 20th Century*. Guest lecture for a graduate seminar. The Pennsylvania State University.

2010: *Marble Statues and Degenerate Bodies: Decadence and the Neo-classical ruins of North Africa*. Guest lecture. The Pennsylvania State University.

2009: *Anachronistic Archeology in 19th-Century France: Tanagra Statuettes – Examples of Greek Artistry or Parisian Fashion?* Nineteenth Century French Studies Association. Brigham Young University.

2007: *The Lost Civilization of Josephine Baker in Tunisia*. Lafayette College.

2003: *Les sous-sols de la ville: le mystère de la chambre matelassée*. Seminar: Paris-London 1830-1870. University of Geneva, Switzerland.

2000: *A Brief History of Psychology and the Creation of an Artistic Identity in France at the Beginning of the 20th Century.* Guest lecture in Art History, Hood College.

1997: *De Profundis: Images of Mourning and Death in the Work of Proust.* Northeastern Foreign Language Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio.

1995: *Suffering, Pleasure and Creation: an Essential Triptych in the Work of Proust.* Northeastern Foreign Language Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio.

1994: *Genet and the Language of Politics*. Northeastern Foreign Language Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio.

1993: *Condillac: Revolutionary Scientist or Prisoner of Language?* Pennsylvania Foreign Language Conference, Pittsburgh, PA.

# Teaching Experience

2013-present: Associate Professor, Hood College. Professor of Arabic, French and Honors program courses. Director of Middle Eastern Studies. Director of ESL programs.

2009-2013: Assistant Professor, Hood College, Elementary and Intermediate Arabic,

Honors Seminar – Perspectives on Identity in North Africa – Cultures of the Middle East

2008-2009: Visiting Assistant Professor, Hood College, Elementary and Intermediate Arabic, Advanced Seminars in French – “Science and Fiction” and “Creating Modernity”

2007-2008: Adjunct Faculty, Hood College. Elementary and Intermediate French, Elementary Arabic.

2006-2007: Université Strasbourg III, Marc Bloch. ATER. English language, literature and civilization, comparative literature and French literature of the Decadent period.

2003-2004: Université Strasbourg III, Marc Bloch. ATER. English language, literature and civilization, comparative literature and French literature of the Decadent period.

1997-1998: Instructor, Université Paris X, Nanterre. English language, literature and civilization.

1992-1997: Teaching Assistant, University of Pittsburgh. French language, translation, French in the arts and sciences.

# Service

2017-present: Director of ESL programs, Hood College.

2015-present: Chair, Department of Global Languages and Cultures, Hood College.

2013-present: Member of the Honors Program Advisory Committee, Hood College.

2012-present: Member of the Global Studies Advisory Committee, Hood College.

2011-2013: Member of the Faculty Development Committee.

2011-present: Member of the African Studies Advisory Committee.

2009-present: Chair of the Davis Peace Project Committee at Hood College.

2009-present: Director of Middle Eastern Studies, Hood College.

# 2010-2013: Member of the Masters in Humanities Advisory Committee.

2010-2012: Member of the Humanities Council

2010-present: “Harmony at Hood” Session Leader at first-year student orientation.

# 2010-present: Coordinator of Exchange Program with the American University in Cairo.

# 2009-present: Library Coordinator for the Foreign Languages and Literatures Department.

# 2009-2010: Designed Middle Eastern Studies Major and Minor.

**Fieldtrips**

2017: Fieldtrip to the Museum of Civil War Medicine with foreign students.

2016: Fieldtrip to Sackler Gallery to visit Koran exhibit on loan from Istanbul.

2015: Fieldtrip to AMAR Foundation in Washington DC with students in MEST 300 for a talk with former head of the Pentagon.

2014: Fieldtrip to Hillwood Museum and Gardens with Honors 470 class on revolutions for private tour with curator Wilfried Ziesler.

2014: Fieldtrip to the Sackler Gallery for exhibition *Archeological Discoveries in Yemen*.

2012: Fieldtrip to the National Geographic Society. Private talk with Fernando Baptista, Head of Graphic Design. Visit of the exhibition: *1001 Arab Inventions.*

2010: Fieldtrip to the Washington Mosque with Honors students and to the exhibition *Cyprus: A Crossroads of Civilizations* at the Museum of Natural History.

