Lara Newcomer
Lecturer/Student Teacher Supervisor
Department of History
Texas State University

I. ACADEMIC/PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

A. Educational Background

M.A. 2007 Texas State University, San Marcos
U.S. History
B.S. 1991 University of Texas, Austin
Secondary Education specializing in History and English

B. University Experience

Student Teacher Supervisor/Lecturer, Texas State University, 2014 – present

II. TEACHING

A. Certifications

Texas Education Agency Certification, 7-12 grade English and History – 1991
Texas State University, Foundations for Online Teaching and Course Design – 2018

B. Teaching Philosophy

My goal in teaching is to give my students practical tools to help them be the best teachers they can be. I draw on over a decade of experience teaching middle school language arts and history to provide students with a host of resources they can use in their own classrooms. I provide honest and constructive feedback on lesson plans, teaching styles, and projects to help students begin to hone their own instincts as educators. The last two semesters of college are a pivotal time for these students to develop awareness of their habits as instructors and build the skills, both professional and emotional, that will ensure their success with the day-to-day demands of the profession. In addition to my own teaching experience, I am in public school classrooms every week which allows me to keep up with the most current trends and concerns in Texas schools and share those with my students. I continually adjust my teaching based the newest teaching approaches and individual student needs. I want to ensure that my students are prepared not just to get jobs as teachers, but to stay in the profession for the long haul.

C. Courses Taught

History 1320 U.S. History 1877 to the present: This course is completely online and presents a survey of United States history following the Civil War up to the late 20th century. Students analyze primary source documents, look at trends and cycles in history, and produce several essays to demonstrate their knowledge of the content.

History 4380 Historical Resources and Practices: The overall purpose of this course is to assist students in the transition to the role of social studies teacher. Readings, activities and discussions in this course are designed to encourage participants to develop a strong philosophical rationale for teaching all areas of the social sciences in our public schools. Students of this course will also have opportunities to experiment with a wide variety of teaching methods for the secondary classroom via class discussions, written assignments and group presentations. An emphasis is placed on the use of primary

sources within the creation of original and adapted curriculum units. Through an analysis of the state exam and a completion of practice exams referencing social studies/history content, and creating their own study plan, students also prepare for the actual state licensing exam.

EDST 4681 Student Teaching: Students apply knowledge and skills learned during the teacher preparation program while engaging in clinical practice with experienced 7-12 mentor teachers in school settings with university instruction and supervision. Student Teaching is the capstone field experience for our students working toward teacher certification. Student Teachers are required to complete a clinical teaching experience for a minimum of 14 weeks in a classroom of a public, charter, or private school where they work with a mentor teacher. During the students' clinical teaching semester, I will observe them no less than three times at their campus of record which could be anywhere from Leander to San Antonio. I conference with each student teacher before and after their observation, providing them with resources to use for their lessons and feedback regarding their performance. I also conduct five evening seminars providing training in best practices, practical skills for the classroom, and preparation for job fair and interviews. I work as a liaison between student teachers and their mentors, meeting with each mentor three times each semester. My student teachers and their mentors all have my cell phone number and I am available to them seven days a week. In the course of my time at Texas State I have supervised over 200 student teachers, averaging approximately twelve each semester.

III. RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

October 2013 – May 2014 - Consultant – Texas Historical Commission, Austin, Texas
May 2008 – April 2012 – Historian – AmaTerra Environmental, Inc., Austin, Texas
August 2003 – May 2006 – U.S. & Texas History Teacher – Del Valle Junior High, Del Valle, Texas
November 2001 – May 2003 – Language Arts Teacher – Freeport Intermediate School, Freeport, Texas
February 2001 – October 2001 – Adult Basic Education & English as a Second Language Teacher, Brazosport College, Lake Jackson, Texas
August 1999 – December 2000 – Language Arts & History Teacher, Huntsville Alternative School, Huntsville, Texas
August 1997 – May 1999 – Language Arts Teacher, Stephen F. Austin Middle School, Bryan, Texas
August 1993 – May 1996 – U.S. & Texas History Teacher, Rayburn Middle School, Bryan, Texas

IV. PUBLICATIONS

- Newcomer, Lara, review of Lady Bird Johnson: An Oral History, by Michael L. Gillette, in *The Sound Historian* Volume 16 (2014): 62.
- "The Brothers Fitter," guest blog, Texas Historical Commission, November 2011, http://www.thc.state.tx.us/blog/brothers-fitter.
- "HAWKS in the Desert," Fort Bliss publications, 2010.

V. SCHOLARLY CONFERENCES – PRESENTED

- “The Brothers Fitter,” Texas Oral History Association, Waco, Texas, April 2012.
- “Public Opinion in the Korean War,” Korean War Conference, Victoria, Texas, June 2010.

VI. AWARDS AND HONORS

Outstanding Student Teaching Faculty Member, Office of Educator Preparation, 2019
Leadership in History Award, American Association for State & Local History, 2011

VII. SERVICE

University:
Professional Dispositions Committee, College of Education, 2022 - present
Community:
Texas History Day competition judge, 2012 – present
National High School Barbecue Championship scoring coordinator, 2021 - present