

Robert K. Painter, Ph.D.
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Education & Academic Positions

Education

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO
Ph.D. in Linguistics, 2012

UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS (SCOTLAND)
M.Litt. Latin, *first degree*, 2002

COLBY COLLEGE
B.A. Classics, *magna cum laude*, 2001

Academic Positions

2013-Pres. NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY, Linguistics Program, College of Science
Teaching Professor (2023-Pres.)
Associate Teaching Professor (2018-2023)
Assistant Teaching Professor (2018)
Senior Lecturer (2017)
Lecturer (2013-2017)

2009-2013 D'YOUVILLE COLLEGE, Depts. of Liberal Arts & Education
Assistant Professor of Applied Linguistics & Director of TESOL (2012-2013)
Adjunct Professor of Latin & German (2009-2012)

2005-2009 STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT BUFFALO, Dept. of Linguistics
Graduate Lecturer of Linguistics (2008-2009)
Graduate Lecturer of German (2005-2008)

Scholarship & Research

Books

Painter, R. (2016). *Faroe-Islander Saga: A new English translation*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland Press.

Book Chapters

Poornima, S. & Painter, R. (2010). Diverging Pathways: the current status of grammaticalization of Hindi light verbs, in Singh, R., ed., *Annual Review of South Languages and Linguistics*, 2010: pp 75-104. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Refereed Articles

Painter, R. (2021). Eyrbyggja Saga, Chapters 4, 9, 10 and Translator's Note. *Metamorphoses: Journal of Literary Translation*, Fall 2021, pp 100-106.

Painter, R. (2017). Three Excerpts from Wladimir Kaminer's 'Russendisko'. *Metamorphoses: Journal of Literary Translation*, Spring 2017, pp 137-141.

Painter, R. (2017). Grettir's Saga, Chapter 47, and Translator's Note. *Metamorphoses: Journal of Literary Translation*, Fall 2017, pp 200-204.

Painter, R. (2015). Faroe-Islander Saga, Chapter 7. *Metamorphoses: Journal of Literary Translation*, Spring 2015, pp 41-44.

Painter, R & Dery, J. (2014). An acoustic investigation of R-Umlaut in Old Norse. *Journal of Germanic Linguistics*, 26.2, June 2014, pp 156-181.

Painter, R. (2014). Rats sleep at night. *Exchanges: Journal of Literary Translation*, Spring 2014, online.

Talks & Conferences

Painter, R. (2020). *Dying languages in the modern world*. Invited speaker for summer mini-courses series, Linguistics Program, Northeastern University, Boston, MA, Aug. 4, 2020.

Painter, R. (2017). *Polyglots in academia: A panel discussion*. Invited panelist at the Polyglot Conference, University of Reykjavik, Harpa Center, Reykjavik, Iceland, Oct. 28, 2017.

Painter, R. (2017). *Can small languages survive in the age of texting?* Invited talk at the Polyglot Conference, University of Reykjavik, Harpa Center, Reykjavik, Iceland, Oct. 28, 2017.

Painter, R. (2013). *A thorny historical problem meets lab phonetics: Exploring the acoustics of R-umlaut in Old Norse*. Invited talk at the Fall Colloquium for the Linguistics Program, Northeastern University, Boston, MA, Nov. 13, 2013.

Painter, R. (2013). *Hyper-correction as explanation: A case study in perceptual reanalysis in three Germanic sound changes*. Paper presented at the 19th Germanic Linguistics Association Conference, SUNY Buffalo, Buffalo, NY, April 26, 2013.

Painter, R. & Dery, J. (2013). *An Acoustic Investigation of R-Umlaut in Old Norse*. Paper presented at the LSA Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, Jan. 4, 2013.

Painter, R. (2012). *Sound Change and the Development of the English Language*. Invited talk at the Department of English, University of Arkansas, Fort Smith, AR, April 5, 2012.

Painter, R. & DeWaters, J. (2012). *Learners in the Margins: the Struggle of ESL and Special Needs Learners in Mainstream Classrooms*. Paper presented at the Conversations in Education Colloquium, D'Youville College, Buffalo, NY, Oct 11, 2012.

