

JOSÉ ANTONIO ARELLANO

Curriculum Vitae
Updated August 2026

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of English and Fine Arts
United States Air Force Academy
2354 Fairchild Drive, Office 6D-149
USAF Academy, CO 80840
jose.arellano@afacademy.af.edu

EDUCATION

- Ph.D.**, English Language and Literature, University of Chicago 2018
Dissertation: *Life in Search of Form: Mexican American Literature and American Literary History, 1959–1999*
- M.A.**, English Language and Literature, University of Illinois at Chicago 2007
Thesis: *The Thrill of Turning the Page: Henry James and the Art of Fiction*
- B.A.**, English Language and Literature, University of Illinois at Chicago 2005
Highest Departmental Distinction
Thesis: *Lest We Forget: Textual Digitization and the Archival Imagination*

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Associate Professor**, Department of English and Fine Arts Summer 2023–Present
United States Air Force Academy
- Assistant Professor**, Department of English and Fine Arts Summer 2019–Summer 2023
United States Air Force Academy
- Postdoctoral Fellow**, Department of English and Philosophy Summer 2018–Summer 2019
United States Military Academy, West Point, NY

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Race Class: Reading Mexican American Literature in the Era of Neoliberalism, 1981–1984. Cambridge Elements Series. Cambridge University Press, December 2025.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- “The Novelist as Artist: Recovering José Antonio Villarreal’s *Our Little Life*.” *Pasados*, special issue “Against History / Contra Pasados,” forthcoming.
- “Robotic Pollocks in the Age of Amazon: *Ex Machina*, Actions, and Mechanical Art.” *nonsite.org*, June 2025.

“The Borders of the Frame: Chicana Feminism and the Problem of Representation.” *Forma Journal* 1.2 (2020): 35–62.

“Screwed in 2020: The Psychology of Horror and Class Immobility in Adaptations of Henry James’s *The Turn of the Screw*.” *Teaching American Literature: A Journal of Theory and Practice* 11.2 (Fall 2020): 1–13.

“Silent Death Knell: Memorializing Rural New Mexico in Nasario García’s Poems.” *Quarterly Horse: A Journal of (Brief) American Studies* 4 (2020).

Book Chapters

“Broken Sentences that Reveal in Half Concealing: Analyzing Kate Chopin’s ‘The Story of an Hour’ in Composition, Literature, and Literary Theory Courses.” *Kate Chopin in the Classroom: Essays on the Pedagogical Practices of The Awakening and Selected Short Stories*. Vernon Press, forthcoming.

“‘Here’s to Chicanos in the middle class!’: The Limits of Chicano Literary Activism.” *The Cambridge Companion to Race and American Literature*. Cambridge University Press, 2024. 191–205.

“Aztlán for the Middle Class: Chicano Literary Activism.” *Race in American Literature and Culture*. Cambridge University Press, 2022. 324–337.

“Marchando al Futuro: Latino Immigrant Rights Leadership in Chicago.” *Marcha: Latino Chicago and the Immigrant Rights Movement*, edited by Amalia Pallares and Nilda Flores-González. University of Illinois Press, 2010. 123–145.

Book Reviews

Review of *Our Little Life: A Novel with Other Archival Texts*, by José Antonio Villarreal. *The ALH Review*, forthcoming.

Review of *The First: How to Think About Hate Speech, Campus Speech, Religious Speech, Fake News, Post-Truth, and Donald Trump*, by Stanley Fish. *Modern Language Studies* 52.1 (Summer 2022): 130–137.

“A Hopeful Eulogy: Pablo Miguel Martinez’s Poem about the Longoria Affair.” *War, Literature and the Arts* 33 (2021).

Encyclopedia Entries

“Tomás Rivera.” *Latino Literature: An Encyclopedia for Students*, edited by Christina Soto van der Plas and Lacie Rae Cunningham, March 2023.

ART CRITICISM AND PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

Exhibition Reviews

Review of *Gathering Place: Permanent Collection Reinstallation*. Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO. *DARIA: Denver Art Review, Inquiry, and Analysis*, January 2026.

Review of *Rosas y Revelaciones: Homage to the Virgin of Guadalupe*. Museo de las Americas, Denver, CO. *DARIA: Denver Art Review, Inquiry, and Analysis*, December 2025.

Review of *Gathering Place: Permanent Collection Reinstallation*. Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO. *Southwest Contemporary*, December 2025.

