

# Jason LaBau, Ph.D.

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## SUMMARY

Dynamic, engaging history teacher with 9 years experience teaching grades 8–12 and 5+ years at the university level. Built trusting, supportive teams as both Class Dean and Department Chair. Track record of initiating positive traditions in the classroom and beyond.

## EDUCATION

**Ph.D.** in U.S. Political History – **University of Southern California**

**M.A.** in U.S. History – **University of Southern California**

**B.A.** in U.S. History – **Pomona College**

## H.S. TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Waterford School** – Sandy, UT (2015–present)

**Human Geography** — 9 years, Grade 9

- Lead teacher guiding our foundational Upper School history course
- Spearheading curriculum redesign each year to incorporate current events
- Introducing students to new social science frameworks

**Ancient History and Exchanges & Encounters** — 5 years, Grade 8

- Developing new global medieval course with the grade level team
- Developed and taught my own Ancient History curriculum over 3 years

**U.S. History** — 3 years, Grade 11

- Built on my expertise and previous college-level teaching to craft rigorous history course
- Trained students in document analysis, the foundation of historical thinking

**Senior Electives** — 5 terms, Grade 12

- **False Histories** — Created a historical methods course around *Dracula*, *World War Z*, etc.
- **Du Bois's America** — Introduced students to the life and thought of W.E.B. Du Bois

## UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**CSU & USC** (2005–2008, 2011–2015)

**Lecturer** — California State Universities (Spring 2011– Spring 2015)

- U.S. History and American Studies Courses

**Teaching Assistant** — University of Southern California (2005–2008)

- U.S. History and the Holocaust Courses

**STUDENT LIFE EXPERIENCE****Waterford School – Sandy, UT (2015–present)****Dean of the Class of 2022 (2019–2022)**

- Partnered with parents, administrators, and counselors to support struggling students
- Supported faculty advisors and student government representatives
- Celebrated and supported seniors throughout their final year
- Planned and accomplished a host of large and small community building events

**Resident Advisor (2022–2004) — Pomona College**

- Oversaw the health and safety of students in my dorm and throughout campus
- Developed and executed educational and social events for the student community

**Tabletop Game Club Advisor (2016–present)**

- Established a twice-weekly board and card game club for students during lunch
- Sparked a cultural shift at Waterford, which now has dozens of student-led clubs
- Cultivated a relaxed atmosphere where students and faculty meet to play

**Additional Student-Facing Roles**

- **Morning Meeting Mentor (2022–present)** — Grade 8
- **Upper School Advisor (2015–2018)** — Grades 10 and 11
- **Ethics & Citizenship Coach (2016)**

**LEADERSHIP ROLES****Department Chair (2021–present)**

- Facilitating collaboration, professional development, and curriculum review
- Overseeing expansion of course offerings with new Global History courses
- Leading a department-wide shift to skills-based grading
- Onboarded three new faculty members in the department

**RECENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT****Emerging Leaders Institute — NWAIS (2022–2023 cohort)**

- Year-long leadership training for mid-level school leaders
- Monthly in-person and zoom training sessions

**Managing to Change the World — The Management Center (2022)**

- Professional course on delegation, managing up, and building a successful team

**Teaching Challenging Topics in the 21st Century Classroom — University of Utah (2022)**

- Week-long course on navigating topics related to LGBTQ+, CRT, and antisemitism

## FACULTY COMMITTEES

- Task Force on School Schedule (2021–2022)
- Task Force on Compensation, Retention, and Hiring (2019–2020)
- Task Force on Teacher Evaluation and Professional Development (2018–2019)
- Strategic Plan Working Group on Financial Sustainability (2018)
- Working Group on Homework and Workload (2017)

## INTERESTS

Crafting clever *Dungeons & Dragons* scenarios based on film, literature, and music

Discovering the right tabletop game for each potential player

Spontaneous singing — usually at home, but sometimes as I walk across an empty quad