

Carol Stewart

Professional and Academic Curriculum Vitae

Writing · Research · Editing · Visual Communication

Academic work represented: January 2024–October 2026.

My work connects visual communication with the interpretation of history, culture, and lived experience. A professional background in freelance digital design, branding, and marketing informs my undergraduate work in American Studies, where I examine how stories, images, institutions, and beliefs shape public understanding.

Education

Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah

Undergraduate studies in American Studies | Expected graduation: April 2027

Returned to BYU in January 2024. Earlier coursework in Interdisciplinary Graphic Design and Family, Home, and Social Sciences developed into an interdisciplinary focus on cultural interpretation, historical research, and writing.

Professional Experience and Practice

Freelance Digital Design, Branding, and Marketing

Professional experience preceding and informing current academic work

- **Client communication:** Worked with clients to communicate through digital design, branding, and marketing, bringing attention to audience, purpose, and presentation.
- **Visual interpretation:** Developed a professional practice grounded in organizing information and communicating meaning through form. Applied that experience to academic presentations, exhibition work, and creative adaptation.
- **Project responsibility:** Balanced client work with family and community commitments. Brought that experience into collaborative coursework and research-oriented writing.

Research, Editorial, and Presentation Work

Woodger–Searle projects | 2025–2026

- **Research and writing support:** Contributed to religious and historical manuscript development through research, drafting, revision, and source documentation.
- **Editorial preparation:** Worked on citations, organization, and presentation of material concerning scripture, religious biography, women’s experiences, and discipleship.
- **Visual communication:** Supported book- and presentation-related work through design and content organization. Selected manuscript projects appear later in this CV; projects in development are not represented as published works.

Current Historical Research

Barbara B. Smith and Women’s Religious Leadership

HIST 490, historical biography research | Professor Matthew Mason | Fall 2026

- **“A Voice for Women, a Defense of Family: Barbara B. Smith and a Decade of Change”:** Research prospectus examining the relationship between Smith’s personal experience, Relief Society leadership, women’s opportunities, and family responsibility during the ERA era.
- **Annotated bibliography:** Developed a 25-source research bibliography distinguishing primary evidence from secondary interpretation. Ongoing work includes source verification and investigation of speeches, contemporary media, and Relief Society-related records.
- **Research question:** Investigates Smith’s leadership beyond a single political position, with attention to education, civic participation, marriage, motherhood, and religious authority.

Selected Academic Writing

The following entries identify substantial course papers, interpretive essays, and public-facing writing. Dates refer to the documented manuscript or period of development; companion papers and op-eds are grouped.

American Culture, Public Memory, and Constitutional Liberty

- **“Making America Feel Like Home: Family, Conflict, and Belonging on Television”** | AM ST 304 | Professor Mike Taylor | April 2026. Extended research paper analyzing *Leave It to Beaver*, *All in the Family*, *Friends*, and *Modern Family* as representations of national belonging, domestic authority, care, and exclusion. Companion op-ed: “Who Gets a Seat at America’s Family Table?”
- **“Lift Up Thine Eyes: Quiet Devotion in the Rhythm of Modern Life”** | AM ST 304, Paper 2 | Professor Mike Taylor | March 2026. Close visual analysis of Norman Rockwell’s painting, examining attention, public distraction, religious perception, and modern American values. Supported by a separate scholarly-source research report.
- **American Freedom, Greatness, and Public Memory** | AM ST 304, analytical paper development | Professor Mike Taylor | April 2026. Examined how industrialists, aviators, flight attendants, and celebrities become public symbols of freedom. Considered the labor, restrictions, and institutional conflict that celebratory narratives can conceal.
- **Charles Alexander Eastman: Education and Code-Switching** | Paper 1: Textual Analysis, American Studies | February 2026. Analyzed *From the Deep Woods to Civilization* through Indigenous identity, rhetorical restraint, bodily experience, and navigation of white institutions. Used code-switching to question a simple narrative of education as cultural replacement.
- **“Roake v. Brumley: Why Judicial Delay Undermines Religious Freedom”** | AM ST 390R | Professor Robert T. Smith | March–April 2026. Legal-historical research paper on mandatory Ten Commandments displays in Louisiana public-school classrooms, constitutional liberty, and judicial process. Companion op-ed: “What’s Hanging on the Classroom Wall?”
- **First Amendment Insights and Legal Reading Responses** | AM ST 390R | Professor Robert T. Smith | Winter 2026. Recurring analyses of Establishment and Free Exercise doctrine, religious exemptions, public education, and constitutional interpretation. Practiced structured case analysis and developed founding-era outlines on constitutional design, ratification, and religious liberty.

