

Curriculum Vitae
Isiah Lavender, III

Office:

University of Central Arkansas
Department of English, Irby 317
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Education:

Ph.D., English, University of Iowa, July 2004.
M.A., English, Louisiana State University, 1998.
B.A., English (honors), Southern University and A & M College, 1996.

Academic Experience:

Associate Professor of English, English Dept., University of Central Arkansas, Summer 2011-Present.
Assistant Professor of English, English Dept., University of Central Arkansas, Fall 2004-Spring 2011.
Director of African and African American Studies Program, Fall 2006-Summer 2010.

Teaching and Research Interests:

African American Literature, Twentieth Century American Literature and Culture, Science Fiction, and Trickster Studies

Courses Taught:

FYFS 1301: Mythologies of the Future: Science Fiction
ENGL 1330: Introduction to African and African American Studies
ENGL 1350: Introduction to Literature
ENGL 2305: World Literature I
ENGL 2306: World Literature II
ENGL 2312: American Literature I
ENGL 2313: American Literature II
ENGL 2370: Introduction to Fiction
ENGL 4380/5380: Survey of African American Literature
ENGL 4381/5381: Major African and African American Writers
ENGL 4382/5382: Race in American Literature

Book:

Race in American Science Fiction. Bloomington, IN: Indiana UP, 2011.

Book Chapters:

“The Eugenic War: Extreme Prejudice in *Battlestar Galactica*.” Forthcoming in *Essays on the New Battlestar Galactica: The Successful Reimaging of a Sci-Fi Classic*.
“Critical Race Studies and Afrofuturism” in *The Routledge Companion to Science Fiction*. Eds. Mark Bould et al. New York: Routledge, 2009. 185-93.

Refereed Articles:

- “Lebert Joseph to the Rescue: a Positive Trickster in Paule Marshall’s *Praisesong for the Widow*” in *Journal of Caribbean Literatures* 6.1 (2009): 109-24.
- “Ethnoscapes: Environment and Language in Ishmael Reed’s *Mumbo Jumbo*, Colson Whitehead’s *The Intuitionist*, and Samuel R. Delany’s *Babel-17*” in *Science Fiction Studies* 34.2 (2007): 187-200.
- “Technicity: AI and Cyborg Ethnicity in *The Matrix*” in *Extrapolation* 45.4 (2004): 436-57.

Reviews:

- Review of Gregory Jerome Hampton’s *Changing Bodies in the Fiction of Octavia Butler: Slaves, Aliens, and Vampires* forthcoming in *Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts* Fall 2011/Spring 2012.
- “Delany Exchanges,” reviews of Samuel R. Delany’s revised *The Jewel-Hinged Jaw: Notes on the Language of Science Fiction* and Carl Freedman’s *Conversations with Samuel R. Delany* in *Science Fiction Studies* 37.3 (2010): 502-04.
- Review of John Ernest’s *Chaotic Justice: Rethinking African American Literary History* in *Arkansas Review: A Journal of Delta Studies* 41.2 (2010): 136-37.
- “Another Race Dialogue in SF,” review of Sharon DeGraw’s *The Subject of Race in American Science Fiction* in *Science Fiction Studies* 35.2 (2008): 323-5.
- “Black Male Techno Geeks,” review of Martin Kevorkian’s *Color Monitors: The Black Face of Technology in America* in *Science Fiction Studies* 34.2 (2007): 314-6.
- “Hallelujah: A Review of James W. Coleman’s *Faithful Vision*,” review of *Faithful Vision: Treatments of the Sacred, Spiritual, and Supernatural in Twentieth-Century African American Fiction* in *Arkansas Review: A Journal of Delta Studies* 37.2 (2006): 138-9.
- “Occult Gambling with Loaded Bones,” review of *Dark Matter: Reading the Bones* in *Science Fiction Studies* 31.3 (2004): 473-6.
- “A Century of Black SF,” review of *Dark Matter* in *Science Fiction Studies* 28.2 (2001): 140-3.

Reference Works:

- Entries on “Battlestar Galactica,” Tananarive Due,” and Sheree R. Thomas” in *Women in Science Fiction and Fantasy*. Vol. 2: Entries. Ed. Robin Anne Reid. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 2008. 33-4; 90-1; and 298-9.

