



**INVENTORY TO  
THE JAMES BERLIN PAPERS, 1978-1994**

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## Descriptive Summary

<b>Creator</b>	Berlin, James, 1942-1994
<b>Title</b>	James Berlin Papers
<b>Date Span</b>	1978-1994
<b>Abstract</b>	Papers relating to the academic career of James Berlin, Professor of English at Purdue University and major figure in the development of cultural studies pedagogy in rhetoric and composition.
<b>Quantity</b>	7 cubic feet
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Repository</b>	Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries

## Administrative Information

<b>Access</b>	Collection is open for research. The collection is stored offsite; 24 hours notice is required to access the collection. One box of confidential student records and peer evaluations is restricted from access until 2064.
<b>Preferred Citation</b>	James Berlin Papers, Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries
<b>Copyright Notice</b>	Rights transferred to Purdue University by Sandy Berlin, June 2006
<b>Acquisition</b>	Donated by Sandy Berlin, wife of James Berlin, June 2006. Papers were transferred from Berlin's office at Purdue University and from his home in West Lafayette, Indiana to Archives and Special Collections in June 2006.
<b>Accession Number</b>	20060619
<b>Location</b>	HKRP 340
<b>Processed By</b>	Shirley K. Rose, 2006

## **Subject Headings**

### **Persons**

Berlin, James

### **Organizations**

Purdue University- Department of English

### **Topics**

Cultural studies theory

Cultural studies pedagogy

Composition studies

Writing instruction

Rhetoric- history of

Rhetorical theory

Composition theory

## Biographical Sketch of James Berlin

James Berlin was a faculty member in the Department of English at Purdue University from 1987 to 1994. He was a nationally renowned educator and scholar in rhetoric and composition, valued for his leadership in the development of a cultural studies approach to teaching writing. He was also known for his scholarship on the history of rhetoric and composition theory.

Berlin was born in 1942 in Hamtramck, Michigan. He attended St. Florian High School, where he played football and basketball. He entered Central Michigan University on a football scholarship, receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree and graduating summa cum laude in 1964. Berlin began teaching in elementary schools in Flint and Detroit, Michigan. In 1969 he entered graduate school at The University of Michigan, working towards a degree in English. He received his Master of Arts degree from Michigan in 1970, and his Ph.D. in Victorian literature from there in 1975. His doctoral dissertation was on the relation of German Idealism to Tennyson, Browning, and Arnold.

After he received his Ph.D. he accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Composition at Wichita State University (1975 until 1981). While at Wichita State, Berlin served as the first director of the Kansas Writing Project. Berlin later worked as Associate Professor of English at University of Cincinnati (1981-1985), where he was also Director of Freshman English. In 1985 he joined the faculty of the University of Texas at Austin as a Visiting Associate Professor of English; at the same time he was serving as a visiting professor at Penn State University. Berlin joined the Purdue University faculty as Professor of English in 1987.

Berlin was a member of the National Council of Teachers of English, the Modern Language Association, the Ohio Council of Teachers of English and Language Arts, the College English Association of Ohio, and the Rhetoric Society of America. He published numerous journal articles on rhetoric and teaching composition, and was the author of *Writing Instruction in Nineteenth-Century American Colleges* (1984) and *Rhetoric and Reality: Writing Instruction in American Colleges, 1900-1985* (1987). Berlin died suddenly of a heart attack on February 2, 1994. He was survived by his wife, Sandy, and his sons Chris and Dan.

## Scope and Contents of the Collection

The James Berlin Papers (1978-1994; 7 cubic feet) contain papers and other materials created or collected by James Berlin during his academic career, with an especially extensive representation of his work during his years as a Professor of English at Purdue University (1987-1994). The Berlin Papers include research and writing notes, instructor's class notes and other teaching records, as well as correspondence with a large and varied group of scholarly colleagues. The collection generally reflects the state of Berlin's academic files at the time of his death in 1994.

The papers document Berlin's participation in the 1978-1979 National Endowment for the Humanities seminar on rhetoric invention led by Richard Young at Carnegie-Mellon University. This seminar has been recognized as among the most significant events in the early development of the contemporary field of rhetoric and composition studies. The bulk of the papers relate to Berlin's work in developing a cultural studies composition pedagogy, particularly materials from seminars in Purdue's graduate program in rhetoric and composition and from mentoring graduate teaching assistants in Purdue's first-year composition program.