International History and Institutional Memory

- **“Sport as Cold War Diplomacy: Recognition and Rivalry between East and West Germany”** | IAS 302R, Essay 1 | Professor Scott Sanders | March 12, 2026. Examined international sport as a setting for political recognition, rivalry, and diplomatic symbolism in divided Germany.
- **“Making a Record: The BYU Women @150 Project”** | IAS 302R, colloquium response | Professor Scott Sanders | March 2026. Examined collaborative biography, archives, and the recovery of women’s institutional contributions. Developed a related AM ST 304 extra-credit response for Professor Mike Taylor.
- **“Going Global: The History of Women’s Studies at BYU”** | AM ST 304, extra-credit response to Dr. Renata Forste | Professor Mike Taylor | April 2026. Considered women’s education, institutional development, and the history of an academic field.
- **“Biography, Memory, and the Stories We Keep”** | HIST 490, historiographic response | Professor Matthew Mason | September 29, 2026. Considered historical biography, narrative choices, and public memory through work by Matthew Mason and Richard Bell. Related discussion preparation examined Bell’s American Revolution scholarship and Native diplomacy.

Selected Academic Writing, Continued

Literary Interpretation and Creative Adaptation

- **“Holding Grief in Place: Adapting a Scene from Lincoln in the Bardo”** | Literary and film adaptation coursework | Professor Dennis Cutchins | April 16, 2026. Created a podcast-and-image adaptation and accompanying seven-part analytical reflection. Examined how narration, witness, visual texture, pacing, and silence translate the private grief of Lincoln’s crypt scene into another medium.
- **“Seeing the Field: Adaptation, Perception, and the Authentic Self”** | Literary and film adaptation coursework | Professor Dennis Cutchins | March 24, 2026. Analyzed The Legend of Bagder Vance through literary-to-film transformation, visual storytelling, perception, and identity.
- **“Happiness” anthology essay** | ENGL 268: Literature of the Latter-day Saints | Professor Christopher Blythe | Fall 2025. Literary and creative essay developed within anthology coursework.
- **Rhetorical Tools and Writing with Style** | ENGL 302 | Sam Dunn | Winter 2025. Studied voice, rhetorical strategy, and prose technique through writing exercises and readings including Virginia Woolf and David Sedaris.

Women, Family, and Lived Experience

- **“The Roles Beneath the Roles”** | GWS 222, gender narrative essay | Sheree Bench | September 28, 2026. Examined gender socialization, caregiving, authority, appearance, and emotional labor. Distinguished chosen commitments from expectations that constrain women’s development.
- **Global Women’s Studies Reading Journals** | GWS 222 | Sheree Bench | Fall 2026. Comparative reading notes and reflective responses addressing gender, patriarchy, bodies, sexuality, and relationships. Body-image writing engaged Susie Orbach and Lindsay Kite while distinguishing self-expression from continual appearance monitoring.
- **“Built on the Rock: What Sustains an Eternal Marriage”** | REL C 200: Eternal Family, interview-based assignment | Jenet Erikson | October 6, 2026. Examined friendship, trust, mutual support, and covenant commitment through a long-standing marriage.
- **Family Background and Relational Patterns** | SFL 160, family-interview analysis | Jenet Erikson | Winter 2025. Examined intergenerational relationships, communication, and family patterns.
- **Research Methods and Reflective Measurement** | SFL 290: Critical Inquiry and Research Methods | Hannah Hatch | Summer 2025. Developed projects on anticipatory anxiety, belonging, and family dynamics, including retrospective Likert-scale assessment and applied statistics exercises.