Painter, R. (2011). *A Brief Phonetic Investigation of Germanic Rhotacism*. Paper presented at the 17th Germanic Linguistics Association Conference, Univ. of Texas, Austin, April 15-17.

Poornima, S. & Painter, R. (2009). *Grammaticalization and Lexicalization in Hindi Light Verbs: Using Corpus Data Towards an Integrated Model*. Paper presented at the LSA Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, Jan. 2-4, 2009.

Poornima, S. & Painter, R. (2008). *Grammaticalization and Lexicalization in Twelve Hindi Light Verbs*. Paper presented at the High Desert Linguistics Society 8. University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Nov. 15, 2008.

Painter, R. (2008). *Experimental Evidence for a Perceptually-based Account of an Historical Sound Change: Nasal Loss before Fricatives in West Germanic*. Paper presented at the Phonology Colloquium, University at Buffalo, Amherst, NY, April 20, 2008.

Manuscripts

Painter, R. (2011). *Acoustic and Perceptual Explanations for Rhotacism in Italic and Germanic*. Ph.D. dissertation. Committee Chair: David Fertig. Department of Linguistics, SUNY University at Buffalo.

Painter, R. (2002). *Preliminaries to a Commentary on Ovid's Ars Amatoria, Book 3.1-128*. M.Litt thesis. Advisor: Philip Burton. School of Classics, St. Andrews University.

Funding & Grants

2024. FULL-TIME FACULTY DEVELOPMENT FUND (FFDF), Office of the Provost, Northeastern University. **\$1,783** for the second year of An Cùrsa Adhartais, advanced Scottish Gaelic course at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Ionad Nàiseanta Cànan is Cultar na Gàidhlig (National Center for Gaelic Language and Culture). Awarded June 21, 2024.

2022. COLLEGE OF SCIENCE DEAN'S FUNDS, Northeastern University. **\$2,000** for intensive Scottish Gaelic at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Awarded Jan. 27, 2022.

2019. GLOBAL EXPERIENCE OFFICE FACULTY FELLOWSHIP (GEOFF), Northeastern University. **\$5,500** for site-visit to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, to develop a Dialogue of Civilization program. Awarded April 26, 2019.

2016. FULL-TIME FACULTY DEVELOPMENT FUND (FFDF), Office of the Provost, Northeastern University. **\$1,264** to attend International Society for the Linguistics of English (ISLE) post-doctorate workshop, *Methods in English Linguistics*, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, June 12-16, 2016. Awarded Feb. 17, 2016

2009. SUMMER RESEARCH GRANT. Dept of Linguistics, State University of New York, University at Buffalo. **\$500** to conduct field experiment in phonetics in Düsseldorf, Germany, June 2009. Awarded April 1, 2009.

Teaching

Courses taught at Northeastern (parentheses = number of students)

2025	SUMMER 1	Ling 3424.01: Morphology (11)
	SPRING	Ling 1150.02: Introduction to Linguistics (17) Ling 1150.03: Introduction to Linguistics (19) Ling 1150.04: Introduction to Linguistics (17)
2024	FALL	Ling 3420.01: Phonetics (19) Ling 4654.01: Seminar: Classical Languages (14), NEW
	SUMMER 1	Ling 3150.01: Field Linguistics (11), ABROAD Ling 3446.01: Language Endangerment & Vitality (11), ABROAD
	SPRING	Ling 3424.01: Morphology (18) Ling 4891.01: Research Seminar in Linguistics (8)
2023	FALL	Ling 1150.02: Introduction to Language & Linguistics (18) Ling 1150.05: Introduction to Language & Linguistics (8) Ling 2350.01: Linguistic Analysis (13)
	SUMMER 2	Ling 3452.01: Semantics (6), REMOTE
	SUMMER 1	Ling 3150.01: Field Linguistics (12), NEW, ABROAD Ling 3446.01: Language Endangerment & Vitality (12), NEW, ABROAD
	SPRING	Ling 3420.01: Phonetics (15) Ling 3452.01: Semantics (19)
2022	FALL	Ling 2350.01: Linguistic Analysis (18) Ling 3424.01: Morphology (11)
	SPRING	Ling 1150.02: Introduction to Language & Linguistics (16) Ling 1150.03: Introduction to Language & Linguistics (19) Ling 4654: Seminar: Field Methods: Albanian (6), NEW
2021	FALL	Ling 1150.01: Introduction to Language & Linguistics (19) Ling 3420.01: Phonetics (12) Ling 3452.01: Semantics (19)

