HUMANITIES TEXAS TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ONLINE INSTITUTE

Monday, July 6  
10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.  
Teaching American Literature  
Sarah Ruffing Robbins, Texas Christian University

Tuesday, July 7  
10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.  
Connecting Students to Nineteenth-Century Literature  
Claudia Stokes, Trinity University

Wednesday, July 8  
10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.  
American Literature of the 1920s  
James H. Cox, The University of Texas at Austin  
Michael Soto, Trinity University

Thursday, July 9  
10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.  
Teaching Texas Literature  
Amy Earhart, Texas A&M University

Friday, July 10  
10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.  
Teaching Mexican American Literature  
Andres Lopez, Northside Independent School District


Made possible with support from the State of Texas and the National Endowment for the Humanities.
JAMES H. COX is the Jane and Roland Blumberg Centennial Professor of English at The University of Texas at Austin. His primary research interests include twentieth- and twenty-first-century American literature, especially Native American and ethnic American literatures, including Mexican American literature and literature of immigration. He has published articles on Sherman Alexie, Thomas King, Todd Downing, and Lynn Riggs and book chapters on Native American detective fiction and Breaking Bad. He co-edited The Oxford Handbook of Indigenous American Literature, which won the 2014–2015 MLA Prize for Studies in Native American Literatures, Languages, and Cultures. He has won four teaching awards, including both the President’s Associates Teaching Excellence Award and the Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Award in 2009. Cox was inducted into the Academy of Distinguished Teachers in 2017.

AMY EARHART is an associate professor of English at Texas A&M University. Earhart teaches a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses on American literature, African American literature, digital humanities, and Texas literature, on which she developed a course for her department. She is the author of Traces of the Old, Uses of the New: The Emergence of Digital Literary Studies, coeditor of The American Literature Scholar in the Digital Age, as well as numerous book chapters and journal articles, including several focused on pedagogy. She has won four teaching awards including the Association of Former Students’ University Distinguished Achievement, Teaching. Her students engage with digital materials, developing projects including The Millican Massacre, 1868.

ANDRES LOPEZ has taught English language arts for over sixteen years. For the last five years, he has taught on-level and dual credit English at Stevens High School, where he established San Antonio’s first high school-level Mexican American literature class. Recently, he was recognized as Northside Independent School District’s 2018 Educator of the Year and was the district’s 2018 nominee for the Trinity Prize for Excellence in Teaching. This past October, Humanities Texas awarded him an Outstanding Teaching of the Humanities Award for his pioneering work in the English classroom and in his community. Lopez is also an active member of Somos MAS, a group of educators organized to support Mexican American studies (MAS) in San Antonio and throughout Texas.

SARAH RUFFING ROBBINS is the Lorraine Sherley Professor of English at Texas Christian University where she teaches courses in American studies, writing studies, gender studies, American literature, popular culture, archival research methods, and authorship. Coming to university work after over a decade of teaching in secondary schools, she was the founding director of the National Writing Project in northwest Georgia, where she led a number of humanities programs in collaboration with K–12 educators. She has published nine academic books, the most recent being Learning Legacies: Archive to Action through Women’s Cross-cultural Teaching. She is also author of The Cambridge Introduction to Harriet Beecher Stowe and Managing Literacy, Mothering America, winner of a Choice Book Award from the American Library Association. Sarah’s professional website (https://sarahruffingrobbins.com/) includes blog postings where she links her academic study of American culture with questions about current events and social justice issues.

MICHAEL SOTO is associate vice president for academic affairs and professor of English at Trinity University in San Antonio, where he teaches courses on twentieth-century American literature and cultural history. After graduating from a public high school in Brownsville, he received his BA from Stanford University and earned his PhD from Harvard University. His recent books include Measuring the Harlem Renaissance: The U.S. Census, African American Identity, and Literary Form (2016), and A Companion to American Literature, vol. 3 (2020). He served one term on the Texas State Board of Education.