

Jennifer Grace Bird, Ph.D.
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EDUCATION

Vanderbilt University, Graduate Department of Religion, Nashville, Tennessee

Ph.D., New Testament and Early Christianity, December 2007

- Committee: Professor Fernando Segovia – advisor, Daniel Patte, Ellen Armour, and Robert Barsky (French & Italian, and English)
- Title: “Circumscribed Symptomatic Subjectivity in 1 Peter’s *Haustafel*”

Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey

Master of Divinity, May 2001

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia

Bachelor of Science, Mathematics, May 1994

Education minor

TEACHING & ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Chicago Theological Seminary, Online Learning Program (Summer 2016, 2018)

Adjunct Assistant Professor

- Teaching Congregants Introduction to the Bible

University of Portland, Portland, Oregon (Fall 2014 – present)

Adjunct Assistant Professor

- Women and Gender in Early Christianity
- The Bible in a Global Village
- Bible, Past and Present

Portland Community College-Rock Creek & Sylvania, Portland, Oregon (Spring 2014 – present)

Adjunct Instructor

- Introduction to the Bible: Old Testament
- Introduction to the New Testament
- Introduction to World Religions

Greensboro College, Greensboro, North Carolina

Associate Professor of Religion (August 2011-May 2013)

Assistant Professor of Religion (fall 2009-2011)

Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion (2008-09)

Visiting Instructor (2007-2008)

- Teaching a 3/4 – 4/5 load

- Religion: Introduction to the Old Testament/Tanak, Introduction to the New Testament, Introductory & Intermediate Koine Greek, Portrayals of Jesus, Paul and the Origins of Christian Theology, Interpreting the Bible, Contemporary Christian Theologies, Independent Studies, and Senior Seminar for Religion Majors
- Honors: Contemporary Global Issues, Word & World I
- Women's and Gender Studies: Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies
- Bachelors of Business Administration Program: World Religions

Guilford College, Greensboro, North Carolina (Summer 2011)

Lecturer

- New Testament

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, North Carolina

Adjunct Lecturer (2009-2013)

- Elements of Christian Thought
- New Testament and the Origins of Christianity
- Feminist Interpretation of the Bible

Graduate Department of Religion, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee

Instructor (Fall 2006 – Spring 2007)

- Koine Greek
- Working with Koine Greek

Teaching Fellow (2003-2006)

- New Testament Introduction
- Pauline Christianity: Paul's Letter to the Romans

Assistant to Daniel Patte, Chief Editor of the *Cambridge Dictionary of Christianity* (Fall 2003—Summer 2007)

- Editing entries
- Finding authors for entries and crafting the letters inviting their involvement
- Actively involved in writing the templates used by all authors to ensure consistency

Department of Religion, Baylor University, Waco, Texas (Fall 2001-Spring 2002)

Graduate Teaching Assistant

- Paul and his Writings
- New Testament Survey

Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey (Fall 2000-Spring 2001)

Teaching Assistant

- Introduction to Biblical Hebrew

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Making New Testament and Early Christianity; Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies; Critical Theoretical engagement with Biblical texts accessible for non-academics
- Critical Ideological Methods: feminist, postcolonial, materialist, gender and sexuality, general literary and cultural studies, all with an eye towards the implementation of biblical concepts and ideas within our current contexts

BOOKS

- *Before Reading Paul, Read This!* Forthcoming.
- [*Permission Granted: Take the Bible into Your Own Hands*](#). WJK, 2015.
- [*Abuse, Power and Fearful Obedience: Reconsidering 1 Peter's Commands to Wives*](#). T&T Clark, 2011.

