



Presidential Teaching Professor Seminar

“Gems of Inestimable Value”: Teaching as Seeking, Teaching as Service

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Contrary to “populist” opinion, we still need expertise; but experts must recognize their own limits with humility and be open to the “gems” students bring to the classroom, which can enhance our own understanding and the ways we communicate our knowledge to others. On my best days in the classroom, the learners teach, and the teacher learns.

In this seminar, I will share two quotations that form the core principles of my teaching philosophy and practice. As much as I enjoy the performative aspects of teaching, I am guided by the belief that all students possess “gems of inestimable value” within themselves, many of which they do not realize are there. It is my job to identify those and help pull them out. I will share some of the assignments and activities I’ve created (or in some cases, borrowed and adapted) to mine those gems.



E. Taylor Atkins

E. Taylor Atkins is a historian whose scholarship encompasses modern Japanese and Korean cultural history, ethnomusicology, transnational popular culture, public memory, colonialism, and nationalism. He is considered a pioneer in “New Jazz Studies” for his efforts to internationalize jazz historiography.

Thursday, November 4, 2021

Capitol Room, Holmes Student Center, 1st Floor

12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m.

No registration is required—Everyone is welcome!

Coffee and cookies will be served. This event will not be live-streamed.

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