





Faculty Member Contact Information

Name	Dr. Donovan Ramon
Contact Info	
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Department	English

1 Funded, URCA Assistant

	This position is ONLY open to students who have declared a major in this discipline.	M
X	This project deals with social justice issues.	
	This project deals with sustainability (green) issues.	
	This project deals with human health and wellness issues.	
	This project deals with community outreach.	
X	This mentor's project is interdisciplinary in nature.	I

Are you willing to work with students from outside of your discipline? If yes, which other disciplines?

- Yes, my project is truly interdisciplinary

How many hours per week will your student(s) be required to work in this position?

(Minimum is 6 hours per week; typical is 9)

- 9

Will it be possible for your student(s) to earn course credit?

- No

Location of research/creative activities:

- Mainly remote. Meetings can occur either in my office or on Zoom.

Brief description of the nature of the research/creative activity?

I am working on a new scholarly monograph, which argues that one way to differentiate Black male writers from their literary counterparts is the use of fight scenes. What defines Black male writers historically and today is that they depict Black men who are constantly in battle. Across real and fictional Black narratives, we see several fight scenes. My book will theorize these scenes to uncover their relevance. For this project, I need to gather scholarly sources about Black men, violence and depictions of fight scenes. This proposal is to seek an URCA assistant to help me gather and annotate sources from both history and literature. Honestly, the URCA student I have now is excellent, and I would like to continue working with him in the spring.

Brief description of student responsibilities?

- Read and annotate scholarly writings about African American Literature in the United States. Specifically depictions of Black men and violence.
- Assist with collecting, organizing, and labeling artifacts related to Black Literature. This would include reading sources AND listening to music produced by African Americans, noting references to Black writers who depict fight scenes in their work.
- Assist with literature reviews on this project and reach out to scholars to be interviewed for the project.

URCA Assistant positions are designed to provide students with *research or creative activities* experience. As such, there should be measurable, appropriate outcome goals. What exactly should your student(s) have learned by the end of this experience?

- The student will gain a large body of knowledge about African American Literature and Black male fiction in particular.
- The student will gain experience reading scholarly texts and preparing literature reviews on Black Literature.
- The student will also gain experience producing materials for a wide audience, which includes Humanities scholars and non-academics alike.

The student will also gain experience interfacing with scholars in different fields (which can serve as important connections should the student pursue graduate study in the future)

Requirements of Students

If the position(s) require students to be available at certain times each week (as opposed to them being able to set their own hours) please indicate all required days and times:

- The student can set his/her own schedule each week since much of the work can be done remotely.

If the location of the research/creative activities involves off campus work, must students provide their own transportation?

- No off campus work. Again much of the reading & annotating can be done remotely. We will meet semi-regularly either in my office or on Zoom.

Must students have taken any prerequisite classes? Please list classes and preferred grades:

- The student should have taken one of our many courses on African American Literature at SIUE (ENG 111, ENG 225, ENG 205, ENG 343, or ENG 345, ENG 446) with at least a B.

Other requirements or notes to applicants:

- The student should have an interest in Black Literature and/or Black male writers in particular (but expertise in these areas is not needed). Students studying literature, music, history, Black Studies, and/or communications might be most interested in this project.