



**Textbook & Academic Authors Association
2026 Textbook Awards
Judges' Quotes on
Most Promising Textbook Award and Textbook Excellence Award Winners**

MOST PROMISING NEW TEXTBOOK AWARD

***Data Structures and Algorithms in Java: A Project Based Approach*, 1st edition**

By Dan S. Myers

Published by Cambridge University Press

College/University

Computer Science, Engineering

"Suitable as a classroom text or for the independent learner, *Data Structures and Algorithms in Java* is practically unputdownable owing to its captivating writing style and engrossing presentations. It is a learn-by-doing text with many, many novel worked out examples for the learner to copy, run, and modify. Mastery comes by way of enjoyment and wonder. *Data Structures and Algorithms in Java* should become an instant classic."

***Earth History: Stories of Our Geological Past*, 1st edition**

By Peter Copeland, Janok P. Bhattacharya

Published by Cambridge University Press

College/University

Physical Sciences

"Copeland and Bhattacharya's *Earth History: Stories of our Geological Past* offers a fresh, concept-driven approach that helps learners make sense of Earth's history through vivid visuals and real-world examples."

***Financial Social Work: Micro, Mezzo, and Macro Practice*, 1st edition**

By Reeta Wolfsohn, Matthew Schwartz

Published by Cognella Academic Publishing

College/University

Humanities, Education, Social Sciences

"Innovative, accessible, and deeply grounded in social justice, this book elevates financial social work to its rightful place at the heart of practice."

Green Building: An Engineering Approach to Sustainable Construction, 1st edition

By Christian M. Carrico

Published by Elsevier

College/University

Computer Science, Engineering

"An engineering text that introduces sustainability to all engineers. The text approaches learning by graphically conveying information succinctly in a form well understood by both scientists and engineers."

Interpersonal Communication: The Within and The Between, 1st edition

By Jody Koenig Kellas, Valerie Manusov

Published by Cognella Academic Publishing

College/University

Humanities, Education, Social Sciences

"A well-thought out, innovative approach to the discipline, *Interpersonal Communication: The Within and The Between* offers a comprehensive framework for understanding interpersonal communication by emphasizing the dynamic interplay between individuals' internal processes (the "within") and their interactive engagements with others (the "between"). This text integrates theoretical perspectives with real-world applications to highlight how cognitive, emotional, cultural, and relational factors jointly shape communication outcomes and influence personal, professional, and social well-being."

Introduction to American Corrections, 1st edition

By Steven E. Barkan, Michael Rocque, Amber L. Beckley

Published by FlatWorld

College/University

Humanities, Education, Social Sciences

"This textbook provides a great foundation for any criminal justice student. The textbook provides a balance of text, graphs, and incorporates short supplemental videos to assist students in their understanding of the criminal justice system."

Introduction to Personal Finance: A Step-by-Step Guide to Financial Freedom, 1st edition

By Kristen Carioti

Published by Sage Publishing

College/University

Accounting, Business, Economics

"Introduction to Personal Finance: A Step-by-Step Guide to Financial Freedom provides readers with a relevant and modern approach to personal finance, supported by real-world examples for easy application. It offers a wealth of insight that all readers could benefit from."

Oregon, Our Home, 1st edition

By Jennifer Lee, Bart King

Published by Gibbs Smith Education

K-12

Humanities, Education, Social Sciences

"Oregon, Our Home is a very beautiful text. It weaves local histories into an easy-to-read narrative which explains the importance of Oregon within a national and global context. The visuals and insets included in each chapter will spark the reader's curiosity and inspire teachers to add much greater depth to class content."

Petrology and Plate Tectonics: An Earth Systems Approach, 1st edition

By Allen Glazner, Matthew J. Kohn

Published by Oxford University Press

College/University

Physical Sciences

"With strong visuals, thematic coherence, and thoughtful application features, Petrology and Plate Tectonics makes challenging petrology concepts accessible while never losing sight of the larger geologic story."