Conference Presentations:

- “Digging Deep: Ailments of Difference in Octavia Butler’s “The Evening and the Morning and the Night,” abstract accepted for presentation at the 32nd International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, FL, March 16-20, 2011. [unable to attend; lack of travel funds]
- “Paradigm Shift: on Black Presidents and Science Fiction,” 31st International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, FL, March 17-21, 2010.
- “Race and the Fantastic,” Conference theme proposal, written with Patricia Melzer of Temple University and Kim Surkan of MIT, accepted by ICFA for the 2010 Conference in Orlando, FL.
- “Trickster Migrations: Helga Crane’s Crash Landing in Nella Larsen’s *Quicksand*,” 36th Arkansas Philological Association Conference, Eureka Springs, AR October 10-12, 2009.
- “Stranger than Strange: Jim Crow Extrapolations in Bradbury and Schuyler,” 40th Science Fiction Research Association Conference, Atlanta, GA, June 11-14, 2009.
- “Fear of a Black Planet: Contagion, Racial Paranoia and John W. Campbell, Jr.’s ‘Who Goes There?’,” 30th International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, FL, March 18-22, 2009. [unable to attend; lack of travel funds]
- “The Black Body, Sublime: Derrick Bell’s ‘The Space Traders,’” 29th International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, FL, March 19-23, 2008. [unable to attend; lack of travel funds]

- “Invisible Women in *Invisible Man*,” 34th Arkansas Philological Association Conference, Little Rock, AR, October 11-13, 2007.
- “On the Brink: the Technic Threat to Humanity in *Battlestar Galactica*,” 28th International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, March 14-18, 2007.
- “(SF) Panel: Race, Gender, and the Pulp,” selected discussant on a panel moderated by Farah Mendlesohn that included Brian Atteberry, Amelia Beamer, and Jane Donawerth at 28th International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, March 14-18, 2007.
- “Technologically Derived Ethnicity: Cylons in *Battlestar Galactica*,” 36th National Popular Culture Association Conference, Atlanta, GA, April 12-16, 2006.
- “Crossing Color Lines: David Brin’s *Kiln People* and Walter Mosley’s “Angel’s Island,” 26th International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, March 16-20, 2005.
- “Coming Home: Avey Johnson’s Spiritual Journey in Paule Marshall’s *Praisesong for the Widow*,” 31st Arkansas Philological Association Conference, Fayetteville, AR, October 8-9, 2004.
- “Fusion Cartography: Representations of Race in Clifford Simak’s *A Choice of Gods*, Samuel Delany’s *Dhalgren*, and Maureen McHugh’s *China Mountain Zhang*,” 25th International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, March 24-28, 2004.
- “Technicity: AI and Cyborg Ethnicity in *The Matrix*,” 44th Midwestern Modern Language Association Conference, Minneapolis, MN, November 8-10, 2002.
- “Trickster Migrations: Helga Crane’s Crash Landing in Nella Larsen’s *Quicksand*,” 61st College Language Association Conference, New Orleans, LA, April 18-20, 2001.
- “The Inner City: Trickster Sightings and Survival,” 60th College Language Association Conference, Baltimore, MD, April 6-8, 2000.
- “The Role of Women in Developing Ellison’s *Invisible Man*,” 55th College Language Association Conference, Baton Rouge, LA, April, 1995.

Panels Chaired:

- “Postcolonial Voices: Achebe, Lahiri, and Soyinka Decolonize Our Minds,” the 4th Annual English Graduate Conference, Conway, AR, April 16th, 2010.
- “Black and/or Brown Planets: Politics and Race in Science Fiction,” the 31st International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, FL, March 17-21, 2010.
- “Spirits and Spaces: Searching for the Divine,” 3rd Annual English Graduate Conference, Conway, AR, April 10th, 2009.
- “Freeing Their Minds, Finding Their Voices: Women of Color in America and the World,” 1st Annual English Graduate Conference, Conway, AR, April 5th, 2007.
- “Myths of the Body, Legends of the Mind: Exploring the Self and Other Worlds,” 1st Annual English Graduate Conference, Conway, AR, April 5th, 2007.
- “Science Fiction & Fantasy X: *Battlestar Galactica*: Technology, Minorities, & Racism,” 36th National Popular Culture Association Conference, Atlanta, GA, April 12-16, 2006.
- “From Cold Equations to Capitalism: Fifties SF,” 26th International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, March 16-20, 2005.
- “Future Identities Now: Representing Artificial Persons,” 44th Midwestern Modern Language Association Conference, Minneapolis, MN, November 8-10, 2002.

