

## Laura Hooton

### Curriculum Vitae

Department of History  
Angelo State University  
Member, Texas Tech University System  
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[https://www.angelo.edu/departments/history/faculty\\_staff.php](https://www.angelo.edu/departments/history/faculty_staff.php)

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### EDUCATION

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University of California, Santa Barbara June 2018  
**Ph.D. in History, Interdisciplinary Emphasis in Black Studies**

*Dissertation:*

“Co-Opting the Border: The Dream of African American Integration via Baja California”

*Fields:*

Comparative Race and Ethnicity History, Paul Spickard, mentor and chair  
Borderlands and Mexican History, Veronica Castillo-Muñoz  
Black Studies, George Lipsitz  
United States History, Salim Yaqub

University of California, Santa Barbara September 2013  
**M.A. History**

University of California, San Diego June 2009  
**B.A. History, Minor Literature/Writing**

*Honors Thesis:*

"Little Liberia: The Fight for Equality"

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### ACADEMIC INTERESTS

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African American History, Borderlands History, Black Studies, Comparative Race and Ethnicity, Immigration and Migration, Social Movements, United States History, Mexican History, Latin American History

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EMPLOYMENT

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Angelo State University <b>Assistant Professor of History</b>	August 2021-Present
The United States Military Academy at West Point <b>Assistant Professor of American History</b>	June 2020-June 2021
The United States Military Academy at West Point <b>Postdoctoral Fellow in American History and Diversity Studies</b> <i>2019-2020: Black History</i> <i>2018-2019: Immigration</i>	July 2018-May 2020

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AWARDS

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<b>Department of the Army Civilian Service Commendation Medal</b>	2020, 2021
<b>West Point History Department Excellence in Teaching Award</b>	2020
<b>Department of the Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service</b>	2019
<b>Interdisciplinary Humanities Center Pre-Doctoral Fellowship</b>	2017
<b>Brython Davis Graduate Fellowship</b>	2016, 2017
<b>Regent's Dissertation Fellowship</b>	2015, 2016, 2017
<b>Dean's Prize Teaching Fellowship</b>	2016
<b>UC Consortium for Black Studies in California Travel Grant</b>	2016
<b>Humanities and Social Sciences Research Grant</b>	2016
<b>Center for Black Studies Research Grant</b>	2015
<b>Van Gelderen Graduate Fellowship</b>	2015
<b>History Associates Graduate Fellowship</b>	2015
<b>GSA Excellence in Teaching Award, Nominee</b>	2015, 2017
<b>Interdisciplinary Humanities Center Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, First Alternate</b>	2016
<b>Ford Foundation Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, Alternate and Honorable Mention</b>	2014
<b>Ford Foundation Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, Honorable Mention</b>	2013

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TEACHING PEDAGOGY AND CERTIFICATIONS

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*Certifications*

<b>Certificate in College and University Teaching (CCUT)</b>	June 2018
<b>Certificate of Completion, Summer Teaching Institute for Associates (STIA)</b>	Summer 2016

<i>Reacting to the Past Pedagogy (active learning through role play)</i> <b>Preceptor (Assistant to Instructor)</b> , UCSB Department of History “Henry VIII and the Reformation Parliament”	Spring 2016
<b>Preceptor (Assistant to Instructor)</b> , UCSB Department of History “The Revolution in New York City”	Spring 2015
<b>Participant</b> , “Reacting to the Past” Training Conference Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA	January 2015

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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*Department of History, The United States Military Academy at West Point*

**Senior Seminar, Race and Institutions in America** Fall 2020-Spring 2021  
Small senior seminar (2 students) discussing race and institutions, including race and ethnicity at West Point and American immigration, focusing on the twentieth century. Both semesters this class is collaborating with another race and ethnicity seminars for larger historiographical conversations and peer review.

