

# Rebecca J. McCumbers Flavin

Department of Political Science  
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## Employment

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Baylor University, Waco, Texas, 2016-Present  
Position: Senior Lecturer in Political Science

Baylor University, Waco, Texas, 2010-2016  
Position: Lecturer in Political Science

## Education

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University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana  
Ph.D., Political Science, 2014  
M.A., Political Science, 2005  
Primary fields: Political Theory and American Politics

Dissertation Title: *The Battle of the Unarmed Prophets: Religion and Republicanism in the Thought of Girolamo Savonarola and Niccolò Machiavelli*  
(Chair: Catherine H. Zuckert)

Wheeling Jesuit University, Wheeling, West Virginia  
B.A., Political Science, *summa cum laude*, 2003  
Honors: Valedictorian, Laut Honors Scholar

## Research and Teaching Interests

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History of political philosophy, including ancient, medieval, early modern and American political thought; politics and religion; American Constitutional Law; and American Constitutional Development

## Academic Experience

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2010-Present *Baylor University*

Courses taught: American Constitutional Development, Model United Nations, Religion and the Body Politic, Politics and Religion, American Constitutional Law (I): Institutions, American Constitutional Law (II): Civil Rights and Liberties, Introduction to Western Political Thought, New Student Experience, and The U.S. Constitution, Its Interpretation, and the American Political Experience

2009-2010 *Loescher Teaching Fellow, University of Notre Dame Dept. of Political Science*

Courses taught: Christianity and the Modern State and Machiavelli and the Machiavellians

2008-2009 *Graduate Teaching Fellow, University of Notre Dame College of Arts and Letters*

Courses taught: First Year Composition and Church and State in American Politics and Constitutional Law

2004-2007 Teaching Assistant, University of Notre Dame Dept. of Political Science  
Courses: Introduction to American Government, Constitutional Law, Religion and the  
Constitution and Introduction to Political Theory

### **Peer-Reviewed Publications**

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"Machiavelli, Envy, and the Corrupt Republic." *Politics & Poetics*, Volume V, July 2023: 51-80.

"Tocqueville's Critique of the U.S. Constitution." *European Legacy: Toward New Paradigms* 24.7-8 (2019): 755-768. (DOI 10.1080/10848770.2019.1648103)

### **Other Publications**

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*Constitutional Government: The American Experience, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2020*. Richard Battistoni, James Curry, Steve Block, Dave Bridge, and Rebecca McCumbers Flavin

*Constitutional Government: The American Experience, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2016*. Richard Battistoni, James Curry, Steve Block, Dave Bridge, and Rebecca McCumbers Flavin

Review of "Machiavelli Goes to the Movies: Understanding *The Prince* through Television and Film," by Eric T. Kasper and Troy A. Kozma. *Review of Politics* 78:1 (Winter 2016): p. 165-168.

Review of "Other Dreams of Freedom: Religion, Sex, and Human Trafficking," by Yvonne C. Zimmerman. *Journal of Church and State* 57:1 (Winter 2015): p. 177-179.

### **Recent Conference Presentations**

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"Machiavelli, Envy, and the Corrupt Republic." Paper presented at the 2022 *Canterbury Institute Politics & Poetics Conference on Envy*, Oxford, England.

"Augustine, Machiavelli, and the Politics of Contrition." Paper presented at the 2022 Augustine and the Frontiers of Pluralism Conference, Villanova, Pennsylvania.

"Roundtable on Michelle Clark's Machiavelli's Florentine Republic: Author Meets Critics." Presentation at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association.

"Lukewarm Polity: Machiavelli's Response to Savonarola's Populist Movement." Paper presented at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association.

"Amending the Syllabus: A New Approach to Teaching American Constitutional Law." Paper presented at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association.

"Machiavelli's *Exhortation to Penitence*: A Reeducation for Christian People." Poster presented at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association

"Disarming the Philosophers: Savonarola and Machiavelli's Critiques of Natural Philosophy." Paper presented at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association.

"Feeding Faction: Savonarola and Machiavelli's Views on the Causes and Consequences of Public Discord." Paper presented at the 2009 Midwest Political Science Association Conference.

“Preaching Politics: Girolamo Savonarola’s sermons on republican government.” Paper presented at the 2008 Midwest Political Science Association Conference.

### **Select Honors and Awards**

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2022 Baylor University Teaching Development Grant  
2020 Elizabeth Vardaman Award for Excellence in Mentoring Undergraduates  
2018 Baylor University Collins Outstanding Professor Award – *student nominated award*  
2017-2108 Baylor University Outstanding Professor Award – Teaching (Non-Tenure Track) –  
*faculty nominated award*  
2014 Baylor University Summer Faculty Institute  
2010 Baylor University Teaching Development Grant  
2010 University of Notre Dame Alumni Association Distinguished Graduate Student Award  
2007-2008 Bridwell Library Visiting Scholar Fellowship, Perkins Theology School, Southern  
Methodist University, \$2,000  
2007-2008 Moore Dissertation Year Fellowship  
2007 Albert Ravarino Italian Studies Summer Travel Scholarship, \$3,000  
2005-2007 Earhart Foundation Fellowship  
2003-2004 McCullough Fellowship in Ethics and Public Morality  
2003 Wheeling Jesuit University Katherine Fouts Medal, Outstanding Graduate  
2003 Wheeling Jesuit University Mary Woomer Medal, Outstanding Female Graduate

### **Select University and Department Service**

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2023-present Director of Engaged Learning Curriculum, Baylor Office of Engaged Learning  
2021-present Undergraduate Program Director, Department of Political Science  
2010-present Faculty Advisor, Baylor University Model United Nations  
2009-2010 Graduate Assistant/Organizer of University of Notre Dame Political Theory  
Colloquia  
2006-2009 University of Notre Dame Graduate Student Union  
Offices held: President, Co-Vice President, Co-Social Chair  
University Committees: Graduate Council, Graduate Retention and Attrition  
2003-2007 Political Science Graduate Student Organization, University of Notre Dame:  
Offices held: President, Vice President for Professional Development, First Year Rep.  
2004-2006 Graduate Assistant, *Program in American Democracy*  
Tasks: Organizing visiting speaker series and department workshops