

I recently attended the Annual Conference of the American Historical Association in Chicago from January 3 – January 6, 2019. This conference featured over 5,000 attendees and hundreds of individual presentations on all aspects of American and World History. I chose to attend sessions that focused on education, subjects that I teach in my own classes, and areas of professional interest. For example, I attended sessions focused on undergraduate teaching, Social History into online formats, and Histories of the Cold War. Perhaps the most useful session I attended was entitled “Remembering 1969: Historians and the Recent Past.” During this session several noted historians discussed their personal experiences during the 1960s and debated whether or not the year 1969 marked a movement away from the social activism of the early 1960s towards a more conservative approach to politics and policy. One of several noted Speakers on this panel included Todd Gitlin, one of the founders of Students for a Democratic Society in the early 1960s and a current Professor of Communication at Columbia University. This session challenged several of my personal assumptions about the 1960s and will change the way that I approach the topic of social change in the 1960s in my Recent US History Class

The main reason why I attended this conference was to participate in the Association’s annual K-16 Teaching Workshop. This workshop took the form of an “assignments charrette” where each participant submitted a copy of instructions for an assignment from one of their classes to the group for review and critique. The assignment that I submitted to the group was a Book Review project that I assign in my HIS 205 and HIS 206 survey courses. The group provided extremely valuable feedback on ways that I could improve the assignment and make it more relevant for my undergraduate students. I also received advice as to how I could better scaffold the assignment to provide greater guidance for students working on this project. Overall, the feedback that I received was very valuable, and I plan to implement several changes to this assessment if I choose to use it again in the Fall 2019 term.

In conclusion, my Title III trip to the 2019 AHA Conference was a successful one. I was able to provide and receive feedback on undergraduate teaching from my professional peers. I also learned several new approaches to history that I plan to slowly integrate into the courses that I teach at Lincoln University. It was a valuable experience to attend this conference, and I may seek additional Title III funding to attend future conferences so I can continue to participate in the Associations teaching workshops.

Link to information about the Assignments Charrette:

<https://www.historians.org/2019-k-16-assignments-charrette>