

M. Rhys Dotson

Department of History, University of Texas at Tyler
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EDUCATION

PhD in Modern American History Texas A&M University <i>Dissertation Title:</i> “Texas Pride: The Formation of Dallas’ Gay Community, 1966-2003” <i>Advisor and Committee Chair:</i> Dr. Albert S. Broussard <i>Comprehensive Exam Fields:</i> Early American History, Modern American History, History of Civil Rights, History of Women and Gender, and Women in Science (Sociology)	2022
MA in Political Science University of Texas at Tyler	2014
MA in History University of Texas at Tyler	2009
BA in History University of Texas at Tyler	2006

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor of Instruction University of Texas at Tyler	2024 – Present
Assistant Professor of Instruction University of Texas at Tyler	2023 – 2024
Lecturer University of Texas at Tyler	2011 – 2023
Adjunct Faculty University of Texas at Tyler	2010 – 2011
Adjunct Faculty Kilgore College	2009 – 2011

COURSES TAUGHT

Undergraduate (History) United States History I United States History II Historical Methods and Research Industrial and Progressive America America Between the World Wars History of Modern America, 1932 to the Present America Since 1945 History of Mexican Americans The Long Sixties* Modern Conservative America*	History of Texas History of African Americans
	Undergraduate (Political Science) American Politics Texas Politics
	Graduate (History) History of African Americans The Long Sixties*

*Denotes courses I formulated and introduced into the curriculum.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Manuscripts

The Dallas Way: Gay Rights in a Conservative City (under contract with New York University Press)

Articles

“Hate Behind the Pine Curtain.” *The Activist History Review*, October 18, 2017.
<http://activisthistory.com/2017/10/18/hate-behind-the-pine-curtain/>

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & SERVICE

“It Takes GUTS: AIDS Protests in a Conservative Southern City, 1987-1990,” The Southern Historical Association, St. Pete’s Beach, FL, November 2025.

“New Waco Histories: Queer and Women’s History,” (panel chair) The Alliance for Texas History, San Marcos, TX, May 2025

“Fighting the Pulpit: The Dallas Gay Community and Their Resistance to a Cultural Holy War,” The Texas State Historical Association, Austin, TX, February 2022.

“Fighting the Pulpit: The Dallas Gay Community and Their Resistance to a Cultural Holy War,” The Southern Historical Association. Virtual, November 2021.

“Phyllis R. Frye: The Transgender Menace Who Fought for Trans Equality, 1980-2015,” World History Association of Texas. Commerce, TX, February 2019.

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

“Homophobia and Hate: The Murder of Nicholas West”

This article explores the use of homophobic rhetoric in public spaces and the impact it had on the three men who abducted and murdered Nicholas West in 1993 in Tyler, Texas.

“Barnstorming with the House of David”

In 1903, Benjamin and Mary Purnell established the Israelite House of David, a religious society, in Benton Harbor, Michigan. Almost immediately, young men from the group formed a traveling baseball club. Between 1903 and 1950, the House of David outfit wowed crowds with “the art of the ‘pepper game,’ a collection of Harlem Globetrotters-esque antics.” While this alone is amusing, it is essential to note that the House of David regularly played teams from various negro leagues.

Ultimately, my research aims to explore the multiracial connections formed within the context of baseball. Through this research, I believe we can gain a better understanding of the lived experiences of two marginalized groups: African Americans and members of a small, unorthodox religious sect—the House of David—prior to overt efforts at racial desegregation in modern American society.

HONORS, AWARDS, & CERTIFICATIONS

Effective Teaching Practice Framework, The Association of College and University Educators and the American Council on Education (certification) 2024

Excellence in Teaching Award, The National Society of Leadership and Success, University of Texas at Tyler 2016

MEDIA AND JOURNALISM

[“Bonus Episode: Dallas Gay Alliance v. Parkland Hospital, Part 2.”](#) Queering the Long Star State (podcast), July 18, 2025.

[“Bonus Episode: Dallas Gay Alliance v. Parkland Hospital, Part 1.”](#) Queering the Lone Star State (podcast), April 26, 2025.

[“Fashion Police, Legalized Homophobia & Preachers in Pursuit: A Discussion of ‘Morality’ in American w/ Dr. M. Rhys Dotson.”](#) Lady of the Lore (podcast), September 26, 2024.

[The History of Labor Day with UT-Tyler Professor M. Rhys Dotson.](#) ABC, KLTV (Tyler, Texas), September 1, 2022.

Quoted in [“The Remarkable Story of How a Teenage Runner Battled the Legacy of R.E. Lee.”](#) in *ESPN.com*, October 7, 2020.

GRADUATE THESIS COMMITTEE

“From the First to the Last: The 70th Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment in the Civil War, 1861-1865” Michael Allen Knous, Jr. (MA, 2024) University of Texas at Tyler (committee member)

DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY, & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Member, Tenure-track Search Committee, Department of History	2024 – 2025
Member, Commencement Committee	2023 – Present
Advisor, Psi Alpha Chapter, Phi Alpha Theta National Honor Society	2023 – Present

PUBLIC HISTORY, PUBLIC EDUCATION, & COMMUNITY SERVICE

Guest Lecturer (Modern American History), Faculty Workshop – Tyler ISD	August 2025
Guest Lecturer (Texas History), Faculty Workshop – Tyler ISD	August 2024
AP Exam Reader, American History	2024 – 2025
Guest Lecturer, (Modern American History) Faculty Workshop – Whitehouse ISD	January 2023
Guest Lecturer (Modern American History), Faculty Workshop – Whitehouse ISD	August 2019

LANGUAGES

English (native)

Spanish (reading knowledge)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Alliance for Texas History

East Texas Historical Association

Southern Historical Association