- Review of *Roni Horn: Water, Water on the Wall, You're the Fairest of them All*. Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver, CO. *DARIA: Denver Art Review, Inquiry, and Analysis*, October 2025.
- Review of *Susan Tormoen: Fun with Oil and Pastel*. Cottonwood Center for the Arts, Colorado Springs, CO. *DARIA: Denver Art Review, Inquiry, and Analysis*, May 2025.
- Review of *Na Mira: Hotel*. Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO. *DARIA: Denver Art Review, Inquiry, and Analysis*, April 2025.
- Review of *Nepantla*. Museum of Art Fort Collins, Fort Collins, CO. *DARIA: Denver Art Review, Inquiry, and Analysis*, December 2024.
- Review of *Dialogue and Defiance: Clyfford Still and the Abstract Expressionists*. Clyfford Still Museum, Denver, CO. *DARIA: Denver Art Review, Inquiry, and Analysis*, June 2024.
- Review of *Five: Day, Kelley-Cruz, Lloyd, Moran, Reeves*. Surface Gallery, Old Colorado City, CO. *DARIA: Denver Art Review, Inquiry, and Analysis*, February 2024.
- Review of *Arte Mestiza: Emanuel Martinez*. Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO. *DARIA: Denver Art Review, Inquiry, and Analysis*, January 2024.
- Review of *caesura: Martha Russo*. Galleries of Contemporary Art, Ent Center for the Arts, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, CO. *DARIA: Denver Art Review, Inquiry, and Analysis*, November 2023.
- Review of *Islands Beyond Blue: Niki Hastings-McFall and Treasures from the Oceania Collection*. Denver Art Museum, Denver, CO. *DARIA: Denver Art Review, Inquiry, and Analysis*, July 2023.
- Review of *Joel Swanson: The Distance Between Words*. New Collection | The Vault, Denver, CO. *DARIA: Denver Art Review, Inquiry, and Analysis*, January 2023.
- Review of *Action/Abstraction Redefined*. Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO. *DARIA: Denver Art Review, Inquiry, and Analysis*, October 2022.
- Review of *elin o'Hara slavick: Dark Archive*. Galleries of Contemporary Art, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, CO. *DARIA: Denver Art Review, Inquiry, and Analysis*, September 2022.

Exhibition and Interpretive Writing

Here and Now, Then and Always. Invited contributor, interpretive writing. Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO. Forthcoming October 2026.

Other Public Writing

- "Visible Mediation: On the Meaning of Collage Within a Story of Art." International Association of Art Critics (AICA) *E-Mag*. June 2025.
- "Complete Curriculum: The Humanities at the United States Air Force Academy." *ArtDesk*, April 2023.
- "Decolonizing Mexican Americans." *Decolonize X? Cluster*, edited by Scott Challener, post45.org, 2021.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

McDermott Research Award	2025–2026
Department of English and Fine Arts, United States Air Force Academy	
Excellence in Inclusive Teaching	2022–2023
United States Air Force Academy	

Outstanding English 211 Instructor United States Air Force Academy	2021–2022
Outstanding Character and Honor Liaison Officer United States Air Force Academy	2021–2022
Achievement Medal for Civilian Service Department of the Army	2018
Blair Dissertation-Year Fellowship University of Chicago	2016–2017
Elaine H. and Roger P. Hansen Fellowship University of Chicago	2009–2014
Graduate Assistantship for Select M.A. Students University of Illinois at Chicago	2005–2007
Ernest van Keuren Award for the Distinguished Graduating English Major University of Illinois at Chicago	2005

INVITED LECTURES

- “The Bones of Tradition: The Many Lives of the Day of the Dead.” Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO. October 2026 (forthcoming).
- “Like a Toothache: Why Some Novels about Mexican Americans Refuse Your Sympathy and Identification.” Southwest Studies Program, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO. September 2026 (forthcoming).
- “Building the Southwest: Colorado, New Mexico, and the Origins of the Santa Fe Style.” Historic Preservation Alliance, The Peel House at First Lutheran, Colorado Springs, CO. January 2026.
- “Foundations: Women, Patronage, and the Architecture of John Gaw Meem.” American Association of University Women, Southwest Studies Interest Group, 21c Library, Colorado Springs, CO. January 2026.
- “In the Sacred Halls of the Fine Arts Center: A Story of Mexican American Art and the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center Permanent Collection.” Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO. June 2025.
- “Play out the play: Theater as a Stage for Nation, Theatricality as Practice for Character.” “Chit Chat” Speaker Series, Ent Center for the Arts, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, CO. September 2024.
- “Race Class: Reading Mexican American Literature in the Era of Neoliberalism.” American Literature Seminar, Newberry Library, Chicago, IL (invited discussion). November 2023.
- “New Insights with Joel Swanson.” Invited seminar hosted by New Collection, The Vault, Denver, CO. February 2023.
- “Social Eyes: The Work of Art Criticism.” Visiting Artists + Critics Series, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, CO. February 2023.
- “Watching and Sharing War Stories: On the Theater of War in Quiara Alegría Hudes’s *Elliot, A Soldier’s Fugue*.” Ent Center for the Arts, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, CO. February 2022.

