



# Meet Marcus Smith

Marcus Smith joined the faculty of Providence Day School in 2018. With a Bachelor of Arts from Wesleyan University and a Masters from Harvard Divinity School, he has taught since 1993.

This year, he is bringing his own approach to teaching African-American literature. "We have been looking at a body of texts through a thematic lens that roughly goes from the pre Civil War era through the post Civil Rights era," he says.

The course is taught collaboratively, inviting in other expert faculty to introduce everything from a historical perspective on what the Constitution says about slavery to the political context of the 1953 graphic novel "Judgement Day."

Why collaborative teaching? "I not only wanted to encourage students to have conversations about 'race' and history, but I wanted to demonstrate, to some degree, what they can look like," he says.

His hopes for his students: "Social media and media in general are often reactionary and consequently less in the business of understanding. If we don't understand the narratives and historical echoes, then the pertinent questions around 'race' and more importantly, truth, evade us," he explains. "I hope in some way that the class gives students the ability to see how African American writers have both helped define and preserve what it truly means to be an American. In turn, I hope this insight aids them in their own journey of understanding their own American-ness."

Providence Day School has inspired students to be critical thinkers and astute problem solvers for 50 years. **Learn more at [www.ProvidenceDay.org](http://www.ProvidenceDay.org).**