The papers also include copies of articles and book chapters Berlin used for his research; the majority of these contain Berlin's marginalia. The papers also include extensive correspondence with Berlin's academic colleagues, who often sent Berlin drafts of their scholarly works in progress. Materials related to Berlin's work on faculty committees at Purdue University include minutes and notes from committee meetings and activities. Berlin was a member of the School of Liberal Arts Senate when it was reviewing the proposal for its major curriculum revision "Curriculum 2000," a member of the English Department Policy Committee, and a member of departmental committees related to the development of composition and professional writing curricula.

Confidential materials such as student records, letters of recommendation, and tenure and promotion reviews have been separated into one restricted box. Restrictions on access to these materials will be lifted in the year 2064.

The arrangement of the papers reflects Berlin's original order, with a few exceptions. Teaching related materials from Berlin's papers were used and subsequently returned by faculty members who taught Berlin's classes after his unexpected and sudden death; thus, the original order of these materials cannot be certain. Berlin's handwritten research notes have been organized chronologically. Readings included in Berlin's research materials are organized alphabetically by subject or author, reflecting Berlin's own folder titles and order.

The papers are divided into six series:

### **1. NEH Seminar Materials, 1978-1979 (0.5 cubic feet)**

The series documents Berlin's participation in the National Endowment for the Humanities year-long seminar in twentieth century rhetorical theory led by Richard Young at Carnegie

Mellon University. Types of materials include Berlin's reading and discussion notes from the seminar, copies of assigned readings, and other materials developed by seminar participants.

## **2. Teaching Materials, 1981-1994 (2.5 cubic feet)**

The teaching materials document Berlin's teaching career from 1981 to 1994, which the bulk of the materials relating to his graduate teaching at Purdue University from 1987 to 1993. Included are materials related to his development of a cultural studies pedagogy for graduate teaching assistants whom he mentored in the first-year composition program at Purdue and materials related to graduate seminars in rhetoric and composition. Types of materials include syllabi, exams, lecture and discussion notes, and copies of course readings.

## **3. Research Materials, 1984-1994 (1.5 cubic feet)**

The series includes handwritten research notes from an extensive historical review of composition-related journals, annotated copies of printed scholarly articles and book chapters, and unpublished drafts and conference papers. Included in the papers are numerous note pads filled with Berlin's research for his publications *Writing Instruction in Nineteenth-Century American Colleges* and *Rhetoric and Reality: Writing Instruction in American Colleges, 1900-1985*.

## **4. Collegial Correspondence, 1979-1994 (1 cubic foot)**

Items in the series include letters and notes from national and international academic colleagues as well as copies of works in progress Berlin's colleagues sent to him for review.

## **5. Faculty Governance and Community Activism, 1987-1994 (0.5 cubic feet)**

Faculty committee meeting minutes, proposals developed by faculty committees, and other materials related to university community governance and activism in which Berlin participated are included in the series.

## **6. Confidential Materials, 1981-1994 (1 cubic foot)**

Confidential materials include student records such as grade sheets and examinations, confidential collegial correspondence such as letters of recommendation, tenure and promotion reviews, and confidential committee materials such as notes on candidates applying for faculty positions.

## **Preservation Note**

All materials have been housed in acid-free, lignin-free folders and boxes. All newsprint has been photocopied and original newspaper clippings have been discarded.

## **Separations or Transfers of Materials**

Confidential student records, letters of recommendation, peer reviews and candidate evaluations have been separated and placed together in a restricted box.

## INVENTORY OF THE COLLECTION

### Box 1

#### Series 1: NEH Seminar Materials, 1977-1979

NEH Seminar Notes, 1977 [notebook]  
NEH Seminar Notes, 1978 [notebook]  
NEH Seminar Readings and Assignments, 1978-1979 [four folders]

### Box 2

#### Series 2: Teaching Materials, 1980-1994

##### Subseries 1: Prior to Purdue University, 1981-1987

English 825, Wichita State University, undated  
English 826, Theories of Rhetoric, Wichita State University, 1981  
Director of Freshman English, University of Cincinnati, 1981-1987  
E 360M, University of Cincinnati, 1985-1986  
Theory and Practice of Composition, University of Cincinnati, Fall 1986  
English 730, Teaching College English, University of Cincinnati, 1981-1986  
English 325M, University of Texas at Austin, Fall 1985 [materials appear to have been used again in PU English 304]  
ENGL 597B and E 387M, Twentieth Century Rhetoric, 1986  
ENGL 382, History of Literary Criticism, University of Cincinnati, 1987  
English 103, University of Cincinnati, Summer 1987  
English 489, Advanced Composition, University of Cincinnati, Spring 1987

