

TEACHING SHORT FICTION • IN-PERSON WORKSHOP

Austin • October 15, 2026

HUMANITIES TEXAS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Thompson Conference Center, The University of Texas at Austin • Austin, 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.	Short Stories by Nineteenth-Century U.S. Writers *Bridgette Copeland, Texas Christian University*
9:20–10:05 a.m.	Short Stories by Twentieth-Century U.S. Writers *Sarah Gilbreath Ford, Baylor University*
10:05–10:25 a.m.	Break and Group Photo
10:25–10:35 a.m.	Humanities Texas Resources for Educators
10:35–11:20 a.m.	Short Stories by Contemporary U.S. Writers *Maryse Jayasuriya, Saint Louis University*
11:25 a.m.–12:10 p.m.	Writing Short Stories *Peter Turchi, University of Houston*
12:10–1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00–3:15 p.m.	Afternoon Seminars
3:15–3:30 p.m.	Final Announcements

Image: Jacob Lawrence, *The Library*, 1960, tempera on fiberboard, 24 x 29 7/8 in. (60.9 x 75.8 cm.), Smithsonian American Art Museum, Gift of S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc., 1969.47.24.

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Humanities Texas

FACULTY

BRIDGETTE COPELAND obtained her MA from the University of Louisiana-Monroe and her PhD from Texas Christian University ('09) where she was the Ida Green Fellow. While her thesis took southern literature as a focus, her dissertation focuses on nineteenth-century American literature, specifically women writers and the construction of sibling relationships relating to American politics and policy. Before TCU, she was director of ULM's writing center, The Write Place, and, while working in TCU's William L. Adams Center for Writing, she co-directed the Writing Associates Program. Bridgette teaches a variety of literature courses for the English department, including composition, American writers, short stories, and film adaptation. She also teaches for the TCU Honors Program about the role of humor in shaping cultural change using the lens of the American sitcom.

SARAH GILBREATH FORD is a professor of American literature at Baylor University. She teaches and researches in the fields of southern literature, the gothic genre, ecocriticism, time travel, and the work of Eudora Welty. She has authored *Tracing Southern Storytelling in Black and White*; *Haunted Property: Slavery and the Gothic*; and *Of Women and Water: Submersion Stories in Eudora Welty's Fiction*. She is co-editor of the forthcoming volume *Eudora Welty and Stealth Feminism*, and she serves as co-editor of the *Eudora Welty Review*. In 2017 she received the Phoenix Award from the Eudora Welty Society, and in 2019 she was named a Baylor Centennial Professor.

MARYSE JAYASURIYA is a professor of English at Saint Louis University. She was a faculty member for eighteen years at the University of Texas at El Paso and served as an Associate Dean for the College of Liberal Arts for eight years. She is the author of *Terror and Reconciliation: Sri Lankan Anglophone Literature, 1983-2009* (Lexington, 2012), the editor of *The Immigrant Experience: Critical Insights* (Salem Press, 2018), and the co-editor of *Global Sri Lankan Literature and Culture: Dispatches from an Island in Crisis and its Diaspora* (Routledge, 2026). She has published widely on South Asian and Sri Lankan literature focused on war and violence, trauma, and immigration. She is an associate editor of the *South Asian Review*, an executive committee member of the MLA's South Asian and South Asian Diasporic Forum, and past president of the South Asian Literary Association. She served as a member of the board of directors for Humanities Texas from 2021–2023.

PETER TURCHI is the co-editor of three anthologies and the author of seven books including *Maps of the Imagination: The Writer as Cartographer* and *A Muse and a Maze: Writing as Puzzle, Mystery, and Magic*. He has been awarded fellowships from the NEA and the Guggenheim Foundation. The former director of the MFA Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College and the Creative Writing Program at Arizona State University, he now teaches at the University of Houston.