

**Kalila Bohsali** is a New Mexico resident who grew up on a farm in Northern New Mexico. She received her BA in English and French and a Masters in English from UNM, and is now a Teaching Assistant in the Department of English. As a Ph.D. student in Literature, Kalila is studying literature pedagogy and intends to ground her dissertation in this research.

She has researched and written on humanist geography, stand-up comedy and humor structures, place and space theory, science fiction, experimental poetry, Womanism, critical race theory, and different forms of radical pedagogy and student empowerment in the classroom.

Kalila's work as an instructor at the University of New Mexico reaches far beyond the English department. She has taught for the Health, Medicine and Human Values department; for First Year Learning Communities; and for American Indian Student Services. She worked as a CAPs writing tutor and studied Introductory Literature pedagogy with the Center for Teaching and Learning.

The Associate Chair for core writing, who is charge of the TAs, shared that Kalila "...develops and delivers very innovative writing assignments that follow our shared curriculum but extend it into new directions... She teaches our shared critical terminology better than anyone I've seen before. Students get practice using this terminology during class sessions (which are also innovative and rigorous) and in their reflections, which is important because such practice enhances learning transfer to new writing contexts, giving students practice with metacognition."

The Department Chair writes:

"Kalila Bohsali has some of the highest teaching evaluations of all of our 65 TAs, while simultaneously teaching our most vulnerable incoming student population in ENGL 1110x and 1110y, the Stretch version of ENGL 1110.

"(Her) students follow her loyally. The top ten teaching assistants are virtually indistinguishable in the range of 4.8 to 5.0. Kalila is in that group."

Recently, Kalila beat out seven other finalists for the position of instructor for the American Indian Summer Bridge Program, and she will be teaching the ENGL 298 class to UNM's incoming Native American students in Fall 2021.

The College of A&S was particularly impressed by Kalila's development of innovative assignments in ENGL 1120 and her work on materials that have been adopted by other instructors. These contributions to the university are far beyond the norm for teaching assistants, and so it gives us great pleasure to bestow one of two Teaching Excellence Awards for a Teaching Assistant to Kalila Bohsali.