### Box 3

#### Series 2: Teaching Materials, 1980-1994

##### Subseries 2: Purdue University, 1987-1993

Mentoring materials, 1987-1993  
Orientation, 1987-1990  
Mentoring, 1987-1990  
English 102, 1988  
English 102CS, 1992-1993  
English 304, Advanced Composition, 1990-1991  
English 502, Fall 1989  
English 502, Spring 1993  
Orientation, 1991-1992  
Orientation, Fall 1992  
English 596, Cultural Studies and Rhetorical Studies course proposal, undated

Cultural Studies readings, 1990-1992

**Box 4**

**Series 2: Teaching Materials, 1980-1994**

**Subseries 2: Purdue University, 1987-1993**

Graduate Course Materials, 1987-1993  
English 596, Revisionary Histories of Rhetoric, Fall 1988  
English 596-2, Revisionary Historiography, Fall 1988

**Box 5**

**Series 2: Teaching Materials, 1980-1994**

**Subseries 2: Purdue University, 1987-1993**

Graduate Course Materials, 1987-1993  
English 596G, Fall 1989  
English 596G, Marxist Literary Criticism, Fall 1989  
English 596E, Cultural Studies and Composition, Spring 1993  
English 596E, Marx, course packet of readings, Spring 1993  
English 623, Audience and Evaluation, 1987-1991

**Box 6**

**Series 2: Teaching Materials, 1980-1994**

**Subseries 2: Purdue University, 1987-1994**

Graduate Course Materials, 1987-1994  
English 624, Theories of Style, 1988-1994  
Course readings

**Box 7**

**Series 2: Teaching Materials, 1980-1994**

**Subseries 2: Purdue University, 1982-1994**

Berlin's teaching materials assembled and used by other professors after his death, 1982-1994  
Teaching materials—other cultural studies pedagogy, undated  
Mentoring, 1987-1991

Sample student papers, teacher commentary, course calendars, syllabi,  
handouts and readings used for mentoring teaching assistants  
English 102 and English 101, 1994  
Berlin's sample materials for mentor group  
English 624 Class Notes, 1982-1992  
Advising, undated  
English 304, Advanced Composition, Spring 1991  
Illinois State University, 1993  
Syllabi from other Purdue faculty, relating to cultural studies issues, circa 1993  
University of Cincinnati Department of English, programs description, 1985  
Workshop on Cultural Studies Pedagogy, 1988- circa 1990

## **Box 8**

### **Series 3: Research Materials, 1884-1993**

Readings and Research Notes, 1884-1975  
Notes on or from *CCC (College Composition and Communication)*, *CE (College English)*, *PMLA*, and *English Journal*  
Reading and Discussion Notes on Marx, 1987  
Readings and Research Notes, Miscellaneous, circa 1984-1991  
Research Notes from Vincent Leitch's English 569, Literary Criticism III, 1988  
Bibliography, circa 1992  
NCTE Presentation, copies of English 102 assignment sheet and handout, 1993  
Correspondence and Notes Regarding *Cultural Studies in the Classroom*, 1991  
Cultural Studies Discourse and Rhetoric and Composition, undated

## **Box 9**

### **Series 3: Research Materials, 1884-1993**

**Readings with Marginalia** (readings relate primarily to rhetoric and composition, arranged alphabetically by author or subject)

Afrocentrism bibliography, 1993  
Bain, undated  
Bakhtin, 1989  
Barthes, Roland, undated  
Baudrillard, Jean, 1987  
Berman, Marshall, undated  
Bevilacqua, Vincent, undated  
Blair, Hugh, undated  
Burke, Kenneth, 1978 and undated  
Campbell, George, articles on, undated  
Chicago, University of Chicago Institutes, 1986-1987  
Cultural Studies, 1990

Dialectic Bibliography, undated  
Dowst, Kenneth, 1983  
Drunk Driving research, 1976  
Eagleton, Terry, undated  
Economy, 1989-1990  
Education Articles, 1988-1990  
English Journal—History of Rhetoric, 1979  
Erickson, Marceline, undated  
Expressionism Essay, undated  
Feminism material, 1989  
Fleck, Ludwik, review, 1980  
Genung, John F., undated  
Guthrie, Warren, undated

## **Box 10**

### **Series 3: Research Materials, 1884-1993**

**Readings with Marginalia** (readings relate primarily to rhetoric and composition, arranged alphabetically by author or subject)