	SPRING	Ling 1150.02: Introduction to Language & Linguistics (19), REMOTE Ling 3424.01: Morphology (19), REMOTE Ling 4891.02: Research Seminar in Linguistics (9), NEW, REMOTE
2020	FALL	Ling 1150.05: Introduction to Language & Linguistics (19), REMOTE Ling 3420.01: Phonetics (11), NEW, REMOTE Ling 3442.01: Sociolinguistics (13), REMOTE
	SPRING	Ling 1150.01: Introduction to Linguistics, Honors (12), REMOTE Ling 2350.01: Linguistic Analysis (18), REMOTE Ling 3452.01: Semantics (14), REMOTE
2019	FALL	Ling 1150.05: Introduction to Language & Linguistics (14) Ling 2350.01: Linguistic Analysis (19)
	SUMMER 1	Ling 1150.01: Introduction to Language & Linguistics (15)
	SPRING	Ling 1150.02: Introduction to Language & Linguistics (16) Ling 1150.03: Introduction to Language & Linguistics (18) Ling 1150.04: Introduction to Language & Linguistics (18) Ling 3424.01: Morphology (14)
2018	FALL	Ling 1150.03: Introduction to Language & Linguistics (18) Ling 1150.04: Introduction to Language & Linguistics (14) Ling 1150.06: Introduction to Language & Linguistics (15)
	SPRING	Ling 1150.04: Introduction to Language & Linguistics (18) Ling 2350.01: Linguistic Analysis (14) Ling 3452.01: Semantics (17), NEW
2017	FALL	Ling 1150.03: Introduction to Language & Linguistics (15) Ling 1150.04: Introduction to Language & Linguistics (10) Ling 2350.01: Linguistic Analysis (13)
	SUMMER 1	Ling 1150.01: Introduction to Language & Linguistics (17)
	SPRING	Ling 1150.02: Introduction to Language & Linguistics (13) Ling 1150.03: Introduction to Language & Linguistics (15) Ling 3424.01: Morphology (18)
2016	FALL	Ling 2350.01: Linguistic Analysis (19) Ling 3422.01: Phonetics & Phonology (19), NEW Ling 3442.01: Sociolinguistics (11), NEW
	SPRING	Ling 1150.03: Introduction to Language & Linguistics (19) Ling 1150.04: Introduction to Language & Linguistics (18)

		Ling 4654.01: Seminar: Field Methods: Bulgarian (7), NEW
2015	FALL	Ling 1150.02: Introduction to Language & Linguistics (11) Ling 1150.08: Introduction to Language & Linguistics (7) Ling 2350.01: Linguistic Analysis (13), NEW Ling 3424.01: Morphology (6)
	SPRING	Ling 1150.02: Introduction to Language & Linguistics (13) Ling 3422.01: Phonology (14)
2014	FALL	Ling 1150.05: Introduction to Language & Linguistics (19) Ling 1150.09: Introduction to Language & Linguistics (5) Ling 3458.02: Topics: Morphology (16), NEW
	SUMMER 1	Ling 1150.01: Introduction to Language & Linguistics (10)
	SPRING	Ling 1150.02: Introduction to Linguistics, Honors (15), NEW Ling 1150.06: Introduction to Language & Linguistics (14) Ling 4654.01: Seminar: Old English (10), NEW
2013	FALL	Ling 1150.05: Introduction to Language & Linguistics (19), NEW Ling 1150.09: Introduction to Language & Linguistics (19) Ling 3422.01: Phonology (10), NEW