INTERVIEWS

- Skype interview/conversation with an Introduction to the New Testament class, Elizabethtown College, May 5, 2016. (My *Huffington Post* blogs were engaged as part of their final.)
- Linked through Facebook, with RealTV Films, March 2016: [numbers 3 & 4 of 6](#).
- David Person, WEUP AM, 24 August 2015.
- *Oregonian Live* with Melissa Binder, Faith & Values Reporter, "[Inerrancy, Apocalypse, Castration: Bible scholar says not to take scripture literally.](#)"
- *Huntsville Times* with Kay Campbell, Faith & Values Reporter, "[Jennifer Grace Bird 'grants permission' to read Bible honestly.](#)" August 2015.
- [Homebrewed Christianity](#) (75 min.) with Callid Keefe-Perry, June 2015.
- [Religion for Life](#) (30 min.) with John Schatz, KBOO in Portland, OR, May 2015.
- [Evil Twins](#) Podcast (on iTunes, 1:20), Portland, OR, April 2015 & February 28, 2016.
- [Things Not Seen](#) (60 min.) with David Dault, WBEZ in Chicago, March 2015.
- [The Arts Underground](#) (15 min.) with Beth Norwood, WLRH, Huntsville, AL, July 2014.

ARTICLES / BOOK CHAPTERS / EDITORIALS

- "[Our Divine Double Standard.](#)" *Huffington Post* December 26, 2016.
- "[Why 'Pro-Life' is a Harmful Misnomer.](#)" *Huffington Post* October 6, 2016.
- "[What's in a Name? 'Brock Turner,' 'Entitled White Kid,' & 'Rape Culture.'](#)" *Huffington Post* June 8, 2016.
- "[Unsolicited Advice: 'What Should We Tell Our Children About the Bible?'](#)" *Huffington Post* May 13, 2016.
- "[Kirk Cameron and the Mental Gymnastics of Interpreting the Bible.](#)" *Huffington Post* May 5, 2016.
- "'Biblical Marriage': I Do Not Think It Means What You Think It Means." Parts 1, 2, and 3. Reconciling Ministries Network. [September 9](#), [November 28](#), 2015, and [January 23, 2016](#).
- "[An Open Letter to Kim Davis.](#)" *Huffington Post* September 8, 2015.
- "[On SCOTUS, the Bible, and 'Love Wins!'](#) Language." *Huffington Post* July 8, 2015.
- "[On Indiana's RFR, Discrimination, and Sex.](#)" *Huffington Post* March 31, 2015.
- "[Fifty Shades of Things People Don't Want to Face \(But Should\).](#)" *Huffington Post* February 18, 2015.
- "[What's the Harm? The Ongoing Effects of Biblical Ideas.](#)" *Huffington Post* February 9, 2015.
- "[What Does the Bible Say about Enjoying Our Sexuality?](#)" *Huffington Post* January 6, 2015.
- "['Biblical Marriage': I do not think it means what you think it means.](#)" *Huffington Post* October 22, 2014.
- "Ephesians." *Fortress Commentary on the New Testament*. Minneapolis: Fortress. October 2014.
- "The Two Testaments: Forever a Pair." *Horizon* March/April 2014.
- "[Three Reasons Why Evolution Will Never Convince a Creationist.](#)" *Huffington Post* February 6, 2014.
- "[Let's Talk about Sex, Duck Dynasty Style.](#)" *Huffington Post* December 31, 2013.
- "[So we are a Christian Nation?](#)" *Huffington Post* January 29, 2013.

- [“More Damage on Overvaluing Virginity.”](#) *Huffington Post* July 24, 2012.
- “‘Talkin’ ‘Bout Somethin’”: Beyond a Positivist Reading of Paul.” In *Soundings in Cultural Criticism: Culture, Power, and Identity in New Testament Interpretation*. Greg Carey and Francisco Lozada, eds. Minneapolis: Fortress, March 2013.
- [“How Amendment One Distorts the Bible.”](#) *Huffington Post* May 10, 2012.
- “To What End? Revisiting the Gendered Space of 1 Corinthians 11 from a Postcolonial Perspective.” *The Colonized Apostle: Paul and Postcolonialism*. Christopher Stanley, ed. Fortress, 2011.
- “Scripture and Biblical Criticism: Feminist and Postcolonial Interpretations.” *The Sacred Text: Artefact, Interpretation, and Doctrinal Formulation*. Michael Pahl and Michael F. Bird, eds. Piscataway, N.J.: Gorgias, 2010.
- “Circumscribed Symptomatic Symbolism: A Feminist Materialist Critique of 1 Peter.” *Marxist Feminist Criticism of the Bible*. Roland Boer and Jorunn Økland, editors. Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2008.
- “Ephesians.” In Fernando F. Segovia and R. S. Sugirtharajah, eds., *A Postcolonial Commentary of the New Testament Writings*. London-New York: T & T Clark International, 2007.
- “Reading the Readers Ideologically: Prolegomena to a Study of 1 Peter.” *Bible & Critical Theory*. 2/3 (2006).

