

Stephen A. Block

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Political Science
Baylor University
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Current Appointment

2013- Lecturer, Department of Political Science, Baylor University

Education

- 2012 Ph.D., Political Science, Baylor University
Major Doctoral Field: Political Theory
Minor Doctoral Fields: American Political Thought; Constitutional Law
Interdisciplinary Concentration: Politics and Literature
Dissertation: *Rhetoric, Reason, and the Problem of Rule: Aristotle and John Stuart Mill on Speech and Politics*
Dissertation Chair: Mary P. Nichols
- 2007 M.A., Political Science, Baylor University (May 2007)
- 2005 B.S., Political Science, *summa cum laude*, North Carolina State University (May 2005)

Teaching Experience

- Politics and Literature*, PSC 4312, Baylor University: Spring 2018
- Western Political Philosophy*, PSC 2343, Baylor University: Spring 2013; Fall 2015
- American Constitutional Development*, PSC 2302, Baylor University: Spring 2009; Fall 2010; Summer 2013; Fall 2013; Spring 2014; Summer 2014; Fall 2014; Spring 2015; Summer 2015; Spring 2016; Summer 2016; Fall 2016; Spring 2017; Summer 2017; Fall 2017
- American Constitutional Development-Honors*, PSC 2302H, Baylor University: Fall 2008; Fall 2010; Fall 2011; Spring 2012; Fall 2013; Fall 2015; Spring 2016; Fall 2016; Spring 2017; Fall 2017
- Moot Court*, PSC 3311, Baylor University: Fall 2013; Fall 2014; Fall 2015; Fall 2016; Fall 2017
- Public Policy and the Courts*, PSC 4342, Baylor University: Spring 2014; Spring 2015; Spring 2016; Spring 2017

Undergraduate Research Direction

Honors Thesis Director

Nita Hight, “Legislating Marriage: A Constitutional Examination of Same-Sex Marriage”
(Completed May 2015)

Victoria Jones, “A Sexual Revolution on the Court: An Examination of the Constitutionality
of Morally-Based Sexual Laws” (Completed May 2015)

Megan Sarsfield, “Lockean Property Rights and the American Founding” (Completed May
2017)

Julie Nelson, “Just Judgment?: James Wilson on the Relationship Between Popular
Sovereignty and Judicial Review” (Completed May 2017)

Honors Thesis Reader

Nikki Wells, “American Exceptionalism Through American History” (Completed May 2014)

Ivan Boudreaux, “Is French a Creole Language?” (Completed May 2014)

Swathi Shankar, “The Legal, Racial, and Moral Conflicts in Mark Twain’s *Pudd’nhead
Wilson*” (Completed May 2014)

Garrett McMillan, “Catholic Libertarianism?” (Completed May 2016)

Research and Publications

Research and Teaching Interests

History of Political Thought, American Political Thought, Constitutionalism, Politics and Literature

Publications

2018 “Truth, Friendship, and the Good in Aristotle’s *Ethics*” (with Patrick Cain). In *Love’s Authority:
Essays in Honor of Mary Nichols*. (forthcoming)

2017 Review Essay of *Principle and Prudence in Western Political Thought*, edited by Christopher
Lynch, et al. (Albany: SUNY Press, 2016). *Interpretation: A Journal of Political Philosophy* 43,
no. 2 (Winter 2017): 319-332.

- 2016 *Constitutional Government: The American Experience*. 10th Edition. New York: Kendall Hunt, 2016. (with James Curry, et al.)
- “Liberalism, the Family, and the Right to Privacy: *Griswold v. Connecticut* and Its Progeny.” In *American Constitutionalism, Marriage, and the Family*, edited by Patrick N. Cain and David Ramsey, 141-159.
- 2015 “Socrates’s Spirited Defense of Knowledge: Continenence, Incontinence, and Action in Book VII of Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics*” (with Patrick Cain), *Interpretation: A Journal of Political Philosophy* 42, no. 1 (Fall 2015): 3-29.
- “Socrates as Post-Erotic Philosopher” (book review), *Review of Politics* 77, no. 1 (2015): 129-31.
- 2012 “Immortality in Saul Bellow’s *Ravelstein*,” *Expositions* 6 (2012): 81-89.

