

Visiting Speaker: Dr. Kathleen Blake Yancey

“Expansive Notions of the Contexts in which Persons Write and Otherwise Act with Texts”: The Compositions of Montana’s Emigrant Cemetery

March 25, 2014

3:30pm

The Common Room

Reception Immediately Following

Historically, Rhetoric and Composition has located composing inside the classroom, though more recently we have turned our attention to writing outside the classroom walls, attending especially to everyday writing, including diaries, letters, postcards, and scrapbooks. One site of everyday writing is the cemetery, which hosts multilayered compositions—the composition of the cemetery itself (in its layout, foliage, and so on); tombstones, which are richly multimodal compositions; tombstones-extended, as sites or canvas for improvisational compositions, including flowers, flags, stickers, and children’s toys; and the collective composition of the cemetery itself, the portrait it makes of the community that created it and which it represents. To explore the occasional everyday writing we find in cemeteries, I turn to Emigrant Cemetery in Montana, home to 250 graves, 30 miles north of Yellowstone National Park, founded in 1881 and still active today.



Kathleen Blake Yancey is the Kellogg W. Hunt Professor of English and Distinguished Research Professor. Her research focuses on composition studies generally; on writing assessment, especially print and electronic portfolios; and on the intersections of culture, literacy and technologies. Her edited collection, *Delivering College Composition: The Fifth Canon*, was released recently as well; it received the Best Book Award from the Council of Writing Program Administrators. She is also the editor of *College Composition and Communication (CCC)*, the flagship journal in composition and rhetoric. Her current research includes *Writing across Contexts: Transfer, Composition, and Sites of Writing*, co-authored with FSU alums Liane Robertson and Kara Taczak, forthcoming from Utah State University Press in spring 2014.