

JOSHUA FINCHER(425) 761-6827, jfincher@hillsdale.edu**Education**PhD **Yale University**, 2015Dissertation: "Nonnus' *Dionysiaca* and the Redefinition of Epic Poetry and the Heroic Code"

Committee: Kirk Freudenburg, Egbert Bakker, Joseph Reed

MPhil **Yale University**, 2012MA **Yale University**, 2012Special Topics: Livy's Fourth Decade, Ovid's *Fasti*, Greek and Roman Ethnography, Nonnus' *Dionysiaca*BA **University of Washington**, Major: Classics, *summa cum laude*, 2008

2007 Study Abroad in Turkey and Greece

2006 Study Abroad, UW Rome Campus

The Dean's Medalist for the Humanities

Undergraduate Thesis: "Landscape Ecphrases in Statius' *Thebaid*" (adviser, Stephen Hinds)**Employment**Assistant Professor: **Hillsdale College**, 2019-2025Visiting Assistant Professor: **Hillsdale College**, 2017-2019Term Assistant Professor: **Barnard College/Columbia University**, 2016-2017Lecturer: **Princeton University**, 2015-2016

Research Interests: Greek and Latin didactic poetry, Greek and Latin epic and drama, Hellenistic literature, Nonnus, historical linguistics, Second Sophistic literature, ancient science, Late Antiquity, Neo-Platonism, ancient magic, gender in antiquity, Biblical Hebrew, Hebrew Bible, ancient Judaism, rabbinic studies, Sanskrit and South Asian literature, comparative religion, early Christianity

Teaching and Advising:

In terms of teaching, I have taught over 90 courses in my seven years at Hillsdale in classics and for the religion department at all levels (very many repeatedly). Additionally, I teach at least one Collegiate Scholars Program seminar each year, am the only consistent instructor for the graduate intensive language classes in the summer, and have supervised several independent studies. In terms of advising, I maintain a consistent load of core advisees, function as a major adviser, provide key graduate school advising, and have advised eleven CSP theses, one museum-studies thesis, one history thesis, and one thesis in religion.

Teaching and Advising Experience:Hillsdale College:**Classics:***Latin I, II, III*

(Beginning/Intermediate, repeated)

Greek I, II, III

(Beginning/Intermediate, repeated)

Lysias and Plato

(Intermediate)

Homeric Heroism in the Iliad

(Intermediate)

Herodotus and the Other

(Intermediate)

The Homeric Hymns

(Advanced, Seminar)

Senecan Prose and Tragedy

(Advanced, Seminar)

Medea in Ovid's Metamorphoses

(Advanced, Seminar)

Ovid's Ars Amatoria

(Advanced, Seminar)

*Sophocles: Philoctetes: The Homeric Hero in**Classical Athens*

(Advanced, Seminar)

Ecphrasis in Latin Poetry: Statius and Ovid

(Advanced, Seminar)

<i>Homer's Odyssey</i>	(Advanced, Seminar)
<i>Classical Civilization</i>	(Survey course, Translation, repeated)
<i>Greek History and Civilization</i>	(Survey course, Translation, repeated)
<i>Roman History and Civilization</i>	(Survey course, Translation, repeated)
<i>Greek and Roman Epic in Translation</i>	(Survey course, Translation, repeated)
<i>An Introduction to Historical PIE Linguistics</i>	(Survey course, repeated)

Biblical Hebrew:

<i>Biblical Hebrew I, II</i>	(Beginning)
<i>Third Isaiah</i>	(Intermediate, Translation)
<i>Exodus</i>	(Intermediate, Translation)
<i>Second Samuel</i>	(Intermediate, Translation)
<i>The Book of Job</i>	(Intermediate, Translation)
<i>Song of Songs</i>	(Intermediate, Translation)
<i>Genesis: the life of Abraham</i>	(Intermediate, Translation)
<i>Genesis: the Joseph Narrative</i>	(Intermediate, Translation)
<i>Judges I</i>	(Intermediate, Translation)
<i>Judges II</i>	(Intermediate, Translation)
<i>Hosea</i>	(Intermediate, Translation)
<i>The Minor Prophets</i>	(Intermediate, Translation)

