

2025 Texas Conference on Introductory History Courses

Friday, October 24, 9:00 a.m. to 4:50 p.m.

Saturday, October 25, 8:45 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

University of Texas at Dallas

All plenaries will be held in Founders North (FN) 2.102, 843 Drive D, Richardson, TX 75080.

Breakout sessions will be held in nearby classrooms.

Framing Questions: What is distinctive about studying history at the college level? What are the purposes of introductory history courses? What kinds of formats, teaching, and assignments help students learn? How should the civic goals for general education inform our teaching? How can we build a community of practice?

Sponsors

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Center for Presidential History,
Southern Methodist University

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History Department

Friday, October 24

8:15–9:00

Check-In, Registration, Coffee and Pastries – Founders North

9:00–9:15

Welcome; Issues and Goals of the Conference

Juan Gonzalez, Dean of Graduate Education, (Univ. of Texas at Dallas); Eric Schlereth, History Department Chair, (Univ. of Texas at Dallas); Julia Brookins (American Historical Association)

9:15–10:00

Plenary: Designing Introductory History Courses for Student Success

Chair: Daniel McInerney (Utah State Univ.) with Jessica Ray (Texas A&M Univ.), Shawna Williams (Houston City Coll.), Christopher Todd (Univ. of North Texas), and Frank Chen (Southern Methodist Univ. and US Military Academy at West Point)

10:00–10:20

Plenary: Revising the Social Studies TEKS.

What will future educators need from introductory history courses going forward? And an update on the process.

Meghan Dougherty (Texas Council for the Social Studies), Shalon Bond (Dallas Independent School District)

10:00–11:20

Plenary: Texas Higher Education Policies Today:

Regular and Dual Credit History, Legislative Recap, and Q&A

Elizabeth Mayer, Assistant Commissioner (Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board)

11:20–11:40

AHA Guidelines on Artificial Intelligence in History Education

Theresa Case (Univ. of Houston Downtown)

11:50–12:30

Breakout 1: “My Goals, Their Goals, Our Goals”

What are the purposes of gateway history courses? Which student needs do you aim to meet? Who else has an interest in your courses, and how do you balance those interests in your teaching? This will be a facilitated discussion of learning outcomes for introductory-level college history in different institutional settings, drawing on the AHA’s Core Learning Outcomes in History (Discipline Core), SSRC Measuring College Learning History framework of concepts and competencies, and other conference readings.

Your assigned group number will be on your name badge. Go to the room for your group:

Group Number	Location	Facilitators
Group 1	FO 1.502	Daniel McInerney (Utah State Univ.)
Group 2	JO 4.708	Kendra DeHart (Sul Ross State Univ.)
Group 3	FO 3.616	Nicholas Cox (Houston City Coll.)
Group 4	GR 4.204	Scott Williams (Wetherford Coll.)
Group 5	JO 4.504	David Sysma (Brazosport Coll.), Whitney Barringer (AHA)
Group 6	Auditorium	Jessica Ray (Texas A&M)

12:30–2:00

Lunch and Exhibitor Tables

McDermott Suite, McDermott Library (MC 4.4), 4th floor

2:00–2:45

Breakout 2: Discussions by Course/Teaching Topic

Topic	Location	Facilitators
Making Connections: Presentations Connecting the Past to the Present	FO 1.502	Ted Hadzi-Antich (Austin Comm. Coll.)
Revising the Social Studies TEKS	Auditorium	Meghan Dougherty, Shalon Bond
Teaching Western Civilization	JO 4.504	To Be Announced
Teaching Texas History	FO 3.616	Lila Rakoczy (Texas General Land Office)
Teaching African American History	JO 4.708	Travis B. Hill (Univ. of Texas at Dallas)

2:55–3:40

Breakout 3: Discussions by Course/Teaching Topic

Topic	Location	Facilitators
Teaching Mexican American History	FO 1.502	Ruben Arellano (Dallas Coll.)
“Everyone Participates!” Structuring Class Discussion for Maximal Inclusion	JO 4.708	Ted Hadzi-Antich (Austin Comm. Coll.)
Virtual Student Exchange and International Education	JO 4.504	Kimberly Hill (Univ. of Texas at Dallas)
Advanced Placement History Courses	FO 3.616	Derrick McKisick (East Texas A&M Univ.)
Pedagogical Approaches to Teaching the Holocaust	GR 4.204	Cindy Seton-Rogers (Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies)
Teaching US History: Approaches to Course Design	Auditorium	Steven Mintz (Univ. of Texas at Austin)

3:40–4:00

Break

Exhibits outside FO 3.616 and JO 4.708

4:00–4:50

Plenary: Approaches to Teaching America 250

Opening Remarks: Inga Musselman, Provost, (Univ. of Texas at Dallas)

Chair: Kent McGaughy (Houston City Coll.)

- Open Educational Resources for America 250, Ben Wright (Univ. of Texas at Dallas and *American Yawp*)
- The Great Experiment in Virtual Reality, Warren Hofstra (Shenandoah Univ.)
- Teaching Perspectives on the US Founding, Kent McGaughy (Houston City Coll.)

Saturday, October 25th

8:15–8:45

Coffee and Pastries

8:45–9:00

Recap and Instructions for the Day, Recent AHA Initiatives

Julia Brookins (AHA)

9:00–10:15

Plenary: Teaching Presidential History Today: What Has Changed?

