



**CRITICAL READING AND ENGAGED WRITING • AUSTIN  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2017**

**HUMANITIES TEXAS TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP  
BYRNE-REED HOUSE • 1410 RIO GRANDE STREET • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701**

8:00-8:45 a.m.	Check-in & breakfast
8:45-9:00 a.m.	Opening remarks <i>Eric Lupfer, Humanities Texas</i>
9:00-9:45 a.m.	<b>Teaching Critical Reading</b> <i>Adriane Bezusko, The University of Texas at Austin</i>
9:45-10:30 a.m.	<b>Creating Context</b> <i>Brian Bremen, The University of Texas at Austin</i>
10:30-10:45 a.m.	Break
10:45-11:30 a.m.	<b>Reading Rhetorically in the High School Classroom</b> <i>Cathy D'Agostino, College Board</i>
11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	<b>Improving Digital Media Literacy and Critical Thinking Skills</b> <i>Kirsten Ostherr, Rice University</i>
12:15-1:15 p.m.	Lunch
1:15-3:45 p.m.	Critical reading seminars with faculty
3:45-4:00 p.m.	Closing remarks

Image: Jacob Lawrence, *Dream Series #5: The Library*, tempera on board,  
Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts



## FEATURED SCHOLARS

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**ADRIANE BEZUSKO** is the course coordinator for Introduction to Literature at The University of Texas at Austin. She taught eleventh-grade American Literature at Irving High School before completing her PhD in English at Rice University in 2014. She has held faculty positions at 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. Her work has appeared in *SOULS: A Critical Journal of Black Politics*.

**BRIAN A. BREMEN** taught high school English in New Jersey for eight years before he went back to graduate school, earned his PhD, and came to The University of Texas at Austin. He is an associate professor in the English department, specializing in American literature, Modernism, writers of the Harlem Renaissance, and literary theory. He is currently at work on a book that examines the ways in which contemporaneous religious and scientific thought interacted in the formation of Modern literature, tentatively called *What Was Modernism (and Does It Still Matter)?*

**CATHY D'AGOSTINO** was a leader teacher at New Trier Township High School in Winnetka, Illinois, where she started the AP English Language and Composition program and the co-taught interdisciplinary AP English Literature and AP European History class. She has served as a consultant for the College Board since 1988, conducting both AP English Language and Literature workshops. Ms. D'Agostino has conducted workshops in twenty-seven states. She works with school districts and teachers across the country to customize and deliver systemic approaches to literacy development through instructional practices that integrate thinking, reading, and writing skills to expand and accelerate student learning and achievement. Her varied workshops include an organic versus a formulaic approach to teaching composition, building vertical teams within English Departments and across the curriculum, teaching critical reading strategies in all high school classes, designing school and district-wide holistic assessments, and beginning Writing Across the Curriculum Programs in middle and high schools. In addition, she co-authored and designed the manual and workshop on *Holistic Scoring* for the College Board, and has authored various chapters in a number of books on teaching composition. She appears in the Bedford St. Martin's Press DVD entitled *Teaching Ideas: A Video Resource for AP English*. Ms. D'Agostino also has been a regular presenter at state and national conferences since 1990.

**KIRSTEN OSTHERR**, PhD, MPH, is a media scholar and health researcher at Rice University who works on the humanistic dimensions of making patient data into meaningful stories. She treats communication and representation as core techniques for solving health problems, using collaborative, participatory design to improve patient care with students, clinicians, and startups in the Texas Medical Center and beyond. Dr. Ostherr is the author of two books, *Medical Visions: Producing the Patient through Film, Television, and Imaging Technologies* (Oxford University Press, 2013) and *Cinematic Prophylaxis: Globalization and Contagion in the Discourse of World Health* (Duke University Press, 2005), and numerous articles. Her current research is on information and communication technologies in aging and end-of-life care, patient narratives in EHRs, and the role of simulation as a mediator between human and technological forms of medical expertise. Her current book project is called *Quantified Health: Making Stories from Data in the Algorithmic Age*. She is director of the Medical Futures Lab and has spoken to audiences at TEDx, the mHealth Summit, Medicine X, the Louisville Innovation Summit, the World Health Organization, the National Library of Medicine, and other universities and conferences worldwide.