

Brad Haines

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Adjunct Professor, Department of Languages and Literature, Sul Ross State University

Professional Profile

Creative writing professor, retired federal criminal investigator, curriculum developer, and organizational leader with experience in higher education, federal law-enforcement instruction, narrative-based training, leadership development, and interdisciplinary public engagement. Research and creative work examine memory, belief, trauma, archival evidence, and personal narrative.

Education

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing

University of Texas at El Paso | December 2025

Thesis: *Boxing the Shadow*

Committee: José de Piérola; Marjorie Scott; Daniel Chacon, Chair

Bachelor of Arts in English and Creative Writing, cum laude with honors in the major

University of Houston | May 1999

Thesis: *Babylon's Daughter*

Committee: Thesis advisor: Paul Guajardo

Academic Appointment

Adjunct Professor

Department of Languages and Literature, Sul Ross State University | Alpine, Texas | 2026-Present

- Teach and develop courses in creative writing, literature, professional writing, and interdisciplinary narrative studies.
- Integrate professional experience in ethics, investigation, leadership, trauma-informed practice, and documentary research into classroom instruction.

Teaching, Training, and Advising Experience

Interagency and Community Liaison

Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations | 2022-2025

- Facilitated presentations for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Ohio on border-related impacts on the interstate movement of illicit materials and money.
- Coordinated presenters and site visits involving HSI, Enforcement and Removal Operations, U.S. Border Patrol, and Customs and Border Protection Office of Field Operations.
- Presented victim-centered approaches to human-trafficking and child-sexual-exploitation investigations at conferences in Ohio and West Texas.
- Served as a panelist and presenter for the Ohio National Intelligence Center Law Enforcement Drug Summit for approximately 500 professionals.

- Coordinated with the Government of Mexico, Sul Ross State University, HSI Headquarters, and federal partners on the storage and repatriation of stolen Mexican cultural artifacts.
- Presented an HSI overview and coordinated internship and employment pathways with Sul Ross State University's Criminal Justice and Homeland Security programs.

National DHS Mentor

Department of Homeland Security | 2019-2025

- Mentored six employees from Customs and Border Protection, the Transportation Security Administration, and HSI in leadership, administrative processes, and professional communication.

Physical Fitness Coordinator

HSI El Paso/West Texas and HSI Salt Lake City | 2007-2025

- Administered voluntary fitness programming for approximately 30 special agents, including individual coaching, group instruction, weight management, injury prevention, and functional fitness.
- Proctored physical-fitness assessments for candidates and trainees and prepared personnel for rapid-response and special-response team selection.
- Coordinated with physicians, physical therapists, and operational mental-health clinicians to support agents recovering from injuries or traumatic incidents.
- Developed high-intensity and functional-fitness programming that incorporated recovery breathing, defensive tactics, firearms proficiency under stress, and rescue tasks.

Field Training Agent

HSI El Paso and HSI Presidio | 2007-2019

- Provided two-year on-the-job training to four newly appointed special agents in ethics, legal authorities, report writing, case presentation, interagency communication, and independent case management.

Continuing Case Investigation Coordinator

Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers, Investigative Operations Division | Glynco, Georgia | 2011-2013

- Directed ten professional actors and two teams of 12 trainees through a three-month investigative scenario involving multiple federal agencies.
- Taught and assessed undercover operations, operational planning, surveillance, report writing, radio communications, source management, case presentation, and search-warrant execution.
- Exported rural-policing instruction in undercover operations, operational planning, and source management to more than 100 West Texas law-enforcement personnel.
- Contributed to curriculum development for the continuing case investigation scenario used in federal criminal-investigator training.

Instructor and Course Developer

ICE Academy, HSI, and Tactical Specialties Divisions | Glynco, Georgia | 2009-2015

- Developed and delivered curriculum in continuing-case investigations, defensive tactics, entry tactics, physical training, child-exploitation investigations, commercial fraud, intellectual-property theft, report writing, and mental preparation for armed combat.
- Designed performance-based assessments using simulated investigations, tactical scenarios, written reports, legal presentations, and non-lethal training ammunition.