Courses taught at D'Youville College

2013	SUMMER	TSL 660: Applied Linguistics & Grammar (graduate) TSL 664: Sociolinguistics & Multiculturalism (graduate)
	SPRING	TSL 658: Research Methods in TESOL (graduate) TSL 680: English Grammar for ESL Teachers (graduate), NEW
2012	FALL	TSL 658: Research Methods in TESOL (graduate), NEW TSL 660: Applied Linguistics & Grammar (graduate), NEW TSL 664: Sociolinguistics & Multiculturalism (graduate), NEW
	SPRING	EDU 631: Foreign Language Teaching Methods (graduate), NEW Latin 101INT (online) Lang 398DS: Special Topics: Old English, NEW Speech 201: Public Speaking, NEW
2011	FALL	German 101 Latin 101 Latin 101INT, NEW, REMOTE
	SPRING	Latin 101

2010 FALL German 101
Latin 101

SPRING German 103: Directed Study: Literature in Translation, NEW
Latin 101, NEW

Courses taught at State University of New York at Buffalo

2009 FALL German 101

SUMMER Ling 108: Roots of English

SPRING Ling 301: Sound Structure of English

2008 FALL Ling 301: Sound Structure of English, NEW

SPRING German 102

2007 FALL German 101

SPRING German 102

2006 FALL German 101

SPRING German 102, NEW

2005 FALL German 101, NEW

Linguistics 108: Roots of English, NEW

Courses taught at St Andrews University (Scotland)

2003 FALL Latin 403: Latin Unseen Translation

2002 SPRING Classics 201: Roman Culture & Society

Supervision

Supervision of Undergraduate Honors Projects

Singer, T. (2025-2026). *Preserving cultural memory: an analysis of Cuban-Spanish narrative*.
First Reader: Robert Painter. Second Reader: Aisulu Raspayeva.

Wilson, M. (2021). 'Nothing says come at me like a pigeon sidekick': *Gendered sarcasm in middle grade literature*. First Reader: Heather Littlefield. Second Reader: Robert Painter.

- Larson, E. (2018). *Still super, but not as super: a linguistic analysis of gendered portrayals in superhero movies*. First Reader: Heather Littlefield; Second Reader: Robert Painter. Poster presented at *Research, Innovation, and Scholarship Expo (RISE)*, Northeastern University, April 5, 2018.
- Lustig, A. (2018). *Burying the lede: a linguistic analysis of lede-writing style over time*. First Reader: Heather Littlefield; Second Reader: Robert Painter. Poster presented at *Research, Innovation, and Scholarship Expo (RISE)*, Northeastern University, April 5, 2018. Published in *Northeastern University Working Papers in Linguistics*, Fall 2018. [PDF](#).
- Foster, Suraya. (2017). *Multilingualism in the workplace: attitudes toward French, Flemish, and English at multinational companies in Brussels*. Advisor & Co-PI: Robert Painter, for Scholars Institutional Research Fellowship (SIRF). Published in *Northeastern University Working Papers in Linguistics*, Fall 2017. [PDF](#).

Service

Program Service

- Member, (Generative) AI & Linguistics Working Group (April 2025-Pres.)
- Assistant Director of the Linguistics Program (July 2022-Pres.)
- Editor, *Northeastern University Working Papers in Linguistics* (2018-2024)
- Faculty Advisor to the NU Linguistics Club (2014-2020, 2023-Pres.)
- Member, Linguistics Program Replacement Hire Search Committee (Spring 2021)
- Member, Masters in Computational Linguistics Development Committee (Spring 2021)

College Service

- Member, College of Science Non-Tenure Track Faculty Committee (2024-2026)
- Member, College of Science Non-Tenure Track Faculty Committee (2020-2022)

University Service

- Faculty Leader, Dialogue of Civilization: Linguistic Fieldwork in Scotland (May 6-June 6, 2026)
- Faculty Leader, Dialogue of Civilization: Linguistic Fieldwork in Scotland (May 5-June 6, 2024)
- Faculty Leader, Dialogue of Civilization: Linguistic Fieldwork in Scotland (May 22-June 24, 2023)
- Member, Administrative Evaluation Oversight Committee, Faculty Senate (2024-2026)
- Member, Administrative Evaluation Oversight Committee, Faculty Senate (2022-2024)
- Faculty Leader, Writing Group, ADVANCE, Office of the Provost. (2021-2022)
- Chair & Member, Enrollment & Admissions Policy Committee, Faculty Senate. (2020-2021)
- Chair & Member, Enrollment & Admissions Policy Committee, Faculty Senate. (2019-2020)
- Panelist, Full-Time Faculty Promotion Panel, ADVANCE, Office of the Provost, (Oct. 25, 2017)

- Member, Faculty Writing Group, ADVANCE, Office of the Provost (2018-2019).

