



2025 TEXAS CONFERENCE

INTRODUCTORY HISTORY COURSES



2025 Texas Conference on Introductory History Courses

Friday, October 24, 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Saturday, October 25, 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

University of Texas at Dallas

Friday, October 24

8:15–9:00 **Registration and Coffee with Pastries**

9:00–9:15 **Opening Remarks**

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

9:15–10:00 **Designing Introductory History Courses for Student Success**

Daniel McNerney (Utah State Univ.)
Jessica Ray (Texas A&M Univ.)
Shawna Williams (Houston Comm. Coll.)
Christopher Todd (Univ. of North Texas)
Frank Chen (U.S. Military Academy at West Point)

10:00–10:20 **Revising the Social Studies TEKS**

Meghan Dougherty (Texas Council for the Social Studies)
Shalon Bond (Dallas ISD)

10:20–11:20 **Texas Higher Education Policies Today**

11:30–12:10 **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.

12:10–1:35 **Lunch and Exhibits**

1:35–2:00 **AHA Guidelines on Artificial Intelligence in History Education**

2:00–2:45 **Breakout 2: Discussions by Course/Teaching Topic**

1. Making Connections: Presentations Connecting the Past to the Present
2. Teaching Western Civilization
3. Teaching Texas History
4. Teaching US History: Approaches to Course Design
5. Revising the Social Studies TEKS
6. Advanced Placement History Courses

2:55–3:40 **Breakout 3: Discussions by Course/Teaching Topic**

1. Teaching Mexican American History
2. Teaching African American History
3. Everyone Participates! Structuring Class Discussion for Maximal Inclusion
4. Teaching World Civilizations, Oral History as a Tool to (Re)write and “Right” History
5. Virtual Student Exchange and International Education

3:40–4:00 **Break**

4:00–4:45 **Approaches to Teaching America 250**

Ben Wright (Univ. of Texas at Dallas)
Warren Hofstra (Shenandoah Univ.)
Kent McGaughy (Houston Comm. Coll.)

Saturday, October 25

8:15–8:45 **Coffee with 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?**

Jeffrey Engel, (Founding Director, Center for Presidential History, Southern Methodist Univ.)

Sharron Conrad (Tarrant County Coll.)

Sarah Coleman (Texas State Univ.)

Kaete O'Connell (Southern Methodist Univ.)

10:25–11:50 **Assignment Workshop**

Daniel McNerney (Utah State Univ.)

10:25–11:50 **Parallel Programming (note: two session slots)**

10:25–11:05 **Session 1 Options**

Can I Do My Job Without Getting Fired?

Jeffrey Engel (Southern Methodist Univ.)

Sharron Conrad (Tarrant County Coll.)

Sarah Coleman (Texas State Univ.)

Kaete O'Connell (Southern Methodist Univ.)

Connecting College and High School History (Dual Credit)

David Howard (Univ. of Texas Rio Grande Valley)

Meghan Dougherty (Texas Council for the Social Studies)

Approaches to US History Course Design

Steven Mintz (Univ. of Texas at Austin)

Immersive Learning, Virtual Reality, and The Great Experiment

Warren Hofstra (Shenandoah Univ.)

11:10–11:50 **Session 2 Options**

How Do We Address AI and Teach Students to Use It Responsibly?

Ruth Oropeza (Baylor Univ.)

Taylor Tomlin (Coastal Bend Coll.)

Teaching the Histories of the Native Peoples of Texas

Tim Seiter (University of Texas at Tyler)

Advocating for History in Texas Education Policymaking

Trinidad Gonzales (South Texas Coll.)

Julia Brookins (AHA)

American Yawp

12:00–1:15 **Lunch**

1:15–1:45 **What's Next on Our Shared Agenda? Conference Lessons and the Path Forward for Our Disciplinary Community**

1:45–2:00 **Book Raffle & AHA Annual Meeting CFP (New Orleans, Jan. 2027)**