**American Civil Rights Movements** Spring 2021  
Elective-level course covering the spectrum of civil rights movements in the U.S. from 1940 the present. The Black Freedom Movement is the center point of the course, much like at the time. Course also covers the Chicano/a Movement, American Indian Movement, Asian American Movement, the feminist movement, and LGBTQIA+ rights. Course discusses topics including lynching, marriage rights, voting rights, education, prison reform and the legal system, segregation, race and policing, intersectionality, stereotyping, poverty, workers’ rights, and affirmative action.

**Senior Seminar, American Race Relations** Fall 2019-Spring 2020  
Co-instructor for small senior seminar (4 students) on United States race relations post-Civil War through the early 1980s. Fall course is historiographical seminar. Spring course focuses student attention on completing senior thesis research, writing, and defense.

**Army of the Republic: Leading Citizen-Soldiers** Fall 2019, Fall 2020  
Starting Fall 2019, new required fall history course for all incoming freshman. Course acts as an introduction to historical thinking and covers the history of the U.S. Army and West Point. Course discusses how the Army was created and has changed over time, how and why historical events have influenced the Army, and how and why the Army fits into the institutional and social structure of the United States.

**History of the United States** Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Spring 2020, Spring 2021  
 Freshman introductory survey course on United States history from contact to the early 2000s. Consists of small classes with discussion-based lessons focused on Eric Foner's *Give Me Liberty* and primary source readings. Overall course themes include discussions of changing ideas about liberty and order; race, class and gender; the government's proper size and scope; balancing the notions of liberty and order; changing ideas about rights, civil inclusion, and political participation; consolidation and expansion; and economic development and growth.

*Instructor of Record, Department of History, UCSB*

**History of American Immigration** Summer 2017  
 Designed and taught upper division course on U.S. immigration history from the 1924 to the present. Course primarily focused on the voices and experiences of American immigrants, as well as examining immigration policy, political rhetoric, popular culture, forces that brought people to the United States, immigrant experiences in the United States, and effect of race and ethnicity on immigration history.

**The History of the North American Borderlands** Winter 2017  
 Created and taught unique upper division seminar course, supported by the Dean's Prize Teaching Fellowship Award. Course covered history of North America and its peoples from 1700 to the present by discussing relationships across and through borders, including locations such as the mainland United States, Hawai'i, Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and the United States Territories and themes such as the creation of political, economic, and social systems and ties on a national, transnational, and international scale, as well as identity formation, imperialism, globalization, and colonialism.

**The Civil Rights Movement, 1930 to the Present** Summer 2016  
 Designed and taught upper division course which covered diverse array of groups and issues from past and present, including lynching, marriage rights, voting rights, education, feminism, LGBTQ+ rights, prison reform and the legal system, segregation, police brutality, intersectionality, stereotyping, poverty, workers' rights, and affirmative action.

*Lead Teaching Assistant, Department of History, UCSB*

**Department of History** September 2014-August 2015  
 Part of a two-person team tasked with training and supervision of all Teaching Assistants in the Department of History. Collaborated with other Lead Teaching Assistant to create all programming for required training, including comprehensive Teaching Assistant orientation, quarterly events, and implementation and design of a mentoring program. In addition, was first point of contact between the department and Teaching Assistants for related issues and primary mentor for Teaching Assistants.

*Teaching Assistant, Department of History* 8 quarters  
*Teaching Assistant, Department of Black Studies* 4 quarters

*Guest Lectures/Seminars*

**Claremont McKenna College, CA, Virtual** October 1, 2020  
 Invited Guest Speaker, Racism and Redress in America Seminar

<b>Ethnicity, Race, and Nation</b> , West Point Lecture Covered: Whiteness as Race	January 2019
<b>Ethnicity, Race, and Nation</b> , West Point Lecture Covered: Nations: An Introduction	February 2019
<b>The Chicano Movement</b> , UCSB History Guest Lecture Title: “Black and Brown Civil Rights Intersections”	July 2017
<b>World History Since 1700</b> , UCSB History Guest Lecture Title: “The Industrial Revolution”	April 2016
<b>The American People, Colonial Through Jackson Era</b> , UCSB History Guest Lecture Title: “Slave Trade, Slave Culture, Slave Resistance”	October 2015
<b>The American People, Sectional Crisis Through Progressivism</b> , UCSB History Guest Lecture Title: “The Problem and Possible Solutions of the Color Line: 1890-1920”	Sept 2014