# 2009: Fieldtrip to the Washington Mosque with Honors students and to the exhibition *Falnama – The Book of Omens* at the Sackler Gallery.

# 2009: Fieldtrip to the Sackler Gallery in Washington with Arabic students for a guided tour of Islamic Art.

**Invited Guest Speakers**

2017: Youssouf Elalamy. *Politics and Art in the Middle East.* Professor, Ibn Tofail University.

2016: Ibrahim Al-Assil. *Syrian Civil Society*. Middle Eastern Institute Fellow.

2016: Lucy Usoyan, *Yazidi Refugees in Syria.* Head of the Yazidi Relief Fund.

2014: Jamil Khader, *Identity in a Forgotten Homeland.* Dean of Research, Bethlehem University.

2012: Youssef ElAlamy: *Through Arab Eyes: Towards an Aesthetic Reading of the Arab Spring.*  Awarding-winning Moroccan author.

2012: Willa Silverman: Professor of French and Jewish Studies, Penn State University. The history of book collecting in early 20th-century France. *The New Bibliopolis.*

2011: Elliott Colla: Director of Arab and Islamic Studies, Georgetown University.

2011: Razan Ghalayini: Assistant director of HBO documentary *Koran By Heart.*

2010: Valérie Orlando: Professor of French and Francophone literature, University of Maryland. “*Screening Morocco: Depictions in Film of a Changing Society*.”

**Directed Student Research**

2016: Matthew Hassaine, Departmental Honors Thesis. *Towards a Nationalist Religion: a History of Christianity in the Middle East.*

2016: Kelly Brown, Departmental Honors Thesis. *Political Organizations and Terrorist Movements: Hezbollah and Hamas.*

2015: Emily Warren, Departmental Honors Thesis. *What’s Rome got to do with it?*

*An Examination of Western Perspectives on the Value of Middle Eastern Antiquities.*

2014: Kara O’Leary, Departmental Honors Thesis. *Views and Challenges of Feminism in the Post-Colonial Maghreb*.

2014: Caitlin Battey, Departmental Honors Thesis. *East Meets West: The Battle of Modernity and Jihad.*

2013: Zineb Bahji. *Space and Semiotics in Modern Art Museums: The Reign of White.* Mentor for Doctoral Dissertation of a Fulbright Student in coordination with Dr. Youssouf ElAlamy.

2013: Jackson Monzon and Nada Elbasha. Davis Peace Project. *Words for Peace: Teaching Creative Writing inside the Dheisheh Refugee Camp, Bethlehem, Palestine.*

2013: Kristin Hillers. Masters in Humanities Capstone. *Political Utopia in the Arab World.*

2013: Bethany Johnson. Departmental Honors Thesis. *Child Marriage in Yemen, a Sociological Study.*

2012: Makeda Jones. Departmental Honors Thesis. *A Revolution in the Making: Syria Past and Future*.

2010: Kristin Hillers. Departmental Honors Thesis. *Writing the Self in North Africa – Women Writers and Feminism in Egypt, Algeria and Morocco*.

2010: Maria Smith. Departmental Honors Thesis. *The Language of Immigrants in France, the works of Faïza Guène and Soraya Nini*.

2010: Alice Butler. Davis Peace Project – *Islamaphobia in Paris and London*.

2010: Makeda Jones. Second-Century Grant – *Islamaphobia in America*.

2009: Michelle Marquardt, Justin Abodalo, Carlin Rabie and Samantha Murphy. Davis Peace Project – Volunteering at the Ansar Center in Bethlehem, Israel.

# Professional Affiliations

2015-present: Proposal reviewer for the publishing house Rowman and Littlefield

2015-present: Peer reviewer for academic journal *The Global South*

2014-present: Member of the Mediterranean Studies Association.

2009-present: Member of the Middle Eastern Studies Association.

2009-present: Member of the *Amis de l’Institut du monde Arabe*, Paris.

2009-present: Member of the Advisory Committee of the International Association for Fin-de-siècle Studies.