Race and Inequality in American Politics: An Imperfect Union, 1st edition

By Zoltan L. Hajnal, Vincent L. Hutchings, Taeku Lee

Published by Cambridge University Press

College/University

Humanities, Education, Social Sciences

"Race and Inequality in American Politics responds boldly and courageously to the challenge of promoting honest and open debate on a divisive topic among students so as to prepare them for what it takes to make the USA a better democracy than the one they found."

The Social and Structural Determinants of Health: Educating Nurses to Advance Health Equity, 1st edition

By Teri A. Murray

Published by Elsevier

College/University

Life Sciences

"This book is a powerful and timely contribution that equips future nurses to confront health inequities with courage, compassion, and evidence-based clarity."

TEXTBOOK EXCELLENCE AWARD

A First Course in Systems Biology, 3rd edition

By Eberhard O. Voit, Melissa Kemp

Published by Taylor & Francis / CRC Press

College/University

Life Sciences

"Systems Biology is a complex field that is growing essentially at the rate of our ability to process the data. This text provides the necessary background to merge mathematics and biology to better understand the relationships between various systems in the natural world."

American Government in Black and White, 7th edition

By Paula D. McClain, Steven Tauber

Published by Oxford University Press

College/University

Humanities, Education, Social Sciences

"*American Government in Black and White* sets a new benchmark for political education by blending rigorous scholarship with clear, engaging instruction. With its well-structured layout, comprehensive coverage of key political subfields, and student-focused learning tools, the text makes complex concepts both accessible and meaningful. It's a hands down win."

Case-Smith's Occupational Therapy for Children and Adolescents, 9th edition

By Jane Clifford O'Brien, Heather Miller Kuhaneck

Published by Elsevier

College/University

Life Sciences

"Case-Smith's textbook continues to set the standard in pediatric occupational therapy education, empowering future practitioners with evidence-driven knowledge and meaningful clinical insight. It has become an indispensable resource across OT and OTA programs, transforming complex pediatric content into clear, accessible, and practice-ready learning."

Clinical Manifestations and Assessment of Respiratory Disease, 9th edition

By Terry Des Jardins, George Burton

Published by Elsevier

College/University

Life Sciences

"*Clinical Manifestations and Assessment of Respiratory Disease* is an outstanding textbook that excels in both depth and clarity. It thoughtfully integrates clinical reasoning with practical assessment in a way that meaningfully advances respiratory education."

Data Mining, 5th edition

By Ian H. Witten, Eibe Frank, Mark A. Hall, Christopher J. Pal, James R. Foulds
Published by Elsevier
College/University
Computer Science, Engineering

"This work is truly a data mining magnum opus. It is thorough, and comprehensive in every respect, giving the reader a trove of mathematical and algorithmic tools for data mining and machine learning. Moreover, without loss of rigor, this wealth of technical detail is continuously offered within a business, legal, and ethical context so that the reader knows not simply how to extract meaningful information from a data store, but why they would want or need to do so. Each chapter's learning is reinforced with examples from the freely-available Weka workbench machine learning software."

Dental Radiography: Principles and Techniques, 6th edition
By Joen M. Iannucci, Laura Jansen Howerton
Published by Elsevier
College/University
Life Sciences

"A thoroughly researched textbook on dental radiography for the dental hygiene student with interactive exercises and technique videos to help them practice on their "real" patients. The authors utilize an excellent blend of a myriad of ways to assess the knowledge of the student with a combination of essays, fill-in-the-blank, and multiple-choice questions. The student can therefore attack the assessments from a variety of modes which will help them retain the material not only for present board examinations but also in future practice. A detailed glossary is a great reference to have in the book!"

Design-Tech: Building Science for Architects, 3rd edition
By Rob Whitehead, Jason Alread, Tom Leslie
Published by Taylor & Francis
College/University
Physical Sciences

"*Design-Tech: Building Science for Architects* succeeds as a foundational, performance-driven textbook by integrating building science and building technologies directly into the architectural design process, enabling students to make informed decisions about environmental performance, human comfort, and sustainable systems."

