



TEACHING AND UNDERSTANDING POETRY • EL PASO
Thursday, November 8, 2018

HUMANITIES TEXAS TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

The University of Texas at El Paso – Blumberg Auditorium • 1900 Wiggins Way • El Paso, TX 79968

7:30–8:15 a.m.	Check-in and breakfast
8:15–8:30 a.m.	Opening remarks <i>Eric Lupfer, Humanities Texas</i>
8:30–9:15 a.m.	Approaches to Teaching Poetry at the Secondary Level <i>Emmy Pérez, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley</i>
9:30–10:15 a.m.	The Music of Poetry: Poe, Whitman, Dickinson, and Hughes <i>Brian Yothers, The University of Texas at El Paso</i>
10:30–11:15 a.m.	Teaching Shakespeare’s Sonnets <i>Joseph M. Ortiz, The University of Texas at El Paso</i>
11:15 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	Lunch
12:00–12:15 p.m.	Centennial Museum Educational Resources
12:15–1:00 p.m.	Teaching Critical Reading Skills using CRIT <i>Adriane Bezusko, Texas Christian University</i>
1:30–3:30 p.m.	Critical reading seminars with faculty
3:30–3:45 p.m.	Closing remarks

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FEATURED SCHOLARS

ADRIANE BEZUSKO is a lecturer at Texas Christian University, where she teaches courses in composition and American literature. She completed her PhD in English at Rice University and has held curriculum and faculty positions at the University of Texas at Austin, the University of North Texas and Texas Woman's University. She is currently working on two books-in-progress. The first project, "The Traffic in Poverty and the (Un)Making of American Geographies," examines how poverty is defined by and against particular spaces: the suburban, the rural, the single-family home, and the city in ruins. The second, "Narratives of Grit: Markets of Sorrow," focuses on the turn to character traits, particularly grit and growth, in contemporary education reform narratives. Her work has appeared in *SOULS: A Critical Journal of Black Politics*.

JOSEPH M. ORTIZ is Associate Professor of English at the University of Texas at El Paso, where he teaches courses on Renaissance and comparative literature. A native of Las Cruces, he received a BA in English and Mathematics from Yale University and a PhD in English from Princeton University. He is the author of *Broken Harmony: Shakespeare and the Politics of Music* (Cornell, 2011) and articles on Milton, Shakespeare, and Renaissance music and drama. His current book project, *Against Translation: The Forms of Renaissance Epic*, explores the representation of translation in epic poetry from Virgil to Milton. An occasional clarinetist, he is also mildly obsessed with opera.

EMMY PÉREZ is the author of the poetry collections *With the River on Our Face* and *Solstice*. She is a recipient of poetry fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, CantoMundo, the New York Foundation for the Arts, and the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown. Originally from Santa Ana, California, she is a graduate of the University of Southern California and Columbia University. Since 2008, she has been a member of the Macondo Writers' Workshop founded by Sandra Cisneros. Currently, she is professor of creative writing at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, where she teaches in the MFA and undergraduate programs. She is also affiliate faculty in Mexican American Studies and serves as associate director of the Center for Mexican American Studies. In 2012, she was a recipient of a UT Regents Outstanding Teaching Award, and in 2016, a University Excellence Award in Student Mentoring. This year, she began a three-year term on the organizing committee for CantoMundo, a national organization for Latinx poets, whose annual retreat will be held at Columbia University in the summer of 2019.

BRIAN YOTHERS is the Frances Spatz Leighton Endowed Distinguished Professor of English and Associate Chair of the Department of English and a 2014 recipient of the University of Texas Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award. He is the author of *The Romance of the Holy Land in American Travel Writing, 1790-1876* (2007), *Melville's Mirrors: Literary Criticism and America's Most Elusive Author* (2011), *Sacred Uncertainty: Religious Difference and the Shape of Melville's Career* (2015), and *Reading Abolition: The Critical Reception of Harriet Beecher Stowe and Frederick Douglass* (2016). He has also edited several volumes: *Visionary of the Word: Melville and Religion* (2017), with Jonathan A. Cook; *Billy Budd, Sailor: Critical Insights* (2017); *The Scarlet Letter: Critical Insights* (2018); *Above the American Renaissance: David S. Reynolds and the Spiritual Imagination in American Literary Studies* (2018), with Harold K. Bush; and the Broadview Edition of *The Piazza Tales*, by Herman Melville (2018). He presently serves as associate editor of *Leviathan: A Journal of Melville Studies* and principal investigator for The Humanities Collaborative at EPCC-UTEP, which is funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.