Chair: Jeffrey Engel (Center for Presidential History, Southern Methodist Univ.) with Sharron Wilkins Conrad (Tarrant County Coll.), Sarah Coleman (Texas State Univ.), and Kaete O’Connell (Southern Methodist Univ.)

10:25–11:50

Assignment Workshop – GR 4.204

Facilitator: Daniel McInerney (Utah State Univ.)

10:25–11:50

Alternate Programming (Note: two 40-minute time slots)

Time (Slot 1)	Location	Session
10:25–11:05	JO 4.708	Can I Do My Job Without Getting Fired? Jeffrey Engel (Southern Methodist Univ.), Sharron Wilkins Conrad (Tarrant County Coll.), Sarah Coleman (Texas State Univ.), Kaete O’Connell (Southern Methodist Univ.)
10:25–11:05	FO 3.616	Connecting College and High School History (Dual Credit) David Howard (Univ. of Texas Rio Grande Valley), Meghan Dougherty (Texas Council for the Social Studies)
10:25–11:05	FO 1.502	Immersive Learning, Virtual Reality, and The Great Experiment Warren Hofstra (Shenandoah Univ.)
10:25–11:05	JO 4.504	Teaching World Civilizations, Oral History as a Tool to (Re)write and ‘Right’ History Paula Cuellar Cuellar (Univ. of Texas at Dallas)

Time (Slot 2)	Location	Session
11:15–11:55	JO 4.708	How Do We Address AI and Teach Students to Use It Responsibly? Ruth Oropeza (Baylor Univ), Taylor Tomlin (Coastal Bend Coll.)
11:15–11:55	FO 3.616	Advocating for History in Texas Education Policymaking Trinidad Gonzales (South Texas Coll., Remote), Julia Brookins (AHA)
11:15–11:55	FO 1.502	Teaching the Histories of the Native Peoples of Texas Tim Seiter (Univ. of Texas at Tyler)
11:15–11:55	JO 4.504	Reflecting Recent Scholarship in Open Educational Resources Joseph L. Locke (Univ. of North Texas)

11:55–12:15

Break

12:15–1:30

Lunch and Exhibitor Tables

McDermott Suite, McDermott Library (MC 4.4), 4th floor

Sponsored by the Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Texas at Dallas

1:30–1:50

What's Next on our Shared Agenda? Conference Lessons and the Path Forward for our Disciplinary Community – McDermott Library

Whit Barringer (AHA) and Univ. of Texas at Dallas faculty

1:50–2:00

Booklet Raffle & AHA Annual Meeting CFP (New Orleans, Jan. 2027)

Conference Readings

- AHA Tuning project, [History Discipline Core Statement](#) (revised December 2016)
- Social Science Research Council, [History Essential Concepts and Competencies](#) (pdf) (2016)
- AHA, *Guiding Principles for Artificial Intelligence in History Education*, August 5, 2025, <https://www.historians.org/resource/guiding-principles-for-artificial-intelligence-in-history-education/>
- AHA Webinar, “Guiding Principles for AI in History Education,” September 25, 2025, <https://youtu.be/24V7BH0FDH0?si=WXqaQ9qlZ4yG0ywF>.
- Lendol Calder, “The Stories We Tell,” *OAH Magazine of History* 27, no. 3 (July 2013): 5–8, https://www.academia.edu/6273332/The_Stories_We_Tell.
- Lendol Calder, “The Stories We Tell,” 2023 Texas Conference on Introductory History Courses plenary lecture, <https://youtu.be/GRo7VKOMUa4?si=95HntAwOaEodhUfK>.
- Daniel Immerwahr, “History Isn’t Just for Patriots,” *Washington Post*, December 23, 2020, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2020/12/23/teach-history-american-patriotism/>.
- Laura Westhoff and Robert Johnston, “Democracy and the Teaching of History in Our Perilous Moment,” *Journal of American History* 108, no. 4 (March 2022): 767–71. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jahist/jaac004>.
- Johann Neem, “Bringing American History Back Home for the 250th: Challenges, Opportunities, Stakes,” *Perspectives on History*, July 14, 2025, <https://www.historians.org/perspectives-article/bringing-american-history-back-home-for-the-250th/>.
- Raul Ramos, “The 1836 Project Is the Wrong Past for Our Future,” *Houston Chronicle*, May 16, 2021, <https://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/outlook/article/Opinion-The-1836-Project-is-the-wrong-past-for-16177964.php>.
- Anne Hyde, “Plagued by Doubt: Uncertainty as History’s Pedagogy,” 2018 Texas Conference on Introductory History Courses keynote, <https://youtu.be/8zDHlq6LjLQ>.
- Warren R. Hofstra with J. J. Ruscella, Mohammad Obeid, and Kevin R. Hardwick, “The Great Experiment: Re-Debating the Electoral College in Virtual Reality,” *Perspectives on History*, September 18, 2024, <https://www.historians.org/perspectives-article/the-great-experiment/>.
- Caleb Wood Richardson, “Turning Inquiry into Action: Using Communities of Practice to Build Better Introductory History Courses,” *Perspectives on History*, December 2020, <https://www.historians.org/perspectives-article/turning-inquiry-into-action-using-communities-of-practice-to-build-better-introductory-history-courses-december-2020/>.