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PUBLICATIONS

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*Peer-Reviewed*

“**Little Liberia, the African American Agricultural Colony in Baja California**” in *Farming across Borders: Transnational Agricultural History in the North American West*, ed. Sterling Evans (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2017)

“**Black Angelenos with the ‘Courage to Do and Dare’: African American Community Organizers in Lower California,**” *California History*, 94.1 (Spring 2017), 43-54.

**Blackpast.org**, Online Encyclopedia Articles, 2012-2013.

Fred Luter, Jr., Samuel J. Battle (<http://www.blackpast.org/?q=contributor/fleisch-laura>)

*Public & Digital History*

“**Fighting for Equality from Across the Border: African Americans in Baja California,**” in *Freedom Seeker* (Winter 2019), newsletter of the Underground Railroad History Project

“**Southwest Immigration 1950-1980,**” Module 3 in *The West Point Guide to Immigration & Ethnicity* (New York: Rowan Technology Solutions, 2019).

*Under Contract*

***Little Liberia: The Dream of an African American Community in Baja California***  
Oklahoma University Press, Race and Culture in the American West series

***Almost All Aliens: Immigration, Race, and Colonialism in American History and Identity, Revised Edition***

Routledge, Co-Author with Paul Spickard and Francisco Beltrán  
Webmaster for in-progress companion website

*In Progress/Preparing for Submission*

**“Wisdom through History: The Black History at West Point Project”**

Planned public-facing article, co-authored with students and faculty associated with the Black History at West Point Project, about Black History at West Point.

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CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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*Completed*

- Arizona History Convention**, Virtual April 2021  
Panel Chair: Military, the Border, and Families
- Collegium for African American Research**, Orlando, FL February 2019  
Panel: Space I  
Presentation: Little Liberia and the International Community Welfare League: A Post  
Tulsa Race Riot Anti-White Supremacy Movement
- Organization of American Historians**, Sacramento, CA April 2018  
Panel: Historicizing the Golden State: New Directions in California History  
Presentation: “Co-Opting the Border: An African American Community Using the U.S.-  
Mexico Border to Fight Racial Injustice”
- American Historical Association**, Washington, D.C. January 2018  
Poster: “Co-Opting the Border: The Dream of African American Integration Via Baja  
California”
- Western History Association**, San Diego, CA November 2017  
Workshop: “New Directions in Black Western Studies”  
Paper: “Broadening the Horizons of the Black West: Mexico, the U.S.-Mexico  
Borderlands, and Immigration”
- Pacific Coast Branch-American Historical Association**, Northridge, CA August 2017  
Panel: Remembering and Recovering African American History  
Presentation: “Co-Opting the Border: The Dream of African American Integration Via  
Baja California”
- Western Association of Women Historians**, San Diego, CA April 2017  
Panel: New Perspectives on African American History  
Presentation: “Little Liberia: The African American Agricultural Community in  
Baja California”
- Maple Leaf & Eagle Conference**, Helsinki, FIN May 2016  
Panel: Land, Development, Disputes  
Presentation: “‘Opportunities in a New Country’: African American Identity, Cross-racial  
Cooperation, and Social Change in Baja California”

**Western History Association**, Portland, OR October 2015  
Panel: Bridging the Divide: Race, Violence, and Memory in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands  
Presentation: “Co-Opting the Border: The Dream of African American Integration Via Baja California”

**Collegium for African American Research**, Liverpool, UK June 2015  
Panel: Black Communities  
Presentation: “‘Mexico Offers Land to Members of Race’: Los Angelinos in Little Liberia, the African American Colony in Baja”