Service to the Discipline

- Abstract Reviewer for Annual Meetings, Linguistic Society of America. (2014-2024)
- Session Chair, Linguistic Society of America, Annual Meeting, Portland, Oregon, session on Phonetic Variability, January 10, 2015.

Service to D'Youville College

- Director of TESOL Program; Education Department, D'Youville College (2012-2013)
- Member, Task Force for the DYC Intensive English Bridge Program (2012-2013)
- Member, Middle States General Education Review Committee (2012-2013)
- Reviewer, Institutional Review Board, D'Youville College (2012-2013)

Professional Development

Post-doctoral Training

- Post-Doctoral Student, '*Methods in English Linguistics: Phonetic Analysis with Praat*'. ISLE Summer School 2016, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands (Summer 2016)

Mentor Groups

- Member, Faculty Mentoring Circle, ADVANCE, Office of the Provost (2017-2018)

Pedagogical Workshops at Northeastern University

CATLR = Center for Advancing Teaching and Learning Through Research

GEO = Global Experience Office

- *Building your AI Toolkit*. CATLR, May 22, 2025.
- *Faculty Insights: Integrating AI into Teaching*. CATLR, May 19, 2025.
- *DOC Risk Aware Design Training for Faculty-Leaders*. GEO, April 28, 2025.
- *Building Class Community in Difficult Times*. CATLR, Sept. 10, 2024.
- *Understanding the Needs and Perspectives of International Students as Learners*. CATLR, July 29, 2024.
- *Successful Team Projects 2: Project Structure & Feedback Practices*. CATLR, July 15, 2024.
- *DOC Risk Aware Design Training for Faculty-Leaders*. GEO, April 29, 2024.
- *DOC Health & Safety Training for Faculty-Leaders*. GEO, March 27, 2024.
- *DOC Recruitment & Selection Workshop*. GEO, Oct. 23, 2023.
- *Ableism to Inclusion: Teaching Across Physical & Psychological Diversity*. CATLR, July 27, 2023.
- *DOC Risk Aware Design Training for Faculty-Leaders*. GEO, July 10, 2023.
- *DOC Health & Safety Training for Faculty-Leaders*. GEO, March 31, 2023.
- *Teaching Strategies to Support First-Generation College Students*. CATLR, March 29, 2022.