Graduate:

<i>Intensive Greek (Politics)</i>	(Beginning, Graduate course)
<i>Intensive Latin (Politics)</i>	(Beginning, Graduate course)
<i>Intensive Latin (Masters in Education)</i>	(Beginning, Graduate course)

Collegiate Scholars Program/Additional Programs:

<i>Introduction to Rabbinic Literature</i>	(Lecture course)
<i>Para-Biblical Literature of the Old Testament</i>	(Lecture, seminar)
<i>Introduction to PIE Historical Linguistics</i>	(Lecture course, three times)
<i>The Pharisee Revolution and its Influence</i>	(Lecture, seminar course)
<i>The Literature of the Ancient Near East and India</i>	(Seminar, survey course)
<i>American Architecture in the 19th Century and Intellectual Culture</i>	(Seminar, lecture, twice)

Independent Studies:

<i>Introduction to Ugaritic</i>	(Directed studies, twice)
<i>The Soul in Jewish Thought</i>	(Directed studies)
<i>Theocritus and Greek Bucolic Poetry</i>	(Directed studies)
<i>Cicero: First Catilinarian</i>	(Directed studies)
<i>Gregory of Nyssa and Late Antique Rhetoric</i>	(Directed studies)
<i>Intensive Biblical Hebrew</i>	(Beginning)

Thesis Advising:

Sara Garfinkle "Words Unsettled on Earth: An Interdisciplinary Method for Measuring Change in Word Meaning Across Genesis and Galatians"

Mark Compton "Dis Aliter Visum: The Mystery of Piety through the Intellectual Development and Cultural Imaginary in the Western Tradition"

Andrew Kennedy "The Poet of Proteus: Religious Identity and Poetic Creation in the Dionysiaca of Nonnus"

Andrew Simpson "'The Illegitimate, Deified Son': The Genealogy of Jesus of Nazareth in Contemporary Christian, Jewish, and Pagan Thought"

Abraham Paternoster “Mediating the Merchants: The Impact of Arabic Language and Culture on Swahili Development”
 Daniel Grifferty “Hebraica Veritas: Job 19:25-26 and Jerome’s Theological Philology”
 Jenny Buccola “An Allegory of Resurrection: A Rabbinic Reading of the Akedah” (Religion)
 Sophie Koster “The Role of Imaging Technology in Paleoanthropology and Archaeology”
 Sean Collins “Philosophical Evangelism: Stoic Influence in Paul’s Letters to the Romans and Corinthians”
 Hope Ladd ““Iam Cedant Veteres, Nam Superat Novus”: Sedulius’ Use of Lucan’s *Bellum Civile* in the Paschale Carmen”
 Noah Schleusener “The Mystery of the Kingdom of God”
 Marylou Brown “Ovid and Shaw on Pygmalion”
 William Stuart “Continuity between the Younger and Older Zoroastrian Avestan Texts” (History)
 Caire Wilkinson- Thesis in Museum Studies

Prior Teaching:

Barnard/Columbia:

<i>Elementary Latin</i>	(Beginning)
<i>The Classical Tradition</i>	(Survey course, Translation)
<i>Homer</i>	(Intermediate)
<i>Intermediate Latin II: Ovid and Livy</i>	(Intermediate)
<i>First Year Seminar: Celebrity and Heroism: A Comparative Approach across Five Cultures</i>	(Seminar, writing-based, interdisciplinary)
<i>Intensive Greek</i>	(Beginning)

Princeton:

<i>Classical Mythology</i>	(Lecture course, Translation)
<i>Homer and the Epic Tradition: the Odyssey</i>	(Advanced, Seminar)
<i>Intensive Greek</i>	(Beginning)
<i>Introduction to Homer</i>	(Intermediate)
<i>Post-Classical Greek: Homeric Criticism in the Second Sophistic and Early Christianity</i>	(Advanced, Seminar)
Two junior theses advised	

Yale:

