

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

Theresa L. Tinkle, 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.	1989	University of California, Los Angeles
M.A.	1984	Arizona State University
B.A.	1981	Oregon College of Education

Professional Record:

1998 – present	Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, University of Michigan
1995 – present	Associate Professor, Department of English Language and Literature, University of Michigan
1989 – 1995	Assistant Professor, Department of English Language and Literature, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Tinkle receives consistently high undergraduate student evaluations whether she is teaching five or 145 students, despite the fact that her courses are ones which students have not expressed a strong interest in taking. Her success in this regard can be attributed to her careful attention to actively engaging students with medieval texts by creating classroom activities which require students to create the contexts for their own learning and by increasingly using digital resources. Professor Tinkle earns equally high evaluations for her graduate level courses, and she has served on and co-chaired multiple dissertation committees.

Research – Professor Tinkle’s steadily productive scholarly trajectory is characterized by an increasing diversity of interests and undeniable philological, linguistic, and hermeneutic expertise. She is one of few faculty in the English Department who possess the requisite expertise to engage in manuscript cultural studies, and she is the only tenure-line faculty member in the department to work in the increasingly crucial subfield of material textual studies.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Gender and Power in Medieval Exegesis, Palgrave Macmillan, 2010.
“The Wife of Bath’s marginal authority,” *Studies in the Age of Chaucer*, 32, 2010, pp. 67-101.
“Contested authority: Jerome and the Wife of Bath,” *Chaucer Review*, 44(3), 2010, pp. 268-923.
“Jews in the Fleury Playbook,” *Comparative Drama*, 38, 2004, pp. 1-38.

Service – Professor Tinkle is particularly valued for her effectiveness and willingness to step into difficult situations. These abilities have led to her success in a number of administrative positions within and beyond the Department of English. She has served as director of the English Department’s First and Second Year Studies, chair of the Graduate Admissions Committee, elected member of the Executive Committee, and served on the Undergraduate,

Salary, and Lecturer Review committees. She was director and interim director of the Sweetland Center for Writing and has served on multiple Rackham selection committees, the CRLT Faculty Advisory Board, the SACUA Nominating Committee and Two Thurnau Committees, the LSA Nominating Committee, Curriculum Committee, and the search committee for the director of the Humanities Institute.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“...Tinkle is seriously learned; she shows her competence across very wide chronologies... Her scholarship is, to my eye, pleasingly driven by an ethical commitment. ...I admire the quality of Tinkle’s work and learning; I admire her distinctive, brave, scholarly projection.”

Reviewer (B)

“Professor Tinkle’s research in the field of medieval literature is characterized by its rare combination of manuscript studies and feminist and gender analysis and by its detailed consideration of both Latin and vernacular English materials. Professor Tinkle’s research is both theoretically sophisticated *and* highly scholarly.”

Reviewer (C)

“Professor Tinkle brings together two areas of medieval studies that are not typically paired, that is, manuscript studies and feminist interpretation. ...Prof. Tinkle’s work makes an important intervention in that it brings feminist analysis to textual scholarship in a way that is challenging to both fields, and also raises important issues about modern practices of literary and historical critical practice. ...her work always maintains a steadfast eye on the implications her analysis of medieval cultural constructions might speak to modern feminist debates about gender.”

Reviewer (D)

“*Gender and Power [in Medieval Exegesis]* is written in an engaging style... and makes surprisingly apt comparisons: she may be the first to compare Augustine and Adrienne Rich. *Gender and Power* will be widely read not only among literary medievalists but by scholars of such subjects as religion, the history of the book, and medieval anti-Semitism.”

Reviewer (E)

“Not only is she an active, influential, Chaucerian scholar, but her presence in a Department of English brings more: theorizing gender across medieval and early modern cultures, developing hermeneutics in pre-modern texts, new perspectives on understanding texts through their material support, sophisticated manuscript study and more.”

Reviewer (F)

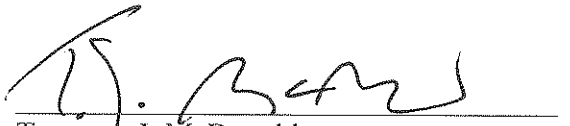
“...[Professor Tinkle] plays an important role as one of a small group of feminist interpreters of medieval commentary and hermeneutics... She was, and continues to be, an authoritative figure in this area. She has gained the respect of her colleagues across the profession because the theoretical concerns that she articulates are always informed by excellent philological and paleographical skills.”

Reviewer (G)

“The informing principle of her book [*Gender and Power in Medieval Exegesis*] – what gives it a distinguishing shape – is the argument that interpretation operates at least in part as a relation of dominance and subordination and that this relation is coded by gender. Tinkle has a sophisticated and nuanced account of these relations.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Tinkle has played a number of vital roles in departmental and university life. She is esteemed for her scholarship on gender, sexuality, and religion in medieval literature, and now, increasingly for her role in elucidating the importance of material textuality to manuscript and reception studies. Additionally, she is an award-winning undergraduate teacher, a valued mentor to graduate students, and an accomplished administrator. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Theresa L. Tinkle be promoted to the rank of professor of English language and literature, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



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

May 2011