CURRICULUM VITAE

RONALD W. DAVIS II, PhD
Lecturer at Texas State University
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. History, The University of Texas at Austin 2025
Dissertation Title: "They Made Me the Best Bronc Rider in the Country, but They Weren't Trying to Make Me a Rider:" Enslaved and Free Black Cowboys in Texas, 1840-1885"
Advisors: Daina Ramey Berry & Talitha LeFlouria
Doctoral Portfolios: African and African Diaspora Studies, Museum Studies: Archival Enterprise

M.A. History 2019
The University of Texas at Austin
Master's Report Title: "'If it wasn't for my damned old black face I'd have been boss': Black Cowboys in Texas from 1865 to 1890"

B.A. Administrative Leadership 2014
University of Oklahoma at Norman

PUBLICATIONS

Online Publications

Davis, Ronald. "Black Cowboys: An American Story," *Not Even Past* (November 2021).

Davis, Ronald. "Historical Perspectives on the Birth of A Nation," *Not Even Past* (December 2016).

AWARDS

Fellowship, National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in Texas, Scholarship in American History, 2021. (1 year)

Fellow for The Center for History and Culture of Southeast Texas and the Upper Gulf Coast, Lamar University, 2021. (1 year)

Portal to Texas History Research Fellowship, University of North Texas, 2021. (1 year)

Research Fellowship, History Department, The University of Texas at Austin, 2019. (1 year)

CONFERENCES/PRESENTATIONS

"Creating an Inclusive Exhibit: Black Cowboys and Re-imagining the West," 20th Annual Black World Conference, Metropolitan State University of Denver, February 2025. (Presenter).

"The History of Black Land Ownership in Texas," Black Farmer Jubilee of Texas, February 2025 (Presenter).

"A History of Enslaved and Free Black Cowboys in the Southwest," School for Advanced Research and New Mexico History Museum, October 2023 (Presenter)

"The 1848 Problem:" Roundtable Discussion, Western History Association (WHA), October 2022 (Presenter).

"Let Crips have 31 beeves for a negro:" Enslaved Cowboys, Black Cowboys, and a Museum Exhibit," Sid Richardson Museum, Fort Worth, TX, June 2022 (Presenter).

"Many livestock ranchers take on mulattos and their own slaves as majordormos and entrust them with the said livestock:" Enslaved and Free Black Cowboys, Keynote Presentation, West-Central Texas Regional Phi Alpha Theta History Conference, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX, April 2022 (Presenter).

"'When I's old 'nough to set on de hoss, dey larned me to ride, tendin' hosses,': Enslaved Cowboys in Texas, 1840-1865," American Historical Association (AHA), Online: February 2022 (Presenter).

INVITED LECTURES

"No they did not own their soul" Black Cowboys and Race in Reconstruction Texas, invited by Dr. Dwonna Goldstone, Texas State University, Spring 2023.

"Enslaved and Free Black Cowboys in Texas," History of the United States to 1877, invited by Dr. Dwonna Goldstone, Texas State University, Spring 2022.

"How to analyze A Primary Source," HIS 350R: Domestic Slave Trade, invited by Dr. Daina Ramey Berry, The University of Texas at Austin, History Department, Spring 2022.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Professor, Texas State University, History Department, San Marcos, Texas, HIST 2381: African American History to 1877, August 2025-December 2025.

Professor, Texas State University, History Department, San Marcos, Texas, HIST 2381: African American History to 1877, August 2024-December 2024.

Professor, Texas State University, History Department, San Marcos, Texas, HIST 2381: African American History to 1877, August 2023-December 2023.

Teaching Assistant, Dr. Monica Martinez, The University of Texas at Austin, History Department, Austin, Texas, HIS 314K: History of Mexican Americans in the United States, January 2022-May2022.

Teaching Assistant, Dr. Denise Spellberg, The University of Texas at Austin, History Department, HIS 306K: Introduction to the Middle East: Religious, Cultural, Historical Foundations, August 2021-December 2021.

PUBLIC HISTORY

Curator, "From Land to Hand: Texas Clay," Witte Museum, April 2025.

Presenter, "African Americans in the Livestock Industry," San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo: Ag. Outreach Day East San Antonio, May 2025.

Co-Curator, "Black Cowboys: An American Story," Witte Museum, June 2024- April 2025.

Presenter and Coordinator, "Ode to Juneteenth: Slavery in Texas," Witte Museum's Conference on Texas History, Witte Museum, December 2025.

Curator of American History, Witte Museum, January 2023.

Presenter, "Black Cowboys: An American Story," National Humanities Center, September 2022.

Presenter, "De first wo'k I'se 'members' bout am riding hossess 'tendin' to de critters and hosses on de ranch:" Enslaved and Free Black Cowboys in Texas, June 2022.

Interviewee, "American Black Cowboys," Spectrum News 1 Texas, February 2022.

Contributor, "Black Cowboys in Texas," program "Invitation au voyage" on The European Culture Channel (ARTE) Fall 2022.

Co-Curator, "Black Cowboys: An American Story," Museum Exhibit, The Witte Museum, San Antonio, Texas, 2019-2022.

Interviewee, "History of Black cowboys told in new exhibit at San Antonio's Witte Museum," Texas Public Radio, November 2021.

Consultant, "Denton County Archeological Investigation," Texas Department of Transportation, 2020-2021.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Historical Association
Organization of American Historians
The Southern Historical Association
Association for the Study of African-American Life and History
Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora
Society of American Archivists
Conference on Latin American History

APPLICABLE MILITARY EXPERIENCE

2007-present U.S. Air Force, Career Enlisted Aviator
Relevance: diagnose and direct aircraft systems without command guidance
2002-2007 U.S. Army, Special Operations Command Operator
Relevance: coordinated and controlled tactical (small group) operations

LANGUAGES

Spanish: Reading (Fluent), Speaking (Conversational)