



UNDERSTANDING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT · HOUSTON

Thursday, February 20, 2020

HUMANITIES TEXAS TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Kingdom Builders Center • 6011 West Orem Drive • Houston, Texas

7:30–8:15 a.m.	Check-in and breakfast
8:15–8:30 a.m.	Welcome and opening remarks
8:30–9:15 a.m.	Congress <i>Sean Theriault, The University of Texas at Austin</i>
9:20–10:05 a.m.	The Judiciary <i>Joseph Kobylka, Southern Methodist University</i>
10:05–10:25 a.m.	Break and group photo
10:25–10:35 a.m.	Humanities Texas educational resources
10:35–11:20 a.m.	The Presidency <i>Jeremi Suri, The University of Texas at Austin</i>
11:25 a.m.–12:10 p.m.	Using NARA Resources to Teach about the Federal Government <i>Charles Flanagan, National Archives</i>
12:10–1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00–3:15 p.m.	Primary source seminars
3:15–3:30 p.m.	Closing announcements

Image: Barry Faulkner (American 1881–1966), *The Constitution*, 1936. Oil on canvas, The National Archives.
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FEATURED SCHOLARS

CHARLES FLANAGAN is outreach supervisor at the Center for Legislative Archives at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, DC. Previously, he was a high school teacher for thirty years. During his last two decades in the classroom, Flanagan was the humanities department chair and history teacher at the Key School in Annapolis, Maryland. While at Key, he led the development of an interdisciplinary literature and history curriculum that featured hands-on learning with classic literature and primary sources in history. Flanagan has a BA from Assumption College, an MA from St. John's College, and a PhD in American studies from the University of Maryland.

JOSEPH F. KOBYLKA is associate professor of political science at Southern Methodist University. He earned his BA in government and history at Beloit College and his PhD in political science from the University of Minnesota. Since joining the SMU faculty in 1983, he has published three books—*The Politics of Obscenity*, *Public Interest Law: An Annotated Bibliography*, and *The Supreme Court and Legal Change: Abortion and the Death Penalty*—and several journal articles and book chapters. His teaching interests touch on American constitutional law and politics, judicial decision-making, and American political thought. He is currently finishing a biography of former Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun and will then turn to a study of recent church-state litigation. Kobyłka assisted in developing the award-winning 2007 PBS series *The Supreme Court*. His “Cycles of American Political Thought”—thirty-six lectures on the development of political philosophy in America—was published by The Teaching Company in late 2006. Selected twice by SMU to give the Opening Convocation Address (2001, 2014) and recipient of four SMU research grants and fellowships, Kobyłka has also won numerous teaching and service awards at SMU. He serves as faculty advisor to the Honor Council, the Political Science Symposium, and Pi Sigma Alpha.

JEREMI SURI holds the Mack Brown Distinguished Chair for Leadership in Global Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin, where he is a professor in the Department of History and the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs. Professor Suri is the author and editor of nine books, most recently: *The Impossible Presidency: The Rise and Fall of America's Highest Office*. Professor Suri writes for major newspapers, magazines, and blogs around the country. He appears frequently on radio and television. His research and teaching have received recognition from the Smithsonian Institution and Princeton Review, among others. In 2018, he received the President's Excellence Teaching Award from The University of Texas and the Pro Bene Meritis Award for Contributions to the Liberal Arts. You can follow Professor Suri at @jeremisuri. His professional webpage is: <http://jeremisuri.net>. Professor Suri hosts a weekly podcast on the history and evolution of American democracy, aimed especially at young listeners: *This is Democracy*, <https://podcasts.la.utexas.edu/this-is-democracy>.

SEAN M. THERIAULT is professor of government at The University of Texas at Austin. He is currently researching how the social relationships in Congress have deteriorated over time. He has published five books: *The Power of the People* (Ohio State University Press, 2005), *Party Polarization in Congress* (Cambridge University Press, 2008), *The Gingrich Senators* (Oxford University Press, 2013), *The Great Broadening* (with Bryan Jones and Michelle Whyman; Chicago University Press, 2019), and *Congress: The First Branch* (with Mickey Edwards; Oxford University Press, 2020). He has also published numerous articles in a variety of journals on subjects ranging from presidential rhetoric to congressional careers and the Louisiana Purchase to the Pendleton Act of 1883. His classes include the U.S. Congress, Congressional Elections, Party Polarization in the United States and the Politics of the Catholic Church. He has received numerous teaching awards, including the Friar Society Teaching Fellowship (the biggest undergraduate teaching award at UT) in 2009, UT Professor of the Year in 2011, and the Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award in 2014. In 2012, he was inducted into the Academy of Distinguished Teachers. Before obtaining his PhD from Stanford University (in 2001; MA in Political Science in 2000), he attended the University of Richmond (BA, 1993) and the University of Rochester (MS in Public Policy Analysis, 1996).