Immunology, 2nd edition
By Stephen J. Juris
Published by Oxford University Press
College/University
Life Sciences

"Juris's *Immunology* takes on one of the two or three topics I find hardest to teach, and to write about to beginning students, in all of human physiology—and it does it extraordinarily well. In its diverse modes of presentation, lucid prose, concise narrative sections, self-assessment tools, and pedagogic features, this is probably the most student-attentive textbook I have seen in a long time. *Immunology* is a very fine example of how the art of textbook writing has evolved to better serve students in comparison to textbooks of just a decade ago. Biology and health science students taking on this challenging subject will be very well served, indeed, by Stephen Juris's admirable skills as a writer and educator."

International Economics, International Trade, International Finance, 1st edition

By Menzie Chinn, Douglas Irwin

Published by Cambridge University Press

College/University

Accounting, Business, Economics

"This series demonstrates strong quality in both content and instructional design. Complex global concepts are presented clearly and concisely, supported by effective visuals and a consistent chapter structure. The text series promotes conceptual understanding and analytical thinking, making them strong candidates for the Textbook Excellence Award."

Introduction to Visual Optics: A Light Approach, 1st edition

By Samantha L. Strong

Published by Elsevier

College/University

Life Sciences

"*Introduction to Visual Optics*, a beautifully designed and engaging textbook that brings optics to life through clarity, interactivity, and real-world relevance, deserves to win the Textbook Excellence Award. This text makes the study of optics both approachable and inspiring."

Introduction to Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies: Interdisciplinary and Intersectional Approaches, 3rd edition

By L. Ayu Saraswati, Barbara L. Shaw, Heather Rellihan

Published by Oxford University Press

College/University

Humanities, Education, Social Sciences

"*Introduction to Women's Gender & Sexuality Studies: Interdisciplinary and Intersectional Approaches* is an innovative textbook combining past and present scholarship in helping readers to understand the connections between diverse lived experiences, perspectives, and approaches. The authors challenge readers to think critically about the material and build upon it by providing them with tools to become activists by examining their own lives and to think critically about creating better selves and communities."

Invitation to World Religions, 5th edition

By Jeffrey Brodd, Bradley Nystrom, Robert Platzner, Richard Shek, Erin Stiles
Published by Oxford University Press
College/University
Humanities, Education, Social Sciences

"Few introductory texts manage to be both rigorous and inviting; *Invitation to World Religions* does so with rare success, setting the standard for how world religions should be taught."

Laboratory Procedures for Veterinary Technicians, 8th edition
By Kristin Holtgrew-Bohling
Published by Elsevier
College/University
Life Sciences

"This wonderful book is not only a foundational resource for veterinary technicians but I think most veterinarians could benefit from many of its chapters as a mini refresher course for many of the topics and techniques that are reviewed."

Lectures on Theoretical Physics (volume 1: Classical Mechanics, volume 2: Electromagnetism, volume 3: Quantum Mechanics, volume 4: Fluid Mechanics), 1st edition
By David Tong
Published by Cambridge University Press
College/University
Physical Sciences

"Tong's series of theoretical physics textbooks covers the entire discipline at the intermediate undergraduate level. The work is deeply informed, and includes suggestions for where to go next on your journey to become a master of theoretical physics."

Little and Falace's Dental Management of the Medically Compromised Patient, 10th edition
By Craig Miller, Nelson L. Rhodus, Nathaniel S Treister, Eric T. Stoopler, Alexander Ross Kerr
Published by Elsevier
College/University
Life Sciences

"*Little and Falace's Dental Management of the Medically Compromised Patient* is a vital resource that transforms complex medical challenges into confident, patient-centered care—equipping clinicians with the clarity to safe-guard patient health in every chair. For these reasons, I wholeheartedly endorse this textbook as a benchmark of excellence and a deserving recipient of the Textbook Excellence Award."

McCurnin's Clinical Textbook for Veterinary Technicians and Nurses, 11th edition
By Oreta M. Samples, Paige A. Allen
Published by Elsevier
College/University

Life Sciences

"Anyone in the veterinary field will benefit from this thorough, comprehensive, and state of the science books that covers the key and important aspects of veterinary nursing and technical work."