Submitted for Publication:

Black and Brown Planets: the Politics of Race in Science Fiction. Edited collection under consideration at Indiana University Press.

“Digging Deep: Ailments of Difference in Octavia Butler’s “The Evening and the Morning and the Night.” Under consideration at *Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts*.

Manuscripts in Progress:

Africa in the Science Fiction Writer's Imagination

“Clare Kendry, Trickster: Self-Destruction in Nella Larsen’s *Passing*”

“Trickster Technologies in Nalo Hopkinson’s *Brown Girl in the Ring* and *Midnight Robber*”

“Visible Women in *Invisible Man*”

Professional Service:

Reviewer for the Compact Seventh Edition of *The Story and Its Writer: An Introduction to Short Fiction* by Ann Charters, Spring 2009

Reviewer for *Journal of Caribbean Literatures*, Fall 2007

Reviewer for *Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts*, Spring 2007

Reviewer for The Ohio State University Press on Marleen S. Barr’s edited collection *Afro-Future Females: The Blackness of Outer Space Fiction*, Fall 2005

Department Service:

American Literature Generalist Search Committee, Spring 2011. Chair. [hired Lori Leavell]

English Department Assessment Committee, Fall 2010-Present.

Children’s Adolescent Literature Search committee, Spring 2010. [hired Sonya Fritz]

English Department Banned Book Week Committee, Fall 2008-Present.

English Department New Media Committee, Fall 2008-Present.

Children’s Adolescent Literature Search committee, Fall 2007-Spring 2008.

M.A. in English Comprehensive Exam Committee, Fall 2010-Summer 2011.

M.A. in English Comprehensive Exam Committee, Fall 2006-Summer 2007.

English Education Program Coordinator Search Committee, Fall 2006-Spring 2007. [hired Charles Bane]

Children’s Adolescent Literature Search committee, Fall 2006-Spring 2007. [failed search]

Nolte-Behrens Lecture Committee, Fall 2004-Spring 2007.

African and African American Studies Committee, Fall 2004-Present.

Chair Fall 2006-Summer 2010.

College Service:

College of Liberal Arts Grants and Fund Raising Committee, Fall 2007-Spring 2009.

College of Liberal Arts Interdisciplinary Minors Coordinating Committee, Fall 2007-Spring 2010.

College of Liberal Arts Research Committee, Fall 2006-Spring 2009.

College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Student Award Committee, Spring 2006-Spring 2008.

Chaired Spring 2008

University Service:

Mentor, Minority Mentorship Program, Fall 2008 – Present.

African and African American Studies Forum, Fall 2006-Spring 2010.

Moderated talk “Does African/African American Studies have a future at UCA?

NO!! Why Not???” on February 23, 2010.

Introduced Dr. Garry Powell who presented the talk “Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. vs. General Robert E. Lee” on January 22, 2009.

Introduced Dr. Gary Wekkin who presented the talk “Is America Ready for a Black President? Is Obama Ready to be President?” on September 30, 2008.

Introduced Dr. Charles Bane, who presented the talk “Hillarack: Is America Ready for a Black

