



TEACHING DRAMA • HOUSTON

Thursday, December 1, 2022

HUMANITIES TEXAS TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Asia Society Texas Center • 1370 Southmore Boulevard • 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.	Classic Greek Drama Deborah Beck, The University of Texas at Austin
9:20–10:05 a.m.	Shakespeare Douglas Bruster, The University of Texas at Austin
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.	Twentieth-Century American Drama Alexander Pettit, University of North Texas
11:25 a.m.–12:10 p.m.	Contemporary American Drama Samantha Pinto, The University of Texas at Austin
12:10 –1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 –3:15 p.m.	Afternoon Seminars
3:15–3:30 p.m.	Final Announcements

Mosaic depicting theatrical masks of Tragedy and Comedy, 2nd century AD, from Rome Thermae Decianae, Palazzo Nuovo, Capitoline Museums.

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Humanities Texas

FACULTY

DEBORAH BECK began her study of Classics as a kid enjoying the D'Aulaires' collections of Greek myth (way before there was Percy Jackson). She earned a BA from Yale University and an AM and PhD from Harvard University. After teaching at various universities around the country, she has been a professor at The University of Texas at Austin since 2009. Her research focuses on how to tell a good story that connects emotionally with its audience(s), especially in epic poetry. Her books, *Homeric Conversation* (Harvard 2005) and *Speech Presentation in Homeric Epic* (University of Texas Press 2012), explore the role of speech in shaping the stories of Homeric epic. Her most recent book, *The Stories of Similes in Greek and Roman Epic* (Cambridge UP mid-2023) is a study of similes in Homer, Apollonius, Vergil *Aeneid*, and Ovid *Metamorphoses*. She also regularly publishes opinion essays in Texas and national publications. With her students she produces the podcast "Musings in Greek Literature." Dr. Beck has won fellowships from the Center for Hellenic Studies of Harvard University, St Anne's College (University of Oxford), and the National Endowment for the Humanities. She is one of the 2021 winners of the Society for Classical Studies Award for Excellence in Teaching at the College and University Level. In her spare time, she enjoys mystery novels, watching the *Great British Baking Show*, and taking long walks around Austin.

DOUGLAS BRUSTER is Mody C. Boatright Regents Professor in American and English Literature and Distinguished Teaching Professor at The University of Texas. When not researching and teaching the works of Shakespeare, he enjoys teaching lecture courses on the history of British literature and the films of Alfred Hitchcock.

ALEXANDER PETTIT is professor of English, University Distinguished Teaching Professor, and affiliated faculty in Women's and Gender Studies at the University of North Texas. Much of his recent work focuses on Eugene O'Neill; exceptions include essays on Susan Glaspell, Lynn Riggs, Paul Green, Tennessee Williams, Joni Mitchell, Larissa FastHorse, and Sarah Ruhl. Some of these essays are solo outings; some have been written collaboratively with James Cox of The University of Texas at Austin, with whom Alex is currently preparing a classroom edition of plays by the Cherokee dramatist Lynn Riggs. His five-year term as editor of the *Eugene O'Neill Review* expires in 2023.

SAMANTHA PINTO is professor of English, core faculty of Women's and Gender Studies, and affiliated faculty of African & African Diaspora Studies, and The John L. Warfield Center for African & African American Studies at The University of Texas at Austin. Her first book, *Difficult Diasporas: The Transnational Feminist Aesthetic of the Black Atlantic* (NYU Press, 2013), was the winner of the 2013 William Sanders Scarborough Prize from the MLA. Her work has been published in journals including *Meridians*, *Signs*, *Palimpsest*, *Small Axe*, *Public Culture*, *Early American Literature*, and *MELUS*, and she has received fellowships from the NEH and the NHC. Her second book, *Infamous Bodies* (Duke UP, 2020) explores the relationship between 18th and 19th-century black women celebrities and discourses of race, gender, & human rights. Currently, she is at work on a third book, *Material & Metaphor: Inside the Body of Black Feminism*, on race, embodiment, and scientific discourse in African American and African Diaspora culture, and other book-length projects on feminist ambivalence and divorce. The joy of her professional life comes in her collaboration with others, including in her enormous general education survey course on American Literature which always includes *Hamilton*.