<i>Introduction to Ancient Greek</i>	(Beginning)
<i>Alexander the Great and the Hellenistic World</i>	(Instructor for writing section)
<i>Introduction to Latin</i>	(Beginning)
<i>The Roman Empire</i>	(Instructor for writing section)
<i>Greek Prose: an Introduction</i>	(Intermediate)
<i>Latin Poetry</i>	(Intermediate)
<i>Intensive Ancient Greek</i>	(Beginning)
<i>Introduction to Homer</i>	(Intermediate)

Research and Professional Growth:

Selected Papers, Lectures, and Other Conference Presentations:

“A New Translation of the [Orphic] *Lithika*.” Hillsdale College. March 23, 2025

“Hypatia of Alexandria: a pagan-Christian controversy.” Hillsdale College. *Eta Sigma Phi*. February 23, 2022.

“History in Miniature: modelling and researching Hillsdale’s Architecture in 1890.” Hillsdale College. *Mossey Library: Faculty After Hours*. February 17, 2022.

“Furniture of the Mind: Controversies on American Classics Education”. Hillsdale College. *Collegiate Scholars’ Program: Retreat*. August 23, 2019.

“Stoicism and Vergil’s *Aeneid*”. Hillsdale College. *Collegiate Scholars’ Program: Dessert*. March 1, 2019.

“The Linguistic Heritage of Latin.” Hillsdale College. *Barney Charter School Initiative Teacher Training Conference*. June 15, 2018.

“The Idea of Truth in the Jewish Talmud.” Hillsdale College. *Hillsdale Havarah Lectures*. April 8, 2018.

“Hypatia and Religious Struggle in Late Antique Alexandria.” Hillsdale College. *Eta Sigma Phi*. November 5, 2017.

“Nonnus’ *Dionysiaca*, Gender, and the Triumph of Knowledge.” Princeton University. *Behind the Symbol: the Context and Legacy of Hypatia*. December 11-12, 2015

“Aeacus’ Heroism and Homeric Reception in Nonnus’ *Dionysiaca*.” 146th Annual Meeting of the Society for Classical Studies. January 9, 2015

“*Dionysiaca* 25: Nonnus’ Vindication and Homeric Polemic.” Yale University, Works in Progress Colloquium. September 22, 2014

“The Tablets of Harmonia in the *Dionysiaca*.” Yale University, Greco-Roman Lunch. December 16, 2013

“The Tablets of Harmonia and the Role of Poet and Reader in the *Dionysiaca*.” University of Vienna. *Nonnus of Panopolis in Context II: Poetry, Religion, and Society*. September 26-28, 2013

“Narratives of Cultural and Environmental Change in Nonnus’ *Dionysiaca*.” University of Cincinnati. *Classics Goes Green: Interactions with the Environment and the Ancient World*. April 21, 2012

Publications and Writing:

“Harmonia” in Evelyne Prioux, Jean-Philippe Guez, Florence Klein, and Jocelyne Peigney *Dictionnaires des images du poétique* (Garnier, 2025)

“Hypatia’s Sisters? Nonnus’ *Dionysiaca*, Gender, and the Triumph of Knowledge.” For the series “Studien und Texte zu Antike und Christentum” (Brill, 2020)

“The Tablets of Harmonia and the Role of Poet and Reader in the *Dionysiaca*.” in *Nonnus of Panopolis in Context II* (Brill’s Late Antiquity, 2017).

Review: “Homer: *The Odyssey* tr. Martin Hammond” in *Rivista di Cultura Classica e Medievale*. Autumn, 2015.

“A Biblical Hebrew Workbook for Practico, Van Pelt: *Basics of Biblical Hebrew Grammar*” (502 pages, used in my beginning Hebrew sequence)

“Exodus 1-10: an intermediate student commentary” (used in my intermediate Hebrew class)

“Judges 1-10: an intermediate student commentary” (used in my intermediate Hebrew class)

“A New Translation and Commentary on the [Orphic] *Lithika*” (2024) unpublished

“An English Translation and Commentary for the *Carmen de Ponderibus et Mensuris*” (2025) unpublished

Independent translations of didactic poetry for a projected reader (in process): *Peri Botanon* (substantially complete), Quintus Serenus Sammonicus, *Liber Medicinalis* (in process), *Aetna* (partial draft).