Works in Progress

Books

The Politics of Fortune: A Reading of Aristotle’s Nicomachean Ethics
Liberty, Nobility, and the Problems of Democracy (co-editor)

Journal Article Manuscripts

- “The Limits and Satisfactions of Power in Hobbes’s *Leviathan*”
- “Inalienable Rights and Self-Ownership in Locke’s *Two Treatises of Government*”
- “Natural Law and Popular Sovereignty in James Wilson’s Constitutionalism”
- “The Problem of Good Fortune in Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics*”
- “Thought and Action in Aristotle’s *Art of Rhetoric*”

Invited Public Lectures

- 2014 “Impeachment and the Constitutional Presidency,” McLennan Community College Constitution Day Address, Waco, TX, September 17
- 2011 “Rhetoric, Politics, and Choice in Aristotle’s *Rhetoric*,” Baylor University, Waco, TX, April 8
- “Nature and Impiety in the Political Theory of Hobbes,” Belmont Abbey College, Belmont, NC, January 14

Conference Participation

- 2017 Invited Panelist, “Defending the Constitution: *The Federalist*,” Alexander Hamilton Institute Conference, Clinton, NY, June 15-16
- “The Love of Honor and the Love of Truth in Aristotle’s *Ethics*,” 2017 Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, January 12
- 2015 “The Problem of Good Fortune in Book I of Aristotle’s *Ethics*,” 2015 Northeast Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, November 13
- Invited Panelist, “Churchill and De Gaulle: Statesmanship in a Democratic Age,” Alexander Hamilton Institute Conference, Clinton, NY, July 18-19
- “A Conservative Right to Privacy?: Antonin Scalia’s Fourth Amendment Jurisprudence,” 2015 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 2
- 2014 “Hobbes on Glory and Religion,” Canadian Political Science Association 2014 Annual Conference, St. Catherines, Ontario, May 29
- “Aristotle on Moral Agency,” Canadian Political Science Association 2014 Annual Conference, St. Catherines, Ontario, May 29
- “Aristotle’s Teaching on Incontinence,” 2014 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 6
- Panel Chair and Discussant, *Early American Political Thought*, 2014 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 4
- “James Wilson on Popular Sovereignty and the Power of Judicial Review,” 2014 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 4
- 2012 “James Wilson on Natural Law and the American Presidency,” The Society of Catholic Social Scientists 20th Annual Conference, Uniondale, NY, October 26

- “Art and Law in Aristotle’s Political Thought,” 2012 Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, January 14
- 2010 Invited Participant. “Race, Liberalism, and the Meaning of America,” Alexander Hamilton Institute Conference, Clinton, NY, July 5-6
- Invited Participant. “Winston S. Churchill as Writer,” The Churchill Centre Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, April 8-10
- Panel Discussant. *Literature and Education in Politics*, 2010 Southwestern Social Science Association Annual Meeting, Houston, TX, April 1
- “Liberty, Philosophy, and Politics in J.S. Mill’s *On Liberty*,” 2010 Southwestern Social Science Association Annual Meeting, Houston, TX, April 1
- “The High and the Universal in J.S. Mill’s *Utilitarianism*,” 2010 Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, January 7
- 2009 “Joseph Ratzinger on Faith, Reason, and Dialogue,” The Third Annual Baylor Symposium on Faith and Culture, Waco, Texas, October 8
- “Hobbes’ Appeal to Pride as the Foundation for Political Obligation,” 2009 Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, January 8
- 2008 “Aristophanic Comedy and Aristotelian Wit in the *Nicomachean Ethics*,” 2008 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 5
- 2007 “Alexis de Tocqueville and Edith Wharton on Love and the American Family,” The Inaugural Baylor Symposium on Faith and Culture, Waco, TX, October 25

Departmental Service

Director and Coach, Baylor Undergraduate Moot Court Program, 2013-Present
Organizer, Constitution Day Address, September 2017
Organizer, Constitution Day Address, September 2016
Conference Organizer, Association of Political Theory-Lonestar Chapter Annual Conference, March 2017
Departmental Pre-Law Representative, Fall 2014
Honors Thesis Director (x4)
Honors Thesis Reader (x4)
Independent Readings Director (x5)

Awards, Grants, and Fellowships

Nomination for Leo Strauss Award for Best Dissertation in Political Philosophy, 2014
Morrison Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2012-2013
Richard D. Huff Doctoral Student of the Year, 2012
Thomas W. Smith Fellowship, 2011-2012
VERITAS Fellowship, 2010-2011
Interdisciplinary Research Summer Study Grant, 2008
Interdisciplinary Research Summer Study Award, 2007
Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Baylor University, 2005-2010
Graduate Student Stipend, Baylor University, 2005-2010
Tuition Scholarship, Baylor University, 2005-2010

Languages Studied

Classical Greek, Spanish