“From ‘Muerte’ to ‘Silence’: Nasario García’s Bilingual Poetics in *Tiempos Lejanos*.” Keynote, Spanish National Honor Society Induction Ceremony, De La Salle Institute, Chicago, IL. 2017.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

“The Novelist as Artist: Recovering José Antonio Villarreal’s *Our Little Life*.” Latinx Studies Association Annual Conference, Austin, TX, March 2026.

“The Borders of the Frame and the Boundaries of Form: Gloria Anzaldúa’s Indigenous Poetics and the Paintings of Redstar Price.” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, March 2023.

“The Mexican American Artist: An Art Historical Problem.” 6th Bi-Annual Sal Castro Memorial Conference on the Chicano Movement and the Long History of Mexican American Civil Rights, Santa Barbara, CA, February 2023.

“Decolonizing Mexican Americans.” American Comparative Literature Association, online conference, April 2021.

“Walk Out for What? The Limits of Chicano Literary Activism and the Legacy of Student Protest.” 5th Bi-Annual Sal Castro Memorial Conference on the Emerging Historiography of the Chicano Movement, Santa Barbara, CA, February 2020.

“Mediated Thought, Literary Materialisms: Chicano Literature during the 1970s.” Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present, College Park, MD, October 2019.

“American History as a Work of Art: Melville’s Aesthetic Autonomy during the Reconstruction.” 12th International Melville Society Conference: Melville’s Origins, New York, NY, June 2019.

“Death of the Author, Birth of the Chicano: 1970s Theory and Mexican American Literature.” 50th NeMLA Anniversary Convention, Washington, DC, March 2019.

“From Poverty to Creative Writing: Rethinking the ‘Culture of Poverty’ Thesis in *The House on Mango Street*.” Rethinking Poverty: A Graduate Conference on Economic Inequality and the Humanities, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL, February 2017.

“Objecthood Today: Josiah McElheny’s Endlessly Repeating Modernism and the Neoliberalism of Object Studies.” 16th Annual Conference of the Marxist Reading Group: Art in Interesting Times, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, March 2014.

“The World Suspended: Daguerreotypes and Edgar Allan Poe’s Aesthetics.” 7th Annual English and Art History Graduate Student Conference: States of Suspension, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, November 2012.

“‘Bolts of Pure Space Funk’: The Legacy of Ralph Ellison’s Blues Aesthetic in Michael Thomas’s *Man Gone Down*.” 54th Annual Conference of the Midwest Modern Language Association, Cincinnati, OH, November 2012.

“Identifying the Contradictions: Liberalism, Globalization, and Immigration since 1989.” Escucha Mi Grito Conference, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL, September 2007.

“Leading the Mobilizations: The Role of Latino Leadership during the Immigrant Mega Marches.” 27th Annual Conference of the Latin American Studies Association, Montreal, Canada, September 2007.

“‘There’s Many a Thousand Gone’: Invisibility, Protest, and Identity in Ralph Ellison’s *Invisible Man* and Sergio Arau’s *A Day Without a Mexican*.” African American and Latino Dialogue and Research Forum, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL, April 2007.

“Marchando al Futuro: Latino Immigrant Leadership in Chicago.” Chicago in the National Immigrant Rights Movement Conference, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL, March 2007.

TEACHING

United States Air Force Academy

Department of English and Fine Arts, 2019–Present

Courses taught:

CA 330, Practicing Art History: A Hands-On Art History Seminar (co-taught with Darya Warner)
 English 111, Introductory Composition and Research
 English 211, Literature and Intermediate Composition
 English 340, The Novel in America
 English 355, African American Literature
 English 380, Latinx Literature

United States Military Academy

Department of English and Philosophy, West Point, NY, 2018–2019

Courses taught:

EN101, First-Year Composition
 EN102, Introduction to Literature

Graduate and Adjunct Teaching

Writing Instructor, Writing Program, University of Chicago 2017–2018

Writing Instructor, Leadership Enterprise for a Diverse America, Princeton University 2016–2017

English Instructor, University of Chicago 2012–2017

“The Chicano Novel and American Literary History” (Spring 2017)
 “Writing the Self: Language, Representation, and Identity in American Fiction” (Summer 2014)
 “Beauty and the Social: American Literature, Race Relations, and the Autonomy of Form” (Fall 2013)
 “Literary Interest and Thinking of Others: Fiction, Metaphor, and the Imagination” (Summer 2013)
 “Writing the Other: Introduction to American Short Stories” (Summer 2012)