Hairston, Maxine, 1985  
Hermeneutic Circle, 1986-1992  
Herrington, Anne, undated  
Hill, Adams Sherman, undated  
Ideology, undated  
Johnson, Richard, “What is Cultural Studies Anyway?” undated  
Kantnor, Kenneth, 1975  
Lasch, Christopher, 1989-1990  
Lazere, Don, undated  
LeClercq, Richard Val, undated  
Lesbian-Gay Bibliography, undated  
Locke, America’s Philosopher, undated  
Lyotard, Jean Francoise, undated  
Marx, Karl, readings, 1987  
Pierce, 1992  
Political Economy Group, 1992  
Richards, Burke, and the Relation Between Rhetoric and Poetics, undated  
Rorty, Richard, undated  
Watson, Sam, 1979  
Woods, William F., undated  
Wyoming Conference Resolution, 1987  
Library Acquisitions Request, 1991

**Box 11****Series 4: Collegial Correspondence, 1979-1992**

Bartholomae, David, 1989  
Balsamo, Anne, undated  
Brennan, Tim, 1990  
Bump, Jerome, undated  
Campbell, Jo Ann, circa 1986  
Clifford, John, undated  
Daniell, Beth, 1986-1987  
Ede, Lisa, 1985  
Elsasser, Nan, undated  
Fritzman, John, undated  
Fulkerson, Richard, undated  
Haston, Suanna, undated  
Heyde, John, 1983  
Hill, Corolyn, 1987  
Holbrook, Sue Ellen, 1989  
Hollis, Karyn, 1990-1992  
Inkster, Robert, 1979-1988  
Jarratt, Susan, 1992  
Johnson, Nan, undated  
Jordan's Dissertation, undated  
Mailloux, Steven, 1990  
McCoy, Nancy, 1988-1990  
Mellick, Lee, 1985

**Box 12****Series 4: Collegial Correspondence, 1979-1992**

Michigan, University of, English Composition Board and University of Cincinnati  
correspondence, 1979-1982  
Mills, Carl, 1983-1984  
Murphy, Peter M., 1991  
Norris, Bill, 1984  
Phelps, Louise Wetherbee, 1987-1988  
Penticoff, Richard and Linda Brodkey, undated  
Pounds, Wayne, 1985-1987  
Ramsey, Eric, undated  
Raskin, Victor, 1983-1988  
Reither, James, 1987  
Savage, Mary, 1985  
Targ, Harry, 1988-1992  
Traschel, Mary, undated  
Woodman, Leonora, (English 624, Theories of Style), 1987

Wells, Susan, (English 850, Contemporary Literary Criticism Rhetorical Theory and Literary Theory), 1987

**Box 13**

**Series 5: Faculty Governance and Community Activism, 1985-1993**

University of Cincinnati Department of English Program Description, 1985  
XL Summer Faculty Grants, Purdue University, 1987  
Composition Committee, Purdue University English Department, 1987-1994  
Head Review Committee, Purdue University English Department, 1988  
Ad Hoc Committee on Writing, 1989  
Professional Writing Major, Ad Hoc Committee on Professional Writing, 1989  
Policy Committee, Purdue University English Department, 1989-1991  
AFT (American Federation of Teachers), 1990  
    Newsletters, Purdue University Local 4291  
    “The Status of Women at Purdue and the Need for a Fully Funded Women’s  
    Resource Office”  
Curriculum 2000 Committee, report for revisions to curriculum in Purdue’s School of  
    Liberal Arts, 1990  
English Major, Undergraduate Studies Committee’s memo on revision of proposed  
    English major, 1993  
External Review, English Department, 1992  
George Mason University, “New Graduate Program” proposal, undated

**Box 14 [RESTRICTED UNTIL 2064]**

**Series 6: Confidential Materials- All items in box are restricted**

Student Work (student work for credit, alphabetical by student’s last name), 1986-  
    1993  
Student Records, 1981-1993  
    Gradebooks, 1981-1993  
    Grade Sheets, 1982-1987  
    Graduate Committee, undated  
    Preliminary Exams, 1990-1992  
    Twentieth Century Rhetoric, 1986  
Miscellaneous Class Rosters, 1987-1992  
Teacher Supervision (Teaching Evaluations and Observations), Collegial Tenure  
    Reviews, Student Evaluations, 1987-1993  
Other Confidential Materials, Departmental Committees Business, 1989  
Miscellaneous Teaching Reviews of Berlin, 1987  
Letters of Reference/Recommendation, 1982-1994