SPEAKING & TEACHING IN THE COMMUNITY

- **Upcoming:**
 - “Back to the Basics.” Trinity Episcopal Cathedral (Nov-Dec 2017).
 - “Process Thought and Theology.” Trinity Episcopal Cathedral (Winter 2018).
 - “Marriage in the Bible: Working Through Relevant Passages.” NEXT Church National Conference, Baltimore, MD (February 2018)
 - “Sexuality in the Bible: Working Through Relevant Passages.” Roanoke, VA (April 2018).
- “Mapping the Origins of Christianity.” Trinity Episcopal Cathedral (Spring 2017).
- “Love & Marriage: Insights from a Biblical Scholar.” Multnomah Athletic Club, Portland, OR (May 2017).
- Speaker: “Faithful Sisterhood: Responding to Cultural Turmoil.” Tualatin Presbyterian Women’s Retreat, March 18, 2017.
- Speaker: “Permission Granted.” Presbyterian Women’s Retreat, Marietta, GA, February 10-12, 2017.
- “Process Thought: An Introduction.” Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Portland, OR, January 2017.
- Teaching and Preaching, White Plains Presbyterian Church, Sunday, September 25, 2016. Themes: the empowerment of women through scripture; countering and rejecting the oppressive threads.
- “Violence, Sacrifice, and Atonement in Scripture.” Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, April 27-May 18, 2016.”
- “‘Biblical Marriage’: I Do Not Think It Means What You Think It Means.” Vanderbilt Divinity School, Carpenter 20th Anniversary and Celebration, April 1-2, 2016.
- Discussion of *Permission Granted*. “Adult Edge” Sunday School Class, Tualatin Presbyterian Church. March 13 & June 12, 2016.
- “What the Bible Is and Is Not & Why We Should Care.” UUC of Roanoke, January 10th, 2016.
- “Engaging the Bible for Life: Diving into Violence, Reconciliation, and Sex.” Unitarian Universalist Church of Roanoke, Saturday, January 9, 2016.
- “‘Biblical Marriage’: I Do Not Think It Means What You Think It Means.” Metropolitan Community Church, Roanoke, VA, 6-8pm, August 30, 2015.
- “‘Biblical Marriage’: I Do Not Think It Means What You Think It Means.” Life’ Journey United Church of Christ, July 19, 2015, Burlington, North Carolina.
- “‘Biblical Marriage’: Reading the Bible Wisely in the 21st Century.” Keynote address, Reconciling Ministries Conference. March 21, 2015, Bellevue, Washington.
- “Biblical Hermeneutics.” Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. Portland, OR. January 2015.

