Brett Olmsted, Ph.D.

Professor of History

Academic Appointments:

History Professor | January 2021 – Present
A community college in Southeast Texas

Adjunct and Dual Credit Professor of History | 2017 – 2020
A community college in Southeast Texas

Teaching Assistant Professor of History | 2011 – 2017

Education:

University of Houston | **2017**
Ph.D., Department of History
Dissertation: "Los Mexicanos de Michigan: Claiming Space and Creating Community through Leisure and Popular Culture, 1920-1970"
Major – 20th Century U.S. History
Latinx focus with subfields of immigration, activism, labor, and U.S. politics
Minor – World History and global migrations

University of Michigan – Flint | 2010
Bachelor of Arts, Department of History, summa cum laude
History (major), Communication (minor) and Anthropology (minor)

Publications | *Monographs*

Making Michigan Home: Mexican Americans Bridging the Rural-Urban Experience. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, [Forthcoming, expected Fall 2025 or early 2026].

Publications | *Peer-Reviewed Articles*

"Mexican Fiestas in Central Michigan: Celebrations and Identity Formation, 1920-1930," *Michigan Historical Review* 41, no. 2 (Fall 2015), 33-57.

Publications | *Public Writing*

"Forgoing the Sombrero: Why you should not wear a sombrero as a costume," *Conceptions Review Online*, https://conceptionsreview.com/, November 2022.

Presentations | *Conferences*

"Polio in the 20th Century: U.S. and the Global Perspectives," San Jacinto College Through the Ages Conference, Houston, Texas, March 2023

Technology in the College Classroom, New Faculty Academy, February-March 2022

"Las Fiestas Patrias en Michigan: How Celebrations Impacted Nationality, Citizenship, and Identity in the Rural Sugar Beet Industry," National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies National Conference, San Antonio, Texas, March 2013

"Michigan Mexicans: Transnational Patterns of Belonging and the Multifaceted Nature of Mexican Gatherings, 1920-1930," Mid-America Regional Historical Conference, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma, September 2013

Awards

Ernesto Valdes Oral History Prize for best use of oral history in a conference paper, article, or dissertation chapter ($200 award), 2017

Grants and Scholarships

Murray Miller Scholarship, University of Houston | 2011-2015

Doctoral Student Research Fellowship, University of Houston | 2015-2017

Teaching Experience

Community College (2021-Present)
Professor
Minimum of 5-5 and maximum of 8-8-4 teaching load of first and second half U.S. history surveys delivered in-person and online; 16-week, 10-week, 8-week, and 5-week; regular and dual credit.

HIST 1301 | United States History to 1877
HIST 1302 | United States History from 1877
HIST 2328 | Mexican American History II

High School & Community College (2017-2020)
Dual Credit Instructor
HIST 1301 | United States History to 1877
HIST 1302 | United States History from 1877
AP U.S. History, AP World History, AP European History

Community College (2018-2020)
Adjunct Professor
HIST 1301 | United States History to 1877
HIST 1302 | United States History from 1877

University of Houston (2017-2018)
Adjunct Professor
HIST 1378 | The United States since 1877

University of Houston (2011-2017)
Instructor of Record
HIST 1376 | The United States to 1877

Teaching Assistant
HIST 1376 | The United States from 1877
HIST 1378 | The United States since 1877

Professional Work

Article Reviewer, Journal of Arizona History | 2022

Article Reviewer, Michigan Historical Review | 2018

Institutional Service Work

Dual Credit Pathways Council

Hispanic Heritage Month Planning Committee

History Talks Conference

Research Interests

- Latinx History
- United States and World History
- Immigration History
- Social and Cultural History
- Labor History
- Community Formation
- Borderlands Studies
- Oral History

Professional Memberships:

- National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies
- American Historical Association
- Organization of American Historians
- Texas Community College Teachers Association