

## Faculty profile - Coby Dowdell

An assistant professor in the Department of Modern Languages, Dr. Dowdell teaches eighteenth-century British literature, narrative theory, the history of the novel, and the psychology of literature. Dr. Dowdell's research focuses on



the intersection of religious and civic identity, with a particular stress on religious and political extremism during the eighteenth century. Most recently, his research considers how eighteenth-century British Catholic writers negotiated the restrictions placed on their social, political, and cultural freedoms by the Protestant majority by adopting a model of political resistance modeled on the lives of Roman Catholic nuns/monks.

Dr. Dowdell's classes consider literary prose, drama, and verse alongside less traditionally literary texts such as devotional manuals, medical and philosophical treatises, and political tracts. Stressing the figurative language and rhetorical aspects of non-literary texts alongside poetry and prose, Dr. Dowdell understands literary studies as a process of reading culture.

"Human beings are inherently a story-telling species driven by a powerful motivation to create meaning out of the human condition. I invite my students to explore literature from this perspective, and as a way of developing their own critical citizenship and broadening their understanding of the human condition. With innovative programs such as Foundations in the Humanities, and with fruitful exchanges between departments, students in the humanities are encouraged to fully explore the multi-dimensional richness of the liberal arts education that King's provides."



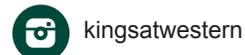
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## For more information

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- History of Criticism & Critical Theory
- Canadian Literature
- Post-colonial Literature
- Modern Drama & History of Drama
- Restoration & Eighteenth-Century Literature
- Modern British & Irish Literature
- Shakespeare

### Specialized areas:

- Film Studies
- Creative Writing & Academic Writing
- Speech & Communication
- University Writing in English (ESL)

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### Fourth-year seminars about

- British Spy Fiction: The Popular Thriller and Its Contexts
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- **Minor in English Language and Literature** (4.5 courses in English).
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- **Minor in English for Teachers** (5.0 courses).

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Our world is an interdisciplinary, multicultural place. Broaden your degree scope!

- Enrich your History degree with courses in the Renaissance and the Enlightenment.
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- Sharpen your communication skills through advanced study of writing, rhetoric, and argumentation.
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## READY FOR THE WORKFORCE:

English graduates are prepared for a variety of professions. In the fast-paced and changeable career dynamics of the 21st century, the skills learned in reading literary and critical texts are basic to success in our knowledge-based economy.

In January 2010, *The New York Times*, investigating changes at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management, reported on a "radical idea in business education: that students needed to learn how to think critically and creatively every bit as much as they needed to learn finance or accounting. More specifically, they needed to learn how to approach problems from many perspectives and to combine various approaches to find innovative solutions."

## TESTIMONIALS

*"My time as a student in the Department of Modern Languages at King's ... laid the foundation for many of the skills that I rely upon every day in my profession. A litigation lawyer's ability to communicate effectively and persuasively is key to succeeding."*

Anita T. Kain B.A. LL.B  
Kain & Ball, Family Law Lawyers

*"The professors are what made King's College so special for me. They are passionate about what they do, and their enthusiasm is infectious. They helped provide me with the knowledge I needed to make use of my English degree."*

Nicole Winstanley  
President, Penguin Canada

## FACULTY

**Claudia Clausius:** Modern Drama, Postcolonial BA, MA Toronto; MLitt Oxford; PhD Toronto

**Lorraine DiCicco:** American, Women Writers, The Long Poem BA, MEd., MA, PhD Western

**Coby Dowdell:** Restoration and Eighteenth-Century, Narrative Theory BA Guelph; MA Western; PhD Toronto

**Krista Lysack:** Nineteenth-Century British BA Trinity Western; MA PhD Queen's

**Brian Patton:** Twentieth-Century British, Popular Culture, Film BA Waterloo; MA, PhD Western

**Ian Rae:** Canadian, Poetics BA Queens; MA, PhD British Columbia

**Paul Werstine:** Shakespeare, Renaissance, Medieval BA, MA Western; PhD South Carolina Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada

