

Michael Weaver

I graduated from Tennessee Technological University with a B.A. in History in 1980. The following year, supported by a Rotary Scholarship, I attended Birmingham University in England, where I wrote a thesis on the structure of the regiments in the Victorian army, and obtained my M.A. (1981). After two years hoarding funds, I entered the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and graduated with a Ph.D. in 1989. I accepted a job at UT-PA in the fall of 1990, starting as a lecturer but moving to a tenure-track, assistant professor position in the fall of 1991. I was granted tenure and promoted to associate professor in 1997.

Since being granted tenure, much of my effort at UT-PA has focused on administrative duties. I have served as chair or interim chair of five departments: History and Philosophy (1998-2001), English (2000-2001), Modern Languages and Literature (2001-2004), Art (2008-2010) and Political Science (2013-2014). Additionally, I served as co-Director (with Dr. Ana Maria Rodriguez) of a Title V grant (2003-2008) that focused on faculty development and student retention. I have also served as assistant and associate dean of the College of Arts and Humanities (2004-2006, 2010-2015).

Unfortunately, I have allowed my administrative activities to crowd out my research efforts. During my first decade at UT-PA I continued research I had started in graduate school on police reform in early Victorian Britain. I am currently in the process of restarting my research on that topic.

I teach a variety of classes for the university. My training is primarily in the fields of Britain and her empire, and in modern Europe. I have taught the first half of the required U.S. history survey and both of the World Civilizations surveys required of History and Social Studies majors. In terms of advanced undergraduate classes, I teach a two-course sequence on British history, a course on "Revolutionary Europe" that covers the period of the French Revolution and Napoleon, and a course on Twentieth Century Europe. These four classes are the advanced courses I teach most frequently, but I have also taught our Renaissance/Reformation class, the Absolutism and Enlightenment class, and special topics classes on Victorian Britain and the British Empire. I am currently working on two new classes, one that covers Twentieth Century Britain, and the other on the Second World War. I have taught several graduate courses on a variety of topics in British history, the British Empire, and modern Europe.

I am very interested in improving my teaching skills, and I have been very active with "learning communities" – classes where two or more classes are paired with a common cohort of students. I have taught several learning communities where I have taught a U.S. history survey paired with a faculty member teaching a freshman English class, and for the last several years during the Spring terms I have taught in a learning community that has paired my Twentieth Century Europe class with Dr. Faubion's Twentieth Century U.S. class.