

TAYLOR R. WATSON

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EDUCATION

Georgia State University

Ph.D. Candidate, History

In Progress- Anticipated Date of Completion April 2026

Dissertation: "A Screech Owl Screechin': The Sacred Rituals and Burial Sites of the Enslaved in Lowcountry Georgia"

Advisor: Dr. Ras Michael Brown, Associate Professor of History

Georgia College and State University

M.A., History

2015-2017

Thesis: "Haunted by Death: Memory and Politics in the Civil War and Reconstruction"

Advisor: Dr. James H. Welborn, III, Assistant Professor of History

Georgia College and State University

B.A., History

2013-2015

Areas of Concentration: American History, Geography, Early Modern British History

WORK EXPERIENCE

University of West Georgia

Limited Term Faculty- U.S. History to 1865, U.S. History from 1865

Present

Design syllabi, create lesson plans with visuals, create exams, grade assignments, manage grades, respond to student communications, submit grading reports each semester

Griffin-Spalding Historical Society

Executive Director

2022-2025

Manage the membership database, respond to all correspondence, organize preservation activities, promote historical society events, manage incoming research requests

Georgia Military College

Adjunct Instructor- African American History, American History (I & II), World Civilizations (I & II)

2021-2023

Developed lesson plans, constructed lesson engagement activities, organized grade book, proctored exams, produced syllabi

Upson-Lee High School

Teacher- U.S. History, Honors American Government, A.P. American Government

2018-2021

Developed lesson plans, created differentiated activities, facilitated tests, recorded student progress

Gordon State College

Adjunct Instructor- Western Civilization Part II

2017-2018

Developed syllabus and overall course structure and administered tests and cataloged all grades.

Georgia College and State University

Graduate Assistant- U.S. History to 1865, French Revolution, U.S. History from 1865 2015-2017

Graded written assignments, organized class attendance, assisted with lecture material

RELEVANT PROJECTS/PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Thomaston-Upson Archives Advisory Board

2022-Present

Upson County's Historic Preservation Commission

2024-Present

Thomaston-Upson Bicentennial Planning Committee Secretary

2024-2025

The University of Georgia, Grant-Writing Program

2023

National Council for History Education: The Rural Experience in America Community Partner

2022

PUBLICATIONS, PAPERS, AND PRESENTATIONS

"A Screech Owl Screechin': The Sacred Rituals and Burial Sites of the Enslaved in Lowcountry Georgia"

Presentation, Clemson University, Fall Research Symposium, 2022

"Gray Ghosts: Contemporary Resurrection of the Lost Cause"

Presentation, Georgia State University, Fall Symposium 2017

GRANTS AWARDED

Georgia EMC Foundation Grant (2025)

\$6,800 awarded

Griffin-Spalding Business and Tourism Association Grant (2024)

\$9,856.64 awarded

Georgia EMC Foundation Grant (2023)

\$6,200 awarded