Medical Microbiology, 10th edition

By Patrick R. Murray, Ken S. Rosenthal, Michael A. Pfaller

Published by Elsevier

College/University

Life Sciences

"*Medical Microbiology (10th edition)* is thorough, well-organized, and engaging to read. It is a knowledgeable and expansive reference for almost all aspects of medical microbiology that addresses different types of infectious agents from multiple angles."

Patterns of World History, 5th edition

By Peter Von Sivers, Charles Desnoyers

Published by Oxford University Press

College/University

Humanities, Education, Social Sciences

"The authors of *Patterns of World History* distill an enormous array of topics and sources into an engaging and thought-provoking narrative, with clear learning objectives and "Seeing Patterns" sections that encourage students to engage in critical thinking."

Plate Tectonics, 1st edition

By Haakon Fossen, Christian Teyssier

Published by Cambridge University Press

College/University

Physical Sciences

"Combining an engaging design, vibrant and well-labeled visuals, and crisp, student-friendly writing, Fossen and Teyssier's *Plate Tectonics* makes advanced concepts both inviting and easy to master."

Principles of Finance, 1st edition

By Zvi Bodie, Robert C. Merton, Richard T. Thakor

Published by Cambridge University Press

College/University

Accounting, Business, Economics

"*Principles of Finance* by Bodie, Merton, and Thakor brings together material for a comprehensive text in Finance, based on a core "Ten Principles." This core anchors explanations and discussions, in a good way, giving students a lens through which to see and understand finance and its many details."

***Researching and Teaching Speech Acts with Young L2 Learners: Beneath the Linguistic Surface,*
1st edition**

By Milica Savić, Anders Myrset, Maria Economidou-Kogetsidis

Published by Multilingual Matters

College/University

Languages, Literature

"This transformative work masterfully bridges the gap between research and the classroom, empowering young learners as active social actors and experts in their own communicative lives. By exploring the complexities that lie 'beneath the linguistic surface,' the authors provide an essential and innovative roadmap for fostering pragmatic agency in the next generation of multilingual communicators."

***Social Media and Society: An Introduction to the Mass Media Landscape,* 2nd edition**

By Regina M. Luttrell, Adrienne A. Wallace

Published by Bloomsbury

College/University

Communication, Performing Arts, Visual Arts

"*Social Media and Society: An Introduction to the Mass Media Landscape* is an outstanding example of what an introductory textbook in the evolving world of social media should be. The authors present complex ideas with clarity, integrate theory with real-world application, and foreground ethical and social implications throughout. The text is clearly modern, thoughtfully incorporating current developments in artificial intelligence and examining how AI is reshaping social media and society. Few texts do as much to help students think critically about social media's role in contemporary society."

***Social Media: How to Engage, Share, and Connect,* 5th edition**

By Regina M. Luttrell

Published by Bloomsbury

College/University

Communication, Performing Arts, Visual Arts

"*Social Media: How to Engage, Share, and Connect* exemplifies excellence in both content and pedagogy, providing students with a coherent framework for understanding social media strategy while addressing the ethical, technological, and social forces shaping the field. The book combines clear writing, strong organization, and applied models with a timely examination of generative AI and data-driven decision making. It equips students not just to use social media, but to understand its strategic and societal implications."

***The Ohio Adventure,* 2nd edition**

By Jennifer Lee, Bart King

Published by Gibbs Smith Education

K-12

Humanities, Education, Social Sciences

“From ancient earthworks to statehood and beyond, this book brings Ohio’s story to life—showing young readers how the Buckeye State helped shape the history of the United States, one chapter at a time.”

View the 2026 TAA Textbook Awards Media Kit: <https://www.taaonline.net/2026-textbook-award-winners-media-kit>

About the Textbook & Academic Authors Association (TAA)

The Textbook & Academic Authors Association (TAA) provides a wide range of professional development resources, events, and networking opportunities for textbook authors and authors of scholarly journal articles and books. www.TAAonline.net