**Collegium for African American Research**, Atlanta, GA March 2013  
Panel: Blacks in the West  
Presentation: "Dreaming of 'Asylum in Every County': Motivations for Post-Reconstruction Black Migration"

*Accepted*

**Pacific Coast Branch-American Historical Association**, Virtual Canceled 2020  
Originally planned for August 2020, COVID Canceled  
Panel: Race, Land, and Belonging in North America  
Presentation: A “New Land of Golden Opportunity”: African Americans, Land, and Identity in the American West and Baja California

**Organization of American Historians**, Chicago, IL Canceled 2020  
Originally planned for April 2020, COVID Canceled  
Panel: Universities and Slavery: Undergraduate Research Projects  
Presentation (with undergraduate): Black History at West Point Project

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OTHER PRESENTATIONS

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*Completed*

**FreedomCon, via Underground Railroad History Project** June 2021  
Presentation: Fighting White Supremacy in North America in the Wake of Tulsa

**West Point Faculty Panel 2021**, West Point and livestreamed on YouTube April 2021  
Presentation: Black History Project at West Point

**UC Santa Barbara Department of History**, Santa Barbara, CA November 2016  
Race in America Scholarly Roundtable  
Presentation: “An Unconventional Border Triangle: Los Angeles, Baja, and Oklahoma”

**UC Santa Barbara Lunch & Learn**, Santa Barbara, CA November 2016  
Panel: Localization and Little Liberia

Presentation: "Borderlands and Black Studies: African Americans in Baja California"

**Lompoc Public Library**, Lompoc, CA May 2016  
Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle Programming  
Presenter, *The Abolitionists* (PBS Documentary)

**Bakersfield College**, Delano Campus, CA March 2016  
Invited Guest Speaker, Cultural Historical Awareness Program  
Event: African American Migrations in the American Far West & U.S.-Mexico  
Borderlands: A History of Allensworth in Local, Regional, and International  
Context  
Paper Title: "A Transnational Harvest of Gold: African American Agricultural  
Opportunities in Baja California"

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SERVICE

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*Department and Campus*

**Member, Dpt. of History Diversity and Inclusion Committee**, West Point 2020-2021  
Advises department leadership on all issues relating to diversity, inclusion, and equity, including creating a multi-tiered multi-year plan for change. Primary author/creator of department-wide diversity conversations and trainings.

**Creator and Project Director, Black History at West Point Project**, West Point 2019-2021  
Project covers Black history at West Point, in the armed forces, and in the United States. Includes student research projects and advising senior theses on the topic, creating materials for classroom use, events and dissemination of materials to garner interest and promote further education on the topic, and collaboration with local history centers and archives. As Director created mission and project from the ground up, including a website, collaborate Microsoft Teams space, and collaborated with faculty for creation of materials.

**Campus Black History and Diversity, Inclusion, & Equity**, West Point 2019-2021  
Participated in outreach conversations with West Point football and men's basketball teams about campus issues relating to race and ethnicity, memory and memorialization, and history curriculum and teaching. Presentation to Spectrum Club (USMA LGBTQ+ organization) about the history of the LGBTQ+ movement. Guidance to student leadership on having conversations about racism and sexism at West Point (past and present). Multiple planned Black History at West Point events in February 2021 including tour for students on campus, movie night, and instructor research panel.

**Student Outreach and Local History**, West Point 2018-2021  
Initiating student, department, and campus connections to local and state African American history organizations. Assisting on many afternoon, day, and multi-day off-campus historical learning trips. Assistant instructor on multi-day history major recruiting trip to Philadelphia. Assistant instructor on U.S. Society and Culture class trip to New York City, Fall 2018. Primary



instructor on local Black history trip about free Black communities in the Hudson Valley, Fall 2019. Assistant instructor on history major recruiting trip to Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, Fall 2019. Planned primary instructor on researching Black history day trip to Schomburg Center, Spring 2019 (COVID Canceled).

