

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Approved by the Regents
May 20, 2010

Gregg D. Crane, associate professor of English language and literature, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of English language and literature, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1995	University of California, Berkeley
J.D.	1986	Hastings College of Law, University of California, San Francisco
M.A.	1981	University of California, Los Angeles
B.A.	1978	The College of William and Mary

Professional Record:

2004 – present	Associate Professor, Department of English Language and Literature, University of Michigan
2002 – 2003	Associate Professor, Department of English, Miami University of Ohio
2001 – 2002	Associate Professor, Department of English, University of Washington
1995 – 2001	Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Washington

Summary of Evaluations:

Teaching — Professor Crane's teaching has ranged from large undergraduate lecture courses to small, intensive seminars for graduate students. Judging from his evaluations, he has performed admirably in each setting. While serving as director of graduate studies (2005-2008), he earned consistently high praise from students for the innovative design of a methods course for students beginning the doctoral program. He has also taught outside the boundaries of the classroom by collaborating with on an undergraduate course on the literature of the Rocky Mountains held on site during the summer. According to student response, he is a tough but fair-minded instructor whose legal background brings a welcome emphasis on persuasive reasoning and problem-solving to class discussion.

Research — Since his promotion to the associate rank, Professor Crane has published a book, *The Cambridge Introduction to the Nineteenth-Century American Novel*, four articles, a review essay, and a review. His book is a comprehensive treatment of American fiction from the early Colonial period to the emergence of realism at the end of the nineteenth century. In its methodology and interpretive interests, it advances and builds upon several themes in his widely acclaimed book on race and the law. In particular his interest in bridging the gap between transcendentalism and pragmatism, often assumed to be incompatible, identifies the originality and value of his research. The four articles and review essay are all published in highly visible, well-recognized collections or periodicals, a mark of the respect accorded to his scholarship.

Recent and Significant Publications:

"The uses of pragmatism," G. Hutner (co-ed.), *American Literary History*, forthcoming 2010.
"Human law and higher law," in *The Cambridge Companion to Frederick Douglass*, M. Lee (ed.), Cambridge University Press, forthcoming 2010.

The Cambridge Introduction to the 19th Century American Novel, Cambridge University Press, 2007.

Race, Citizenship, and Law in American Literature, Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Service — Professor Crane recently finished a three-year term as director of Graduate Studies, a challenging assignment in as large a department as English. He took the lead in revising the structure of doctoral student fellowships and overseeing cutbacks in staff. He has also been elected to the Executive Committee and chaired a tenure case. Nationally, he has served on a review panel for the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Newberry Library.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“Crane is clearly an active and engaged scholar in the general field of American literature... He adds, too, a topical angle to his work that follows from a prior career in the law. ... In all of his areas of emphasis, the descriptions and arguments he puts forward display a deep immersion in current thinking, and the visibility of his publishing venues proves his recognized place in those discussions.”

Reviewer (B)

“Crane’s beautifully written and comprehensive account has quickly emerged as the book on the nineteenth-century American novel. ...he has done a superb job of synthesizing numerous approaches to the field and a superb job of actually providing readings of a wide range of novels.”

Reviewer (C)

“Then and now, I consider this book [*Race, Citizenship, and Law in American Literature*] an extraordinary achievement. It alone is worth the entire *oeuvres* of many tenured full professors at front-rank institutions... ‘Between Doubt and Belief,’ Crane’s third book-in-progress, clearly aspires to be another *magnum opus* of a historical span and seriousness of purpose fully equal to if not still more ambitious than *Race, Citizenship, and Law*.”

Reviewer (D)

“I have no hesitation in stating my opinion that the department should promote him to Full Professor... ...his scholarship is a model of depth, breadth, and intellectual integrity. The University of Michigan is lucky to have Professor Crane on its faculty.”

Reviewer (E)

“Whereas some departments do not have experts in law and literature, that interdisciplinary combination is an increasingly important one. Indeed, because of the work of James Boyd White, the University of Michigan has been a leader in this field. To my mind it is extremely important to continue that tradition. Professor Crane allows the University of Michigan to do so.”

Reviewer (F)

“Professor Crane’s most recent book-length study, *The Cambridge Introduction to the Nineteenth-Century American Novel*, demonstrates his impressive command of the field of

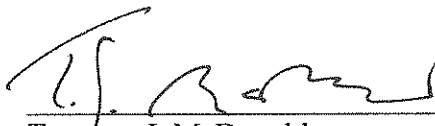
nineteenth-century American literature. The strengths of this work include its clarity as well as the breadth of his coverage. Professor Crane offers a nuanced reading of the major genres, sub-genres, and forms that characterize nineteenth-century U.S. literature.”

Reviewer (G)

“In all of his scholarly writing since his first book...and through to his current book project,...what is abundantly evident is his deep knowledge of all he addresses, the fruit, the inheritance of one who has internalized the method of case law. ...were I to compile a list of the most significant books and articles in the fields of American literature/literary history/cultural history and in ‘pragmatist aesthetics,’ all of Crane’s titles would be included.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Crane is a highly respected colleague and teacher whose research makes a valuable contribution to our understanding of American fiction in the 19th Century. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Gregg D. Crane be promoted to the rank of professor of English language and literature, with tenure, in the College of Literature, Sciences, and the Arts.



Terrence J. McDonald
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor,
Professor of History and Dean
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

May 2010