

Rebecca J. McCumbers Flavin

Department of Political Science
Baylor University
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Employment

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

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

Education

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

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

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

"Machiavelli, Envy, and the Corrupt Republic." *Politics & Poetics*, Volume V, July 2023: 47-76.

"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

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

Constitutional Government: The American Experience, 10th 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

"Machiavelli's An Exhortation to Penitence: A Reeducation for the Florentine People." Paper presented at the 2023 International Machiavelli Society Conference in Rome, Italy.

"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

2023-2024 Baylor University College of Arts and Sciences Core Virtues Teaching Award
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 Administrative Appointments and Service

2024-present National Model United Nations Advisory Group
2023-present Director of Engaged Learning Curriculum, College of Arts and Sciences Office of
Engaged Learning, Baylor University
2021-present Undergraduate Program Director, Department of Political Science, Baylor University
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