Historical and Religious Inquiry

- **Nadine Gordimer: Historical Research and Reflection** | HIST 200: Historian’s Craft, final research project | Dr. Leslie Hadfield | April 24, 2024. Investigated Gordimer’s literature, anti-apartheid engagement, and historical legacy through research, source analysis, and an associated presentation.
- **“Accessing Divine Grace & Love”** | REL A 275, religious reflection | Brad Wilcox | March 22, 2024. Connected Book of Mormon study with grace, faith, and personal discipleship.
- **Book of Mormon Journal** | REL A 121 | Brad Wilcox | Winter 2025. Sustained scriptural analysis and reflection on grace, covenant identity, and discipleship.
- **Christian Theology and the Digging Deeper Project** | HIST 389: Mormonism Among Christian Theologies | Grant Underwood | 2025. Developed theological responses and comparative research concerning salvation, justification, sanctification, Easter, Mary Magdalene, the cross, and discipleship.
- **Teaching Journal and Christ-Centered Learning Experiences** | REL C 471: Teaching Seminary | Matthew Hinton / Chelsea Chipman | Winter 2026. Prepared instructional outlines and reflections using Moses 4–7, curriculum analysis, and life-preparation lessons.

Collaborative Manuscript Development

Woodger–Searle research and editorial projects | 2026

These entries describe manuscript development and related research, not publication credits.

- **“Staying by the Tree: Covenant Discipleship for the Faithful Who Remain”**: Essay and commentary development interpreting Lehi’s dream through continued covenant discipleship. Related work includes scriptural compilations, symbol analysis, research notes, and citation preparation.
- **“The Faithful Middle: Shiblōn’s Trusted Discipleship”**: Manuscript development concerning Alma 38, quiet service, humility, trust, and less-visible discipleship. Related revision work includes “Alma’s Counsel to Shiblōn: Continuing in Christ.”
- **“From Fear to Joy: King Benjamin and False Measures of Righteousness”**: Commentary development on Mosiah 1–5, covenant renewal, humility, mercy, and measures of religious worth.
- **“More Than a Footnote: The Wives of Heber J. Grant”**: Historical research and editorial work concerning Lucy Stringham Grant, Augusta Winters Grant, and Emily Wells Grant, including documentation, manuscript organization, and presentation preparation.

Public Humanities and Intercultural Engagement

Gale S. Halvorsen “Candy Bomber” Library Installation

AM ST 303 | Professor Jamin Rowan | Fall 2025

- **Collaborative exhibition**: Worked with classmates to interpret Halvorsen’s life through photographs, memorabilia, journals, and family testimony for a BYU Library installation.
- **Artifact analysis**: Developed “From Artifact to Social Theory: A Sweet Act that Shaped a Lifetime of Service” and the Special Collections Mixtape assignment. Connected the Berlin Airlift story with empathy, public trust, cross-cultural understanding, and civic memory.
- **Shared interpretation**: Helped bring classmates’ different discoveries into a coherent exhibition narrative. Reflected on how collaborative storytelling can deepen understanding of a person beyond a familiar public image.

Interfaith Leadership Summit

Chicago | Summer 2026

Participated with a BYU group in interfaith engagement across differences in belief, nationality, race, and gender. Connected the experience with attentive listening, bridge-building, and respect for distinct perspectives.

Additional Areas of Study

- **Literary and film adaptation**: Rear Window; Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde; The Big Sleep; Coraline; “Who Goes There?” and The Thing from Another World; “Farewell to the Master” and The Day the Earth Stood Still; The Secret Life of Walter Mitty; The Wild Robot. Studied changes in narrative, characterization, performance, genre, viewpoint, and thematic emphasis.
- **Latter-day Saint literature and religious history**: The Fading Flower, contested memory, family narratives, and religious authority; Book of Mormon interpretation and religious biography.
- **Religion, culture, and inquiry**: World religions coursework with Taunalyn Rutherford; science-and-religion reflections; digital humanities and digital identity with Brian Croxall.
- **Professional development**: Career and life-planning work in IAS 300 with Justin Jones; “The Value of the Detour,” an IAS 302R response to Dr. Nancy Major’s lecture with Scott Sanders.

Research and Communication Competencies

Close reading and rhetorical analysis · Historical research planning · Primary- and secondary-source evaluation · Chicago-style documentation · Comparative media analysis · Interview-based inquiry · Manuscript revision · Audience-centered writing · Digital design and branding · Presentation development · Collaborative interpretation