- Taught multidisciplinary cohorts of 24 to 48 students from federal investigative and prosecutorial agencies.

Krav Maga Instructor

Independent Instruction | 2012-Present

- Provide individual and small-group instruction in introductory Krav Maga self-defense and Muay Thai striking fundamentals.

Class Coordinator

HSI Special Agent Training | 2010-2011

- Provided first-line supervision, coordinated with field-office supervisors, documented trainee performance, addressed conduct issues, and mentored classes of 24 special-agent trainees.

Operation Joint Venture Trainer

HSI El Paso | El Paso, Texas | 2007-2009

- Trained critical-infrastructure industries to identify and combat counterfeit software, hardware, pharmaceuticals, parts, and other products affecting health and safety.

Mental Health and Peer Support

Peer Support Member and Facilitator

Immigration and Customs Enforcement Peer Support Unit | 2022-2025

- Provided peer support to law-enforcement personnel experiencing acute stress, severe anxiety, depression, or suicidal ideation in coordination with employee-assistance and clinical resources.
- Taught monthly intentional-exercise sessions emphasizing physical activity as a therapeutic practice.
- Worked with operational clinicians to address mental-health barriers affecting personnel in remote and rural locations.
- Served on traumatic-incident response teams following a complex animal- and child-abuse investigation in Dayton, Ohio; a suicide in Fort Lauderdale, Florida; and a sudden instructor death at the ICE Academy in Glynco, Georgia.

Leadership Experience

Assistant Special Agent in Charge

HSI Detroit / Columbus Division | Columbus, Ohio | 2024-2025

- Managed divisional operations and supervision for the Columbus office.
- Created a cyber-operations group supporting dark-web investigations, computer forensics, and Internet Crimes Against Children task forces.
- Directed implementation of body-worn cameras and approved victim-protection services within the division's area of responsibility.
- Facilitated peer-support responses to traumatic incidents and helped deliver leadership training to first- and second-line supervisors.

Acting Assistant Special Agent in Charge

HSI El Paso / West Texas Division | West Texas | 2023-2024

- Oversaw investigative and enforcement operations across approximately 34,500 square miles and 16 counties.
- Reviewed operational plans, memoranda, and administrative subpoenas and ensured investigative activities complied with legal and agency requirements.
- Supervised resident agents in charge and group supervisors conducting undercover, investigative, and enforcement operations.

Resident Agent in Charge

HSI Alpine | Alpine, Texas | October 2022-January 2024

- Led a remote, high-complexity office consisting of supervisors, special agents, task-force officers, analysts, and mission-support personnel.
- Reduced eligible special-agent attrition by 80 percent and expanded interagency staffing through a full-time Texas Department of Public Safety task-force officer.
- Oversaw investigations resulting in 36 arrests, 17 indictments, and 11 convictions, including child-exploitation sentences ranging from 240 to 1,890 months.
- Established regional coordination meetings with federal, state, and local partners and improved intelligence sharing with U.S. Border Patrol.

Resident Agent in Charge

HSI Presidio | Presidio, Texas | July 2019-October 2023

- Led a significantly challenging and critical-location office in the Big Bend region and reduced eligible attrition by 100 percent for one year.
- Directed investigations involving human smuggling, child exploitation, narcotics, illicit finance, and weapons trafficking.
- Coordinated Operation Expanded Impact with federal, state, and local agencies, contributing to the arrest and conviction of a cartel plaza boss and multiple smuggling coordinators.
- Built quarterly forums among mayors, sheriffs, police chiefs, federal agencies, and Government of Mexico representatives to address regional public-safety concerns.
- Managed budget, property, facilities, leased housing, hiring actions, press releases, and employee-relations matters.

