



**CRITICAL READING AND ENGAGED WRITING • HOUSTON  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2018**

**HUMANITIES TEXAS TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP**  
THE KINGDOM BUILDER'S CENTER • 6011 W. OREM DRIVE • HOUSTON, TEXAS

7:30–8:15 a.m.	Check-in & breakfast
8:15–8:30 a.m.	Opening remarks <i>Eric Lupfer, Humanities Texas</i>
8:30–9:25 a.m.	<b>Teaching Critical Reading Skills</b> <i>Brian A. Bremen, The University of Texas at Austin</i>
9:40–10:25 a.m.	<b>Reading Nonfiction “Rhetorically” in the Secondary Classroom</b> <i>Cathy D’Agostino, Educational Consultant</i>
10:40–11:25 a.m.	<b>Truth 2.0</b> <i>Lisa Falkenberg, The Houston Chronicle</i>
11:40 a.m.–12:25 p.m.	<b>Improving Digital Media Literacy and Critical Thinking Skills</b> <i>Kirsten Ostherr, Rice University</i>
12:25–1:15 p.m.	Lunch
1:15–3:25 p.m.	Critical reading and curriculum development seminars with faculty
3:25–3:30 p.m.	Closing remarks

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

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## FEATURED SCHOLARS

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**BRIAN A. BREMEN** is an associate professor in the English department at The University of Texas at Austin, specializing in American literature, Modernism, the digital humanities, writers of the Harlem Renaissance, and literary theory. A former high school English teacher, he has been a consultant for the College Board for over forty years, a reader of the AP English Literature and AP English Language exams, and chief reader and the chair of the test development committee for the old SAT Writing exam. He is also the author of *William Carlos Williams and the Diagnostics of Culture* and a former editor of the *William Carlos Williams Review*. In 2013, Bremen was named one of the twenty inaugural Provost's Teaching Fellows at UT, and he has been the recipient of the Marilla D. Svinicki Burnt Orange Apple Award, the Dads' Association Centennial Teaching Fellowship, and the W. O. S. Sutherland Award for Teaching Excellence in Sophomore Literature. He is currently teaching a course that is also a life-long book project entitled "The Prophet Motive: Woody Guthrie, Bob Dylan, and Bruce Springsteen."

**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.

**LISA FALKENBERG** is a metro columnist at the *Houston Chronicle*. She was born and raised in the small South Texas town of Seguin, near San Antonio, the daughter of a truck driver and a homemaker. She was the first in her family to go to college and graduated with a journalism degree from the University of Texas at Austin in 2000. Her love of journalism was born at her high school newspaper and, while in college, she worked at several state capitol bureaus, including Scripps Howard and The Associated Press. She joined the AP's Dallas bureau in 2001, eventually becoming a regional writer covering Dallas and East Texas. In 2004, Falkenberg joined the *Houston Chronicle's* Austin bureau as a state correspondent covering everything from legislative politics to hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In 2007, she was named a Houston-based metro columnist. She has earned numerous national, state, and local journalism awards for her column-writing, and was named the *Chronicle's* Commentator of the Year in 2009. In 2015, Falkenberg was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for commentary, as well as the American Society of News Editors' Mike Royko Award for Commentary/Column Writing. Falkenberg has mentored journalism students through the *Chronicle's* high school journalism program and volunteered with the News Literacy Project.

**KIRSTEN OSTHERR**, PhD, MPH is the Gladys Louise Fox Professor of English at Rice University, in Houston, Texas, where she is a media scholar, health researcher, and founding director of the Medical Humanities program. She is the author of *Medical Visions: Producing the Patient through Film, Television and Imaging Technologies* (Oxford, 2013) and *Cinematic Prophylaxis: Globalization and Contagion in the Discourse of World Health* (Duke, 2005), co-editor of *Science/Animation*, a special issue of the journal *Discourse* (2016), and editor of *Applied Media Studies* (Routledge, 2018). Her current research is on information and communication technologies in medicine, patient narratives, trust and privacy in digital health ecosystems, and the role of simulation as a mediator between human and technological forms of medical expertise. Her current book project is called *Quantified Health: Learning from Patient Stories in the Age of Big Data*. She is Director of the Medical Futures Lab and has spoken to audiences at the White House, the World Health Organization, the National Library of Medicine, TEDx, the mHealth Summit, Medicine X, the Louisville Innovation Summit, the Bauhaus, and universities and conferences worldwide.