Course Assistant, University of Chicago 2011–2013

“History and Theory of Drama” (Winter 2013); “Introduction to Short Fiction” (Fall 2011);
 “American Television: From Broadcast Networks to the Internet” (Fall 2010)

Adjunct Writing Instructor, Lewis University and Triton Community College, IL 2007–2009

Writing Instructor, University of Illinois at Chicago 2005–2008

Department of English; Latin American Recruitment and Education Services (LARES); Project FLAME (ESL)

Writing Center and ESL Tutor 2004–2018

University of Chicago; University of Illinois at Chicago

ADVISING AND MENTORING

Graduate Student Mentor, The Leadership Alliance, University of Chicago 2011–2013
 “Demystifying Strangeness: The Challenges of Reading Mark Twain’s *No. 44, The Mysterious Stranger*” (2013)
 “Intra-Racial Stratification in Chicago During the Civil Rights Era: The Role of Public Education, 1963–1968” (2012)
 “Queer Figures in Latina Literature: Queer Theory and Achy Obejas” (2011)

Program Coordinator, LARES, University of Illinois at Chicago Summer 2006

DEPARTMENTAL AND INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Chair, Advanced Academic Degree and Graduate School Program Committee Fall 2026
 Department of English and Fine Arts, United States Air Force Academy

Senator-at-Large for Associate and Full Professors, Faculty Senate Fall 2024–Spring 2026
 United States Air Force Academy

Chair, Faculty Senate Library and Technology Committee Fall 2025
 United States Air Force Academy

Departmental Character and Honor Liaison Fall 2019–Fall 2025
 United States Air Force Academy

Clear Communications Outcome Committee, Member Fall 2022–Fall 2025
 United States Air Force Academy

Human Conditions Outcome Committee, Member Fall 2022–Fall 2025
 United States Air Force Academy

Assistant Lead, Works in Progress and Works in Progress 2 Spring 2020–Fall 2022
 United States Air Force Academy

Government Purchase Card Holder Spring 2020–Fall 2024
 United States Air Force Academy

Law Department Job Search Committee, Member Fall 2023–Spring 2024
 United States Air Force Academy

DFEN Graduate School Program Committee, Member Fall 2023
 United States Air Force Academy

Wolfe-Lawson Selection Committee, Member Fall 2023
 United States Air Force Academy

Associate Air Officer Commanding for Academics Fall 2019–Fall 2021
 Academic Advisor for Cadets without a Major, United States Air Force Academy

Senator-at-Large for Civilian Instructors and Assistant Professors, Faculty Senate Spring 2020
 United States Air Force Academy

Advanced Civil Schooling Mentor Fall 2018
 United States Military Academy, West Point, NY

Writing Fellows Faculty Mentor

Fall 2018

Mounger Writing Center, United States Military Academy, West Point, NY

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Regional Delegate, Modern Language Association

July 2024–Present

Region 6: Central and Rocky Mountain

Peer Reviewer, *The Spanish & Portuguese Review*

Summer 2020–Summer 2022

Graduate Student Journal of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Modern Language Association

Latinx Studies Association

American Comparative Literature Association

International Association of Art Critics, U.S. Section (AICA-USA)

LANGUAGES

Spanish — native fluency (reading, writing, and speaking)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Board of Directors, Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum

January 2026–Present

Colorado Springs, CO

Guided Art Walks, Green Box Arts

Summer 2026

Public art tours of festival installations, Green Mountain Falls, CO

Advisory Board, Brave Irene's

July–December 2025

Nonprofit literary arts organization, Colorado Springs, CO

Board of Directors, Concrete Couch

January–December 2025

Nonprofit arts organization, Colorado Springs, CO

Guest English Instructor, Bard Prison Initiative

Spring 2019

Taconic Correctional Facility, Bedford Hills, NY

INTERVIEWS AND PRESS

Interviews

“LEDA Perspectives: José Antonio Arellano.” *Leadership Enterprise for a Diverse America*, October 23, 2017. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLeZmux1dUo>

“In Their Own Words: PhD Students Launch Lives as Scholars.” *Tableau: The Magazine of the Humanities at the University of Chicago*, Spring 2012. <https://tableau.uchicago.edu/articles/2012/04/their-own-words>

Press Coverage

Doug Fitzgerald, “Free Art Walks Offer a New Way to Experience Green Mountain Falls.” *The Gazette*

(Colorado Springs), July 23, 2026.