- “Biblical Marriage”: Reading the Bible Wisely in the 21st Century. Oregon Episcopal School, Academy of Formation and Mission. November 7, 2014.
- “Women, Sex & the Bible.” A five-week series at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Portland, OR. October 2014.
- “Biblical Marriage: Reading the Bible Wisely in the 21st Century.” “Women in the New Testament: Making Sense of What Paul Says,” and “Putting Paul in His Place.” Weatherly Heights Baptist Church, Huntsville, AL. July 20, 23, 2014.
- “Finding God’s Words of Love and Encouragement.” Chapel at the Rescue Mission, Roanoke, VA. July 8, 2014.
- “Biblical Marriage: Reading the Bible Wisely in the 21st Century.” 2nd Helpings Café, Roanoke, VA; The Rescue Mission, Roanoke, VA; Windsor Hills United Methodist Church, Roanoke, VA; The Unitarian Universalist Church, Roanoke, VA; Wedgewood Church, Charlotte, NC; Salon discussion, Greensboro, NC; Trinity Episcopal Church, Fort Worth, TX; Canyon Creek Presbyterian, Richardson, TX. July 2014.
- “Women in the NT: What Does Paul Really Say?” Park City Presbyterian Church, Knoxville, TN. June 29, 2014 and Windsor Hills United Methodist Church, Roanoke, VA, July 6, 2014.
- “Women, Sex and Marriage: What Does Paul Really Say?” Remedy Coffee & Conversation, Knoxville, TN. Sponsored by Church Street United Methodist Church, Knoxville, TN. June 27, 2014.
- Sacred Conversation. Grace Community Boston. Walpole, MA. June 22, 2014.
- “Putting Paul in His Place.” Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Portland, OR. April 23-June 11, 2014.
- “The Essence of Scripture.” Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Portland, OR. Fall 2013.
- Lenten Series contributor, St Francis Episcopalian Church, Greensboro, NC, February 29th, 2012.
- Panelist, “Día de la Hispanidad,” exploring the consequences of imperialism in the “New World,” Greensboro College (October 6, 2011)
- Panelist, “Creating Culture/Critiquing Culture: The Dynamics of Author/ity,” 17 Days Arts and Culture Festival, Greensboro (September 29, 2011)
- United Way Fund Drive Liaison – Greensboro College (fall 2010-Spring 2011)
- “Bringing Paul to Life,” College Park Baptist Church, Greensboro, North Carolina (October 2010)
- “Bringing Paul to Life,” Westminster Presbyterian Church, Greensboro, North Carolina (June 2010)
- “The Christian Canon: What, How, Why and Why Not,” Starmount Presbyterian Church, Greensboro, North Carolina (October 2009)
- “The Christian Canon: What, How, Why and Why Not,” Adult Vacation Bible School seminar, St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church, Greensboro, North Carolina (August 10-12, 2009)
- “Thought You’d Heard it All?” Four weeks for adult Sunday School, First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro North Carolina (August 2009)
- “Luke,” for Lenten Adult Study, First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro, North Carolina (2009)
- “June Ramsey Class” Speaker, First Presbyterian Church, Nashville, Tennessee (Fall 2006)
- “Imperial Echoes,” Second Presbyterian Church, Knoxville, Tennessee (Spring 2005)
- “Finding Our Way through the Wilderness,” St. George Episcopal, Nashville, Tennessee (Spring 2004)
- “Ephesians,” First Presbyterian Church, Waco, Texas (Spring 2003)
- “Synoptic Gospels,” First Presbyterian Church, Waco, Texas (Fall 2002)
- “Why Should We Care about the Apostolic Fathers?” First Presbyterian Church, Waco, Texas (Fall 2002)
- “Women in the New Testament,” First Presbyterian Church, Waco, Texas (Spring 2002)

BOOK READINGS/SIGNINGS

- Think Brain Candy, Lebanon, OR, March 12, 2017.
- “Holiday Cheer,” Oregon Historical Society, December 6, 2015.
- Roanoke County Public Library, Roanoke, VA, August 29, 2015.
- The Nook, Huntsville, AL, August 17, 2015.
- Huntsville Public Library, Huntsville, AL, August 16, 2015.
- Little Professor Books, Birmingham, AL, August 15, 2015.
- Annie Blooms, Portland, OR, August 12, 2015.
- Flyleaf Books, Chapel Hill, NC, July 19, 2015.
- Scuppernong Books, Greensboro, NC, July 17, 2015.

