

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
University of Michigan-Dearborn
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters

Approved by the
Regents
May 15, 2014

Michelle L. Jarenski, assistant professor of English literature, Department of Literature, Philosophy, and the Arts, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of English Literature, with tenure, Department of Literature, Philosophy, and the Arts, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D. 2007	Loyola University, Chicago, Illinois
M.A. 2001	University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
B.A. 1999	Wheaton College, Norton, Massachusetts

Professional Record:

2008 – present	Assistant Professor of English, Department of Literature, Philosophy, and the Arts, University of Michigan-Dearborn
2007 – 2008	Instructor of English, Loyola University, Chicago, Illinois

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Jarenski is rated significantly capable in teaching. Her range of course offerings, her introduction of new courses and visual material into the curriculum, her interdisciplinary work as a teacher across a number of disciplines and programs (English, American Studies, Women's and Gender Studies, African and African American Studies, and First Year Seminars), her teaching materials, her work with students on Independent Study projects and Meeting of Minds presentations, and her interest in and experimentation with new pedagogical techniques (such as blogs, wikis, and online teaching generally) all speak to her dedication to her work as a teacher. The numerical scores on her student evaluations range from the solid to the strong. Moreover, the narrative comments on Professor Jarenski's evaluations are overwhelmingly positive.

Research: Professor Jarenski is rated excellent in her research. Her book manuscript on Picturing Aesthetics in American Literature has been accepted by the University of Alabama Press and will appear in 2014. She has also published two articles in selective, high quality peer-reviewed journals, has another under review, and has an essay accepted for a forthcoming edited collection. Her external reviewers praise her for her innovative use of archival material, her careful and original scholarship, and her provocative use of modern examples of American art and visual culture to understand and interpret the literature and visual culture of nineteenth-century America; they predict that her book will be well received and make a mark in her field.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Picturing Aesthetics in American Literature. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2014.
344 pages. (Accepted)

“‘Delighted and Instructed:’ Panoramic Aesthetics and African-American Challenges in J. P. Ball, Kara Walker, and Frederick Douglass,” *American Quarterly*, vol. 65, no. 1, 2013, pp. 119-155.

“Invisibility Embraced: The Abject as a Site of Agency in Ellison’s *Invisible Man*,” *MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature in the U.S.*, vol. 35, no. 4, 2010, pp. 85-110.

“Dave the Potter, Theater Gates and the Aesthetics of Power in African American Art and Craft.” *Poet, Potter, Slave, Myth: Collected Essays on David Drake*. Ed. Michael Chaney. New York: Oxford University Press. (Accepted)

Service: Professor Jarenski is rated significantly capable in her service. She has been a good and conscientious citizen, performing the majority of her service in the discipline and department, but also serving on a number of committees and programs at the college and campus levels. She has served on the search committee for the library director, and she recently completed a three-year term on the Faculty Senate’s Student Media Committee. At the college level, she has been an active member of both the Women’s and Gender Studies and American Studies programs. Within the department, she is currently serving as the English discipline representative and on the department’s Executive Committee, and she has coordinated the department’s Humanitas lecture series, has functioned as the English discipline’s library liaison, and has organized and led a series of workshops for English majors interested in applying to graduate school.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “Her historical research into the variety of visual technologies invented and popularized in the nineteenth century, together with her attempt to read the past through the lens of contemporary artists and artworks, represent, in my opinion, a genuinely original and important contribution to the field.”


Reviewer B: “*Picturing Aesthetics* is a very good book from a university press with a strong list in American literary studies. Its topic is interesting, challenging, original. Professor Jarenski analyzes the texts she has chosen with fresh insight, and in each chapter she astutely connects narrative technologies, visual technologies, and larger issues of individual and national identity. She is an excellent scholar, and I learned a lot from reading her work.”


Reviewer C: “[Professor Jarenski] has established her name as an emerging expert on the intersections of nineteenth-century visual and literary culture, and (perhaps most significantly) she has carved out for herself a field of interest and inquiry that will no doubt sustain her into and through worthwhile future projects.”

Reviewer D: “Professor Jarenski has published a lot for an assistant professor at any university – two articles in top-tier journals, a book on [sic] U of Alabama Press, a forthcoming article in an edited collection, and a third article under review at a top-tier journal. Her record of publication is all the more impressive given that it occurred under a teaching load that many scholars would consider heavy.”

Reviewer E: “Her research will make—is already making—a significant contribution to 19th century visual culture studies.”

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Jarenski is a conscientious, thoughtful, and innovative teacher-scholar and a colleague committed to serving our students and our campus. We are very pleased to recommend, with strong support of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters Executive Committee, Michelle L. Jarenski for promotion to associate professor of English literature, with tenure, Department of Literature, Philosophy, and the Arts, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.


Martin Hershock, Dean
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters


Daniel Little, Chancellor
University of Michigan-Dearborn

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