

Dr. Nancy Dinan originally worked as an accountant after graduating from the University of Texas with a business degree in 2001. In 2008, however, **she enrolled in a handful of English courses at a community college in Columbus, Ohio, and from that point on knew she wanted to write and teach English.** She went on to obtain her MFA at Ohio State University, and then earned her PhD at Texas Tech University. “I knew I wanted to write books. I had the kind of childhood where books, often like friends and family, was where I was happiest. I think a lot of people feel that way.”

In May of 2020, **Dr. Dinan published her first novel *Things You Would Know If You Grew Up Around Here***, which chronicles a group of girls who set out to find their missing friend among drought-ravaged central Texas, unaware of the storms they are about to encounter. She just recently finished revising its sequel, *Maiden Mother Keeper Crone*. Furthermore, Dr. Dinan has been featured in a variety of journals and publications, and is still continuing to write new stories.

Dr. Dinan appreciates the range of subjects covered within the English Department and the opportunity students have to branch out: “I met Dr. Dawn Hall with Gender and Women’s Studies, and there’s also film, not just the study of film but the creation of film... **I like how interdisciplinary the department is.**” She’s also excited about the variety of guest speakers and authors the department

hosts, especially the guest judge for the upcoming Mary Ellen and Jim Wayne Miller Celebration of Writing contest, Joy Priest.

Before she came to WKU, Dr. Dinan was residing in Costa Rica, where she stayed for a year teaching for Texas Tech. She was there when the coronavirus pandemic broke out, and fortunately was able to make it back to the states safely. She’s currently teaching sections of ENG 200: Introduction to Literature and ENG 501: Graduate Writing Workshop. **In the future, Dr. Dinan hopes to start a Novel Writing Club: “It could be tied to NaNoWriMo [National Novel Writing Month] because there’s so much material there right now. I feel like in MFA, we focus on the short story, but a lot of people want to try long form too.”**

For English majors, especially Creative Writing concentrations, Dr. Dinan advises **to read constantly and to value reflection:** “One of the biggest things I learned [being an English major] was the power of reflection...**question what you’re doing and question why you’re doing that, and see if there are things that you could do better.**” She hopes her students would describe her as thoughtful and considerate: “I find myself in a lot of situations where I’m not sure I have the answer to whatever is being asked. **I take the time to research that answer instead of simply trying to answer it.**”