BOOK REVIEWS

- Martin Williams. *The Doctrine of Salvation in the First Letter of Peter*. Review of Biblical Literature. November, 2013.
- April D. DeConnick. *Holy Misogyny: Why the Sex and Gender Battles of the Early Church Still Matter*. Biblical Theology Bulletin (43): 2013.
- Stuart L. Love. *Jesus and Marginal Women: The Gospel of Matthew in Social-Scientific Perspective*. Biblical Theology Bulletin, 42 (2012).
- Paula Gooder. *Searching for Meaning: An Introduction to Interpreting the New Testament*. Biblical Interpretation (2010).
- Reinhard Feldmeier. *The First Letter of Peter*. Catholic Biblical Quarterly 72/1 (2010).
- Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza. *The Power of the Word: Scripture and the Rhetoric of Empire*. Bible & Critical Theory (2008).
- Joseph Marchal. *Hierarchy, Unity, and Imitation: A Feminist Rhetorical Analysis of Power Dynamics in Paul's Letter to the Philippians*. Review of Biblical Literature April 14, 2007.
- Caroline Vander Stichele and Todd Penner. *Her Master's Tools? Feminist and Postcolonial Engagements of Historical-Critical Discourse*. Bible & Critical Theory 3/1 (2007).
- Carolyn Osiek and Margaret Y. MacDonald, with Janet H. Tulloch. *A Woman's Place: House Churches in Earliest Christianity*. Bible & Critical Theory 2/2 (2006).
- Athalya Brenner. *I Am: Biblical Women Tell their Own Stories*. Bible & Critical Theory 1/4 (2005).
- Kathy Ehrensperger. *That We may be Mutually Encouraged: Feminism and the New Perspective in Pauline Studies*. Bible & Critical Theory 1/2 (2005).
- C. Clifton Black. *The Rhetoric of the Gospel*. Koinonia XVI (2004): 190-3.

PEER REVIEW / OUTSIDE READER

Peer Reviewer

- *The Bible and Critical Theory*, <http://publications.epress.monash.edu/loi/bc/index.html>
- T&T Clark
- Fortress Press
- *Biblical Interpretation*

Outside Reader

- San Francisco Theological Seminary, Advanced Pastoral Studies, Doctorate of Ministry Program

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES & BOARDS

Membership / Committee Work:

- Editorial Board, *Bible and Critical Theory* (Summer 2011-present)

- *SBL's Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession*: Student Member (Fall 2006 – Fall 2007); Full Member and Listserve Moderator (Fall 2007 – Fall 2010)
- *American Academy of Religion* (Spring 2006 – present)
- *Society of Biblical Literature* (Spring 2001 – present)

Presenting:

- Invited Panelist: Ideological Criticism, “Beyond the Academy.” Annual Meeting, Boston, 2017.
- Invited Panelist: Latino/a and Latin American Biblical Interpretation Section. Fall 2014. Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.
- Invited Panelist: joint session of the Postcolonial Studies and Biblical Studies Sections. Fall 2013. Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD.
- “Body Language Power: A Feminist (Re)Engagement with Paul.” Feminist Hermeneutics of the Bible, Annual Meeting, San Francisco, 2011.
- Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion Panel, “The Future of Feminist Method.” Annual Meeting, San Francisco, 2011.
- Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion Panel, “Gender, Economics, and Context: Investigations in Biblical Studies—Part 2.” Annual Meeting, San Francisco, 2011.
- “Body Language Power: A Feminist Reconceptualization of Paul.” New Testament Section, Regional Meeting, Louisville, KY, March 2011.
- “1 Peter’s ‘Daughters of Sarah’: Fear-full Subjects Indeed.” Women in the Biblical World Section. Annual Meeting, Boston, 2008.
- “How to Get Actively Involved in SBL.” Invited Panel. Presented by SBL’s Student Advisory Group and the New Career Center. Annual Meeting, 2008.
- “After the Eagleton has Landed: Assessing an Encounter Between Biblical Studies and Critical Theories of Interpretation.” Joint session: Reading, Theory, and the Bible Section and Bible, Theology, and Postmodernity Group. Co-presented with Joseph Marchal. AAR/SBL Annual Meeting, San Diego, 2007.
- Speaking at the Feminist Liberation Theologians Network. AAR/SBL Annual Meeting, San Diego, 2007.
- “Paul Wants You!: A Re-Interpretation of the Letter to the Philippians.” Critical Theory and Biblical Interpretation. ISBL, Edinburgh, Scotland, 2006.
- “Circumscribed Symptomatic Symbolism of 1 Peter’s *Haustafeln*.” Ethical and Hermeneutical Issues in New Testament Studies. SECSOR Regional Meeting, Atlanta, 2006.
- “Reading the Readers: Representation and Ideology as Communicated through 1 Peter.” Bible and Social Location Section. ISBL, Groningen, The Netherlands, 2004.