President? Or, a Woman for that Matter?" on March 12, 2008.
Presented talk "Black Hair Politics" on February 20, 2008.
Introduced Tiffany Shumpert, who moderated talk "Stirring the Pot: Black Americans and Black Africans, Part II" on November 14, 2007.
Introduced Tiffany Shumpert, who moderated talk "Black Africans and Black Americans: a Pot and Kettle Conversation" on October 11, 2007.
Moderated talk "RESPECT OR LEAVE ME BE: Black Female and Black Male Relations" on February 27, 2007.
Introduced Dr. Charles Bane, who presented the talk "What's Wrong with the Confederate Flag? Every DAMN THING!!!" on November 29, 2006.
Presented talk "Can a thug be a student? Yes or No? Why?" on October 25, 2006.
Admissions Committee, Fall 2005-Fall 2007.
Disciplinary Committee, Spring 2009 Consultant
Honors thesis advisor/director/reader:
Fall 2010 Master's Comprehensive Exam Mentor – Thomas O'Banion
Spring 2010 Honors College Thesis Reader – Timothy Turner
Spring 2008 Honors College Thesis Director – Tiffany Shumpert
Fall 2007 Honors College Oxford Tutorial Director – Tiffany Shumpert
Spring 2007 Honors College Oxford Tutorial Director – Tiffany Shumpert
Fall 2006 Honors College Thesis Director – Beth Post
Spring 2006 Honors College Oxford Tutorial Director – Beth Post
Fall 2005 Honors College Oxford Tutorial Director – Beth Post
Fall 2004 Honors College Thesis Director – Ashlie Alexander
Fall 2004 Honors College Thesis Reader – Candy Massey
Sabbatical Leave Review Committee, Fall 2010-Present.

Community Service:

"From a Frog to a Prince," Lecture presented to Conway High Students at UCA's Humanities Fair, November 11, 2010.
Invited Speaker, "The Coleman Project: Promoting Healthy Relationships," Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc, November 4th, 2010.
"Ray Bradbury's *The Martian Chronicles*," public reading for Banned Book Week at the University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR, September 27, 2010.
Judge, All Greek Step Show, UCA, April 15th, 2010.
Invited Speaker, "From a Frog to a Prince," Theta Mu chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc, January 21, 2010.
"Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*," public reading for Banned Book Week at the University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR, September 30, 2009.
"Black Hair Politics," Lecture presented to Conway High Students at UCA's Humanities Fair, November 6, 2008.
Humanities Fair Short Story Contest Judge, November 6, 2008.
Panelist, "Colorism," Minority Student Services: Molding Successful Student Series, November 6, 2008.
"Richard Wright's *Black Boy*," public reading for Banned Book Week at UCA, October 2, 2008.
Panelist, "Don't Mean to Offend, But...Does Political Correctness Inhibit Academic Freedom?", UCA English Department, October 1, 2008.
Panelist, "Getting Ready for Graduate School," UCA Department of Writing, September 2, 2008.
Invited Speaker, "The Poetry of Hip-Hop," Students for the Propagation of Black Culture, February 6, 2008.
Invited Speaker, "Black Hair Politics," Griot Society, November 5, 2007.
"Richard Wright's *Black Boy*," public reading for Banned Book Week at UCA, October 5, 2007.
Invited Speaker, "Reaping the Crop: Sources of Creativity in Repressed Black Women," Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc, February 27, 2007.

Moderator, "Colors Program," Alpha Phi Alpha and Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternities February 20, 2007.
Africa in America Week, April 17, 2006: Introduced *Dutchman* (1964)
In-Service presenter, "Development of the Diverse Literatures in Education Program," Arkansas Council of Teachers of English and Language Arts Festival, February 19, 2005.
Judge, Martin Luther King, Jr. Banner Competition, January 18, 2005.
Invited Speaker, "Time Management and Setting Goals," Conway High Keystone Program, October 28, 2004.
Promotion of August Wilson's *The Piano Lesson*, October 2004.

Professional Organizations:

Arkansas Philological Association, College Language Association, International Association of the Fantastic in the Arts, Popular Culture Association, and Science Fiction Research Association

References:

Margaret Bass, Department of English, St. Lawrence University, mbass@st.lawu.edu
Brooks Landon, Department of English, University of Iowa, brooks-landon@uiowa.edu
Rob Latham, English Department, University of California, Riverside, rob.latham@ucr.edu
John Lowe, English Department, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, jlowe@lsu.edu
Jay Ruud, Department of English, University of Central Arkansas, jruud@uca.edu
Bonnie Selting, Department of Writing, University of Missouri, seltingb@missouri.edu
Wayne Stengel, Department of English, University of Central Arkansas, waynes@uca.edu