**Undergraduate Student Mentor, West Point** 2018-2021  
 Official and unofficial mentor for undergraduate students, including assistance with student-led diversity and inclusion initiatives and on-campus history projects. Member of thesis committee for History senior thesis projects.

**Graduate Student/Instructor Mentor, West Point** 2018-2021  
 Unofficial mentor to rotating faculty (3-year instructors with an MA in history working on their Ph.D. while teaching in the department). Includes dissertation advising, assistance with conference proposals and suggestions for organizational connections, teaching guidance (including, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, class, sexuality), time and work-life balance management, and history profession best practices. Leading department monthly department junior instructor training on conference presentations, Fall 2019.

**HSU Freedom Scholar Essay Award Committee, West Point** 2018-2020

**Graduate and Undergraduate Student Mentor, UC Santa Barbara** 2013-2018  
 New graduate/TA mentor, and assisted multiple undergraduates with outside research projects in Black studies, feminist studies, and history.

**Member, Various Graduate Student Panels** 2013-2017  
 UCSB Graduate Orientation and Department of History Training and Orientation

**Graduate Representative for History Department, NEH Committee, UCSB** 2016-2017  
 Collaborated with other departments for all-campus NEH "Next Generation Grant" committee. Completed plan created multi-tiered approach to increase inclusive thinking for interest in nontraditional post-graduate positions. Included innovative strategies to impact campus climate, create new positions across departments, and encourage institutional change through top-down and bottom-up initiatives.

**Workshop Leader, "Conducting Discussion on Sensitive Topics"** 2015, 2014  
 All-campus TA Training

*History Profession and Local Community*

**Program Committee, Western History Association** 2021-2022  
 Member of the program committee for the WHA 2022 Conference in San Antonio, Texas.

**Encinitas, CA School District Equity Committee** September 10, 2020  
 Invited Guest Speaker for Teacher Training Series, presenting on the Civil Rights Movement and Black Lives Matter

**Oral Historian and Humanities Consultant for African American History** 2016-Present  
“Digital Delano: Preserving an International Community’s History” NEH Common Heritage Project, includes harvesting short oral histories, interpretation of materials and events for project website.

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## DIGITAL HISTORY AND TECHNOLOGICAL EXPERIENCE

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\*Note: Some entries appear on other sections

### **Black History at West Point Project website**

Collaborated with assistant to the project to plan and receive approval for website for the project. Website to include general information on project, research and resources, news and information on events, and a gallery of photographs of previous events. Also included creating partner Microsoft Teams and SharePoint system for internal use.

### **“Southwest Immigration 1950-1980,”** in *The West Point Guide to Immigration & Ethnicity*

Created primary source-driven digital history collection focused on immigration and immigrant community history, including all writing, source collection and organization, and building of the digital product, including discussion and essay questions and brief historical context sections. Primary purpose of the collection is instructional use in introductory U.S. History courses at West Point, with future goal of free access to other instructional institutions.

### ***Almost All Aliens* companion website**

Webmaster for new companion website for revised edition of *Almost All Aliens*, to be released with the book’s publication. The book is often used as an immigration history textbook, so the new site will include discussion questions and primary source material for instructor use.

### **Digital Delano Consultant/Contributor**

Aided in events for the project, aimed at preserving histories of the Central Valley in California. Will be assisting with building a digital exhibit on African American history for the project’s website once additional sources are collected.

### **Technical Knowledge**

2 years website building experience prior to graduate education. Some knowledge of website coding languages (including some JavaScript, CSS and HTML)

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## CURRENT ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP

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American Historical Association  
Collegium for African American Research

Organization of American Historians  
Western Historical Association

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EXTERNAL REFERENCES

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Paul Spickard  
Distinguished Professor  
Department of History  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
spickard@history.ucsb.edu

George Lipsitz  
Professor  
Department of Black Studies  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
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Faculty Coordinator, Social Justice Institute  
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Genocide Studies  
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