Thomas J. Ward Jr. is professor and chair of history department at Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama, where he teaches a variety of courses in American history.  A native of Annapolis, Maryland, Dr. Ward received his education at Hampden-Sydney College (B.A., 1991), Clemson University (M.A., 1993), and the University of Southern Mississippi (Ph.D., 1999).  Before coming to Spring Hill College in 2007, Dr. Ward taught at Rockhurst University in Kansas City, Missouri, for six years.  He had held previous teaching positions at the Alabama School of Math and Science, and University College Cork, in Ireland.

Dr. Ward has written numerous articles on African-American history and the history of health care in the American South, and was the project historian for the award-winning 1998-1999 public radio series, *Mississippi Voices, A Trip Through the Twentieth Century.*In 2003, the University of Arkansas Press published his first book, *Black Physicians in the Jim Crow South.*  His most recent work, *Out in the Rural: A Mississippi Health Center and its War on Poverty* (Oxford University Press), was released in December 2016, and has received wide acclaim, including a starred review from *Publisher’s Weekly* and the Alpha Sigma Nu Book Award.He also authored a new foreword to the re-release of Robert Coles’ and Al Clayton’s classic work, *Still Hungry in America.* Dr. Ward has received numerous awards for his work, including those from the Association of American Publishers, the Langum Charitable Trusts, the Gulf South Historical Association, The Mississippi Historical Society, and the Virginia Military Institute.

Dr. Ward is currently working on a book project on healthcare and the Civil Rights Movement.  He lives in Fairhope, Alabama, with his wife and three sons.