Investigative Field Experience

Special Agent

HSI Presidio | Presidio, Texas | March 2018-July 2019

- Coordinated interagency investigations that identified and prosecuted leaders of a human-smuggling organization connected to a death.
- Supported federal trial teams in complex drug-trafficking and child-exploitation prosecutions.
- Coached an injured trainee who lost approximately 80 pounds and successfully met academy fitness standards.

Special Agent

HSI Salt Lake City | Salt Lake City, Utah | February 2015-March 2018

- Worked with the Utah Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and FBI child-exploitation task force; received commendation for covert operations resulting in ten arrests.
- Conducted a commercial-fraud investigation resulting in a multimillion-dollar penalty.

Special Agent

ICE Academy Operations Group / HSI Savannah | Glynco and Savannah, Georgia | August 2009-February 2015

- Investigated transnational child-sexual-abuse-material production and distribution, contributing to arrests and victim rescues.
- Coordinated interstate warrant operations involving academy, HSI, and local-police resources.

Special Agent

HSI El Paso | El Paso, Texas | May 2006-August 2009

- Expanded a certified undercover operation targeting intellectual-property theft, contributing to multimillion-dollar seizures and a five-year federal sentence.
- Conducted computer-forensics examinations that supported arrests and victim identification.
- Served as a tactical operator in the group that became HSI El Paso's first Special Response Team.
- Investigated a cocaine-smuggling event connected to the El Chapo conspiracy and later testified in federal proceedings.

Special Agent

NOAA Office of Law Enforcement | Dutch Harbor, Alaska | June 2005-May 2006

- Supported the first year of federal crab-fishery regulation and investigated fisheries fraud, sexual-assault allegations involving observer biologists, and Marine Mammal Protection Act violations.

Special Agent

U.S. Customs Service / HSI El Paso | El Paso, Texas | December 2001-June 2005

- Initiated narcotics-smuggling investigations at the Paso del Norte Port of Entry.
- Conducted computer-forensics examinations supporting child-exploitation prosecutions and victim rescues.
- Assisted in the recovery and repatriation of Mexican cultural property.

Selected Awards

- International Association of Chiefs of Police Leadership in the Prevention of Vehicle Crimes Award, HSI Alpine, 2023
- HSI El Paso Case of the Year, HSI Alpine and Presidio, 2023
- Pentagon Force Protection Agency Director Award, 2013
- Eagle Scout, 1986

Selected Certifications and Professional Training

- Hungarian language fluency
- Mental Wellbeing Association, Mental Wellbeing Fitness Instructor, 2025
- American Council on Exercise Certified Personal Trainer, 2021; renewed 2025

- ICE Peer Support Member Certification, 2022
- ICE Supervisory Leadership Training, 2022
- HSI Cybercrimes Center Undercover Training, 2015
- FLETC Law Enforcement Fitness Coordinator Training Program, 2012
- FLETC Law Enforcement Instructor Training Program, 2011
- FLETC Non-Lethal Ammunition Training Instructor, 2010
- ICE Defensive Tactics Instructor Training, 2009
- U.S. Department of State / HSI Cultural Property Protection Training, University of Pennsylvania, 2007
- HSI Commercial Fraud Investigation Course, 2007
- FLETC Marine Law Enforcement Training Program, 2005
- NOAA Law Enforcement Training Basic, 2005
- Customs Agent Immigration Cross-Training Program, 2004
- CompTIA A+ Hardware and Operating Systems Certification, 2004
- Treasury Computer Forensics Training Program Basic Certification, 2004
- Customs Basic Enforcement School, 2002
- FLETC Criminal Investigator Training Program, 2002

Creative and Scholarly Work

Redactions of a Mormon Missionary

Serialized documentary memoir and photo-essay zine | Ongoing

- Examines memory, faith, archival evidence, and narrative reliability through journals, correspondence, photographs, and recovered records from the Hungary Budapest Mission during the collapse of the Eastern Bloc.

Boxing the Shadow

MFA thesis, University of Texas at El Paso | 2025

- Hybrid creative manuscript exploring trauma, identity, memory, and narrative reconstruction through multiple voices and documentary forms.

References

Professional references are available upon request.