- *Teaching at the Crossroads: Multi-disciplinary Practices and Pedagogies*. CATLR, Feb. 11, 2022.
- *DOC Faculty Teaching Exchange*'. CATLR, Nov. 18, 2021.
- *'Prep for fall: Developing assessments for your course'*. CATLR, Aug. 31, 2021.
- *'Fostering Self-Direction with Universal Design for Learning'*. CATLR, Aug. 16, 2021.
- *'Increasing Comprehension with Universal Design for Learning'*. CATLR, Aug. 2, 2021.
- *'Igniting Motivation With Universal Design for Learning'*. CATLR, July 19, 2021.
- *'Enabling and Enhancing Creativity for Equity and Inclusion'*. CATLR, June 2, 2021
- *'Assessment Exchange: Exams & More'*. CATLR, April 4, 2021.
- Private Consultation, *'Canvas Course Consult for Fall 2020'*. Academic Technology Services, Aug. 31, 2020.
- *'DOC Virtual Sessions'*. GEO, Aug. 18, 2020.
- *'Organizing Your Course in Canvas'*. CATLR, July 7, 2020.
- *'Getting started teaching online in Canvas'*. CATLR, June 26, 2020.
- *'Engaging Learners in Reflection'*. CATLR, May 18, 2020.
- *'Canvas Training'*. Academic Technology Services, April 2, 2020.
- *'Getting Started in Online Teaching'*. CATLR, March 10, 2020.
- *'DOC Teaching Exchange'*. CATLR & GEO, Nov. 25, 2019.
- *'DOC Recruitment & Selection Training'*. GEO, Sept. 30, 2019.
- *'DOC Health & Safety Training'*. GEO, Sept. 19, 2019.
- *'Students as Partners'*. CATLR, Sept. 24, 2018.
- *'Designing Authentic Assignments'*. CATLR, July 30, 2018.
- *'Intro to SAIL, Part 2: Putting it into action'*. CATLR, June 20, 2018.
- *'Intro to SAIL, Part 1: Visions, Goals, and You'*. CATLR, June 18, 2018.
- *'Teaching for Critical Thinking'*. CATLR, June 5, 2018.
- *'Designing interactive multimedia for 'learning''*. CATLR, May 14-18, 2018.
- *'Equip your students to improve their learning.'* CATLR, Oct. 3, 2017.
- *'Students as Makers: Learning that Lasts.'* CATLR, March 30, 2017.
- *'Teaching with Artifacts: Integrating Student Voice to Promote Deep Learning.'* CATLR, March 23, 2017.
- *'Supporting Student Responsibility for Learning'*. CATLR, Feb. 28, 2017.
- *'Designing Effective In-Class Group Activities'*. CATLR, Feb. 13-March 3, 2017.
- *'Integrating Learning: Building a Whole Greater than the Sum of the Parts'*. CATLR, Jan. 17, 2017.
- *'Developing Rubrics for Effective and Efficient Grading'*. CATLR, July 13, 2016.
- *'Re-envisioning Lectures to Deepen Learning'*. CATLR, May 9-June 3, 2016.
- *'Re-envisioning Lectures: Organizing for Comprehension'*. CATLR, Feb. 10, 2016.
- *'The Flipped Classroom: What it is and Getting Started'*. CATLR, Jan. 26, 2016.
- *'If not Lecture, Then... What?'*. CATLR, Jan. 21, 2016.

Professional Memberships

- Linguistic Society of America (LSA), 2018-Pres.
- Society of Germanic Linguistics, 2018-Pres.
- Classical Association of the Atlantic States, 2018-Pres.

Awards

- Nominee, Northeastern University Global Educator Award, 2025
- Nominee, Northeastern University Global Educator Award, 2024
- Nominee, College of Science Excellence in Teaching Award, 2021.
- Nominee, College of Science Excellence in Teaching Award, 2019.
- Ph.D. Tuition Scholarship, Dept of Linguistics, SUNY University at Buffalo (2005-2009)

Research Interests

- *Primary*: Field Linguistics, Language Contact, Phonetics
- *Secondary*: Historical Linguistics, Classical Languages, Translation

Languages

Languages

- *Spoken*: English (*native*), German (C1), Scottish Gaelic (B2)
- *Reading or Structural Knowledge*: Albanian, Bulgarian, Danish, Dutch, Greek, Irish, Italian, Latin, Norwegian, Old English, Old Icelandic, Old Irish, Old High German, Spanish, Swedish.

Selected Coursework

- SCOTTISH GAELIC {at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig}
 - An Cùrsa Adhartais* (Advanced Course), 2023-2025.
 - An Cùrsa Inntigidh* (Gaelic Access Course), 2020-2022
 - Advanced Gaelic Conversation 2, May-June, Spring 2025
 - Advanced Gaelic Conversation 1, Feb-March, Spring 2025
 - Gaelic 9, Summer 2025
 - Gaelic 8, Summer 2024
 - Gaelic 7, Summer 2023
 - Gaelic 5, Summer 2022
 - Gaelic 3, Summer 2021
 - Gaelic 2, Summer 2020
 - Gaelic 1, Summer 2019
- GERMAN
 - C1 coursework, Goethe Institut-Toronto, Summer 2011
 - B2 coursework, Goethe Institut-Schwäbisch Hall, Summer 2006
 - Year 4, Deutsche Schule, Middlebury College, Summer 2004
 - Year 1, Deutsche Schule, Middlebury College, Summer 2000

References available upon request