Home to the National Baseball Hall of Fame, Doubleday Field and much more, the town of Cooperstown is forever connected with America’s National Pastime, baseball, but also other aspects of Americana. As the Hall of Fame says, “Yes, most visitors – nearly 300,000 last year – make the pilgrimage to Cooperstown to pay homage to the heroes of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, but in the process, many also discover an unspoiled repository of America’s heritage, rich in history, art, architecture and natural beauty. Exploring the baseball museum and the other gems of Cooperstown, Fenimore Art Museum and The Farmers’ Museum, it is possible to find not just a wealth of individual revelations but the core of America itself” (https://baseballhall.org/media/cooperstown-new-york). Located in the hills of upstate New York, Cooperstown faces the challenge of balancing history and nostalgia for America’s past heroes with the economic and social realities of tourism and commercial development.

Join us at this NCHC Faculty Institute as we examine how Cooperstown, past and present, asks us to consider the challenges and opportunities baseball and other Americana bring to the community and its residents. We will also explore and decipher the various narratives and tensions presented by Cooperstown’s living history, heritage, and material cultural.
INSTITUTE AT A GLANCE
Participants will engage in direct observation, mapping exercises, writing assignments, interviews, and discussions. The Institute will culminate with a workshop on adaptations of City as Text™ methodology to participants’ home campuses, to academic service-learning immersion projects, and to residential travel programs.

INSTITUTE SCHEDULE
Participants should arrive in Cooperstown in time for a 2:00 p.m. start to the Institute.

Wednesday, May 15:
Introductions and initial walk-about of downtown Cooperstown, NY; debriefing seminar followed by opening reception.

Thursday, May 16:
Brief meeting to discuss initial writings followed by excursions to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Fenimore Cooper Museum. Dinner in small groups followed by writing time.

Friday, May 17:
All-day excursions to Farmer’s Museum, Glimmerglass State Park, and Glimmerglass Festival. Possible trip to Ommegang Brewery. Preparation of Turning Point essays.

Saturday, May 18:
Daylong Workshop. Analysis and discussion of group observations and individual Turning Point essays will be followed by a workshop on applying City as Text™ pedagogy to participants’ home campus. The Institute will wrap up with a closing dinner.

Sunday, May 19:
Departures.

Facilitators / Contacts
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COSTS: $900 (including $350 non-refundable fee)

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: February 28, 2019

PAYMENT DEADLINE:
First payment ($500) due by 15 March; Final payment ($400) due by 15 April.

This cost covers Institute reading materials, instructional fees, opening reception, and final group dinner. It does not include travel to and from Cooperstown, accommodations, local transportation, or most meals.

TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATIONS
Cooperstown is accessible by plane or car. Participants should fly into the Albany, NY, airport and then rent a car to drive the 90 minutes to Cooperstown—this is the closest airport. Facilitators can help connect participants who are interested in carpooling. The Otesaga Hotel will provide overnight accommodations for Institute participants. The cost is $261 per night for single or double occupancy and includes a generous breakfast. If you wish to share a room with a fellow participant, the facilitators will assist. To make reservations, phone (607) 547-9931; please identify yourself as part of the Honors Institute group.

APPLICATION PROCESS
For online registration, credit card payment, and submission of statement of interest*, go to nchhonors.org/events/place-as-text

*Statement of Interest: In the designated space in your online registration, please briefly describe your interest in the Institute, experiential learning, education, cultural studies, etc.