Presiding:

- Gender, Sexuality and the Bible Section, SBL Annual Meeting, Chicago, 2012.
- SBL Committee for the Status of Women in the Profession, Student Coffee. AAR/SBL Annual Meeting, San Diego, 2007.
- Reading, Theory, and the Bible Section. AAR/SBL Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., 2006.
- Methods in New Testament Studies. ISBL, Edinburgh, Scotland, 2006.
- Violence and Representation of Violence among Jews and Christians Consultation. AAR/SBL Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, 2005.

On-campus Student Representative for the Student Advisory Group: Vanderbilt University. December, 2005 – Summer 2007.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Awards:

- “Teacher of the Year,” Greensboro College, 2012-13.
- Student Advocate, Greensboro College, 2010-11 (first time awarded to a faculty member).

Grant:

- Andrew W. Mellon Graduate [Interdisciplinary] Seminar, “The Souls of Brutes and Stupid Things,” Vanderbilt University, May 2007. Convened by Prof. Jonathan Lamb, with Professors from around the country in English, Philosophy, Comparative Literature, and Gender Studies.

Scholarships and Fellowships:

- Graduate Department of Religion. Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Fall 2003, 2006; Spring 2005, 2006, 2007.
- Vanderbilt University Graduate Studies Department. University Tuition Scholarship and University Fellowship. Fall 2003 – present.

ADMINISTRATIVE & COMMITTEE WORK

- Chair, Academic Restructuring Task Force (Fall 2012)
- Academic Advisor Gay-Straight Alliance (Fall 2012-Spring 2013)
- Co-Chair Search, Eastern Religions Position (Fall 2011-Spring 2012)
- Academic Program Review Task Force (Fall 2011-Spring 2012)
- Honors Committee (Fall 2012-May 2013)
- Curriculum and Instruction Committee – Greensboro College (Fall 2010-May 2013)
- Scholastic Standing Committee – Greensboro College (Fall 2009-May 2013)
- Women and Gender Studies Program – Greensboro College, Director (Fall 2009-Spring 2012)
- Parking Committee – Greensboro College (Fall 2010- Spring 2013)

ADVISING

- Leah Holle. Senior Thesis. “A Psychological Diagnosis of Apostle Paul.” George Center for Honors Studies, Greensboro College. Spring 2012-Spring 2014.
- Marianne M. Bird. D.Min. “Single Mothers in Poverty.” Wesley and the Poor Program at Wesley Theological Seminary. Fall 2009-Spring 2013.
- Bridget Saladino. D.Min. Dissertation Project, in process. San Francisco Theological Seminary, Summer 2012-present.
- Susan Hall, LMHC. D.Min. Dissertation Project, “Getting a Foot in the Door: Introducing Feminist Theologies to Evangelical Women.” San Francisco Theological Seminary, Fall 2006-May 2008
- Bridget Culpepper. MDiv Thesis. “Locking Up: Ruth, Sexual Choices, Migration, and Women’s Struggle for Survival.” Fall 2007- spring 2008; “Feminist and Post/colonial reframing of Biblical story for children.” Practicum II, Marylhurst College, fall 2006; “Introduction to Feminist Theology.” Practicum I, Marylhurst College, presented March 2006.

REFERENCES

- Nathan Lerud, Reverend Canon

Canon for Spiritual Formation
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral
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- **Cristina Astorga**
Theology Department Chair
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- **Fernando Segovia**
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Vanderbilt University
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- **Chris Edwards**
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Portland Community College
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