

TEACHING THE EARLY REPUBLIC • IN-PERSON WORKSHOP

San Antonio • October 27, 2026

HUMANITIES TEXAS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Education Service Center, Region 20 • San Antonio, 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.	George Washington: Inventing the Presidency *Denver A. Brunsman, George Washington University*
9:20–10:05 a.m.	Foreign Policy in Early America *Sarah Purcell, Grinnell College*
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.	Creating the Judiciary *Joseph F. Kobylka, Southern Methodist University*
11:25 a.m.–12:10 p.m.	Citizenship and Democracy in the Early Republic *Kate Brown, Western Kentucky University*
12:10–1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00–3:15 p.m.	Afternoon Seminars
3:15–3:30 p.m.	Final Announcements

Image: Thomas Birch, *Perry's Victory on Lake Erie*, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia; Gift of Mrs. Charles H.A. Esling.

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Humanities Texas

FACULTY

KATE ELIZABETH BROWN is an associate professor of history and legal studies at Western Kentucky University, specializing in American legal and constitutional history and the early republic. She is co-editor and contributor to *Learning through George Washington: A Guide for Educators, Students, and Citizens* (University of Virginia Press, 2026) and the author of *Alexander Hamilton and the Development of American Law* (University Press of Kansas, 2017). Brown is a lead scholar for the annual George Washington Teacher Institute at Mount Vernon, and she has published in the upcoming *Princeton History of American Political Thought* (Princeton University Press, forthcoming) as well as the *Law and History Review* and the *New York History Journal*. She has received numerous fellowships and research grants, including from the George Washington Presidential Library, New York State Archives, and the American Society of Legal History.

DENVER A. BRUNSMAN is associate professor and chair of the history department at George Washington University, where his courses include "George Washington and His World," taught annually at Mount Vernon. His book, *The Evil Necessity: British Naval Impressment in the Eighteenth-Century Atlantic World* (2013), received the Walker Cowen Memorial Prize for an outstanding work in eighteenth-century studies in the Americas and Atlantic world. He is also a coauthor of a leading college and AP U.S. History textbook, *Liberty, Equality, Power: A History of the American People* (2016, 2020), and the coeditor of *The American Revolution Reader (*2014), among other works. His honors include the Oscar and Shoshana Trachtenberg Prize for Teaching Excellence at George Washington University (2018) and selection as the higher education chair of the College Board AP U.S. History Development Committee (2021–2023).

JOSEPH F. KOBYLKA is associate professor and chair of the political science department at Southern Methodist University (SMU). 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. He 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, he has also won numerous teaching and service awards at SMU, including the prestigious Altshuler Distinguished Teaching Professor Award. He serves as faculty advisor to the Honor Council, the Political Science Symposium, and Pi Sigma Alpha.

SARAH J. PURCELL is the L. F. Parker Professor of History at Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa, where she teaches classes on eighteenth- and nineteenth-century U.S. history, transnational revolutions, public memory, popular culture, and digital history. She is the author of *Spectacle of Grief: Public Funerals and Memory in Civil War America* (University of North Carolina Press, 2022), *Sealed with Blood: War Sacrifice and Memory in Revolutionary America* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2002), and *The Early American Republic: An Eyewitness History* (Facts on File, 2004). She has co-authored several other books, including *American Horizons: U.S. History in a Global Perspective*, third edition (Oxford University Press, 2020), the first textbook that places U.S. history in a global context, and she writes articles and book reviews for both scholarly and media outlets. Purcell is dedicated to fostering student research in history, digital humanities, and American studies, and she was the recipient of the 2019 award for Excellence in Mentoring Undergraduate Research in the Social Sciences from the Council for Undergraduate Research. Purcell also has an interest in K–12 history education and frequently contributes to teacher development programs run by the George Washington Teachers Institute, the Gilder Lehrman Institute, Humanities Texas, and other institutions.