The Sefaria Project: A Living Library of Jewish Texts, community translations: “Esther Rabbah”, “Kohelet Rabbah”, “Ruth Rabbah”, “Kutim”, sections of “Bereishit Rabbah”

Current Projects:

- A new collection of translations and scholarly commentaries on Greek and Roman didactic poetry (in process, two translations completed). I hope to publish these as a reader of less familiar ancient didactic poetry.
- Accessible commentaries for intermediate students on appropriate books of the Hebrew Bible, with a focus on philological and grammatical aids and textual criticism.

Languages:

Reading knowledge of Greek, Latin, French, German, Biblical Hebrew, Sanskrit, Ugaritic, Old Avestan, Judeo-Babylonian Aramaic. Some knowledge of Mandarin Chinese.

Service Activities at Hillsdale:

Committees

- Biology Search Committee, 2023-2024
- Classics Search Committee, 2023

Awards:

- Nominee for Professor of the Year, 2025
- Gershom Lecturer, Hillsdale College Department of Religion, 2018

Club Advising and College Service

- Jewish Mishpacha of Hillsdale College (formerly Hillsdale Chavarah) 2017-2025
- Renaissance Friday co-organizer 2018-2025
- Architecture Club 2025
- Eta Sigma Phi 2020-2023
- Judge: Everett Oratory Contest: 2020-2024
- Performer in “Remembering the Shoah Music, Songs, and Poems”, April 5, 2025, Hillsdale College

Special Projects:

- Model Exhibition, Hillsdale County Fair 2021, 2022

- Model Exhibition, Hillsdale County Historical Society Farm Festival, 2021
- Creation and donation of artwork to Mitchell Research Center-2022
- Trip to Philadelphia 2019- to assess the gravesite of the first president of Hillsdale College

Work in Administration and Admissions

- Consistent contact for all Jewish prospectives, parents, and several donors- includes meetings with most prospectives, answering frequent emails on Jewish life at Hillsdale, and speaking with potential Jewish donors
- Meeting with admissions counselors on how to talk to Jewish prospectives 2024, drafted for admissions sample emails describing Jewish life at Hillsdale
- Admissions Faculty receptions 2022-2025
- Scholars Weekend Lunch 2022
- Developing language for Karen Kataline scholarship 2018
- Created documents outlining Classics Department comprehensive policy, exams, and evaluations, as well as an analysis of the Politics Department intensive language courses, reported on the results of 2024 pilot MACE language intensive and developed a plan and revisions to the curriculum

Previous Service, Awards, and Work:

- Deborah Roberts Teaching Prize, 2015
- Alice Derby Lang Essay Prize, 2014
- Graduate Faculty Liaison, 2013-2015
- Writing Instruction Certification, Yale University, 2011
- Barnard Pedagogy Development Group, 2016
- Senior Thesis Adviser, Columbia, 2017
- Junior Paper Adviser (two advisees), Princeton, 2016
- Content Developer, Pedago LLC, 2015-16
- Referee for the *Journal of Late Antiquity*, 2015
- Editor for Noel Lenski (Yale) *What is a Slave Society?*, 2015-18
- Proofreader for Marc Domingo Gygax (Princeton) *Benefaction and Rewards*, 2016; Manuscript Editor, *Benefactors and the Polis*, 2018
- Manuscript Editor and Illustrator for Harriet Flower *The Dancing Lares and the Serpent in the Garden* (Princeton), 2016
- Digital Database Assistant- GALex (A Greco-Arabic Lexicon) Project, 2015-2016
- Extensive Greek and Latin tutoring experience (seven different tutees), 2012-2015
- Estate Appraiser, 2015
- Commissioned Artist, 2015-2023
- Blog Writer: *The Picturesque Style: Italianate Architecture*, 2014-2017
- Biblical Hebrew tutor and instructor, 2010-2011