

Christopher James Simonson

Ph.D. Candidate, University of Missouri-Columbia
Department of Classics, Archaeology, & Religion

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Academic Employment

University of Missouri, Columbia MO	2022-Present
Graduate Instructor/Teaching Assistant, Department of Classics, Archaeology, & Religion	
St. Francis Xavier School, Acushnet MA	2019-2022
Humanities Teacher	
University of Missouri, Columbia MO	2017-2019
Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Ancient Mediterranean Studies	
Archway Classical Academy, Scottsdale AZ	2015-2016
Assistant Teacher	

Education

Ph.D., University of Missouri , Ancient Mediterranean Studies <i>Academic advisor: Signe Cohen, Ph.D.</i>	[in progress]
M.A., University of Missouri , Classical Languages	2019
B.A., Saint Anselm College , Classical Archaeology	2015
Cert., Université de Montréal , Level 1 French Immersion	2018
Non-Degree Seeking, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth , Postcolonial Literature	2021
Non-Degree Seeking, Bridgewater State University , Latin	2016-2017

Research Interests

- Comparative Literature and Reception Studies
- Comparative Myth and Religion
- Cognitive Science of Religion and Religious Psychology
- Indo-European Languages and Literature
- Semitic Languages and Literature
- 20th and 21st Century Postcolonial Literature of Africa and India

Awards, Publications, and Conference Presentations

Conference Presentations:

“A Homeric Hymn to *Homo Deus*: Interstellar Divine Negotiations in *Star Trek*”, paper presented at the *Classical Association of the Middle West and South Annual Conference*, Champaign, IL (2025)

“The ‘Death-by-Substitution’ Motif: An Analysis of Structural and Thematic Elements Across Epic Oral Traditions” paper presented at the *Eugene Lane Occasional Papers*, Columbia, MO (2025)

“Angels and AI: The Genesis of Artificial Intelligence and Its Parallels with the Designs of the Divine,” paper presented at the *University of Reading’s GCMS PGR Conference*, Reading, UK (2024)

“Gods of Hymnic Past, Present, and Future: Analytical Approaches to the Homeric Hymn to Hermes,” paper presented at the *Midwest American Academy of Religion annual conference*, Springfield, MO (2024)

"The Wife in Waiting Motif: Examining Female Representation Within Marriage in Classical and Postcolonial Literature," paper presented at the *Eugene Lane Occasional Papers*, Columbia, MO (2022)

"Anchors Among Shifting Tides: Examining a New Place and Space for Ancient Religion in Early Christianity," paper presented at the *Heartland Graduate Symposium*, Columbia, MO (2018)

“Excavation of a Medieval Vampire at Allerona,” presented at *the Saint Anselm College Undergraduate Research and Scholar Presentations*, Manchester NH (2015)

Publications:

Accepted: “A Homeric Hymn to *Homo Deus*: Divine Interstellar Negotiations in *Star Trek*”, by Erica Rose Hampton and **Christopher James Simonson**, chapter within *Star Trek and the Ancient Past*, to be published through Routledge Press.

Awards:

Brown Memorial Scholarship (2025)

Jill Raitt Fund Scholarship (2024)

Saint Anselm College Undergraduate Research and Scholar (URSP) Grant (2014)

Courses Taught as Instructor of Record

University of Missouri

Spring 2026

- Norse Mythology

Fall 2025

- Harry Potter, Magic, and Religion

Spring 2025

- Elementary Latin 1200

Fall 2024

- Elementary Latin 1100

Spring 2023

- Elementary Latin 1200

Fall 2023

- Elementary Latin 1100

Spring 2023

- Classical Myth*

Spring 2019

- Classical Myth*

Spring 2018

- Classical Myth*

* Writing intensive Friday section labs

St. Francis Xavier School:

2021- 2022 Academic Year

- English, Theology, Latin, and Linguistics

2020- 2021 Academic Year

- English and Theology

2019- 2020 Academic Year

- English and Theology

Courses as a Teaching Assistant

University of Missouri:

Fall 2026

- Introduction to Religion
- Classical Mythology

Summer 2025

- The Bronze Age to the Byzantine Empire (Greece Study abroad)

Spring 2023

- Global Religions
- Classical Mythology (Writing Intensive)

Fall 2022

- Elementary Latin 1
- Classical Mythology

Spring 2019

- Roman Culture
- Classical Mythology (Writing Intensive)

Fall 2018

- Elementary Greek 1
- Intermediate Latin

Spring 2018

- Classical Mythology (Writing Intensive)

Fall 2017

- Greek Culture
- Classical Mythology

Guest Lectures Given

Fall 2026

- “Alchemy and Resurrection Narratives: An Examination through Comparative Mythology” (Harry Potter, Magic, and Religion)

Fall 2024

- “Angels and AI: Traditions of Angels in Scripture and Tradition, and Parallels with Artificial Intelligence” (Robots and Religion)

Spring 2023

- “Palestine: An Examination of the Abrahamic Faiths and Historical Context” (Global Religions)

Fall 2022

- “Apollonius’ Argonautica” (Classical Mythology)
- “The *Iliad*, Books 20, 22, and 24” (Classical Mythology)

Spring 2019

- “Roman Economics” (Roman Culture)
- “The *Oresteia* Trilogy” (Classical Mythology, Writing Intensive)

Fall 2017

- “Plato’s *Apology*” (Ancient Greek Culture)
- “Arrows through the Axes: The *Odyssey*, Book 21” (Ancient Greek Culture)

Archaeological Experience and Leadership Positions

Institute of Mediterranean Archaeology, Saint Anselm College Umbria Italy Excavation

Project: 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017

- Trench Capo 2017
- Trench Vice Capo 2015

Services to the University

University of Missouri:

- Classics, Archaeology, and Religion Curriculum Committee 2022-2023, 2026-Present
- Secretary, Graduate Student Association 2018-2019, 2024-2025
- Humanities Center Board Member 2023-Present
- Treasurer, Graduate Student Association 2023-2024
- Advertising Coordinator, Heartland Graduate Symposium 2018

Primary References

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Additional References

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