

Cassandra R. Durso

Academic background:

-M. A. in History August 2012: Lamar University, Beaumont, Tx: focus in Transnational History, including European, American, as well as Immigration History. Thesis focusing on the Italian immigrant experience in Texas and Louisiana from 1880-1925.

-B. A. May 2010: Lamar University, Beaumont, Tx Major: History, Minor: Communications

Experience:

-Instructor, Lamar University: Lamar 1101 University Success Seminar fall 2012; History 1301/1302/2321 spring 2014 to present:

- Taught face-to-face, dual-credit and online courses, rewrote US History online survey courses to Quality Matters guidelines, created critical thinking assignments to engage students in current relevance of historical events, conducted discussions for active learning and educational discourse, developed an “unessay” assignment to allow students to interact with historical topics in the mode best suited to them, attended sessions of Center for Teaching and Learning Enhancement to integrate innovative techniques in the traditional and online classrooms.

-Adjunct Instructor, Lamar State College-Orange: History 1301/1302/2321 summer 2015 to present:

- Taught face-to-face, hybrid, dual-credit, and online courses, developed courses for both online and face-to-face administration, conducted discussions for active learning and educational discourse completed Blackboard training.

-Adjunct Instructor, Lamar State College-Port Arthur: History 1301/1302 fall 2013 to spring 2016:

- Taught face-to-face and dual-credit courses, attended Blackboard training sessions, participated in artifact collection, conducted discussions for active learning and educational discourse.

-Instructional Associate, Instructional Connections in association with Lamar University: History 1301/1302 Academic Partnership courses, Summer 2012 to present.

- Assisted instructors of online classes by interacting with students, fielding questions, grading assignments per the rubric, and providing feedback to the students to encourage success in the course.

Certifications:

-ACUE Effective Instruction Course: Completed May 2020

Academic Awards and Honorariums:

-Accepted to Phi Beta Delta, International Scholars Honor Society, April 2012.

-Accepted to National Scholars Honor Society, May 2009.

-Accepted to Phi Alpha Theta, National History Honor Society, April 2009.

-Recipient of Dr. Howell H. Gwin, Jr., Endowed Scholarship, spring 2012.

Professional Membership:

-Member, Italian American Studies Association (formerly American Italian Historical Association) January 2011 to present.

-Member, Immigrant and Ethnic History Society, January 2016 to present

Presentations and Publications:

-“Old Roots in New Soil: Italians in Texas Agriculture and Beyond” Italian American Studies Association Conference November 2019.

-“From Afrika Korps to the Gulf Shores,” published in *Texas Gulf Historical and Biographical Record* Vol. 54, March 2019.

-“Quiet Passages Lesson” part of the *Nation of Immigrants* teaching module project in conjunction with the National Endowment for the Humanities, July 2017.

-Panel member presenting information on Latin America and Quiet Passages Programs in WWII for the Gulf Coast Reads event featuring Jan Jarboe Russell’s book *The Train to Crystal City*.

-Speech on Italian immigrants in the southern United States given for the one year anniversary of the Order of Sons of Italy La Famiglia of Southeast Texas, chapter 2887, May 2016.

-“A Princess in Chains: Stephanie von Hohenlohe, Seagoville’s Most Famous Internee” at the East Texas Historical Association meeting in February 2016.

-Organized program session “Women’s Suffrage and Racial Ambiguity in Progressive Era Texas” as well as presented the paper, “Texas as a Safe Haven and the Dangers of Racial Ambiguity” for the 2014 Texas State Historical Association conference.

-“Two Deaths that Reversed Destiny: How the Murders of Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino Changed the City of Palermo,” at the Phi Alpha Theta national biennial conference, January 2012.

-“Two States with One Goal: Texas and Louisiana Recruit Italians,” published in *Texas Gulf Historical and Biographical Record* Vol. 48, November 2012-republished Vol. 50, November 2014.