

WILLIAM M. CURTIS

Department of Political Science
University of Portland
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Research Interests

Political Philosophy, Theories of Liberalism, Classical Liberalism and Free Markets, History of Political Thought, American Pragmatism (James, Dewey, Rorty), Constitutional Theory and Law, Politics and Religion, Political Theory and Literature

Education

- Ph.D. Duke University, Political Science (2006)
- M.A. Stanford University, Philosophy (1997)
- J.D. University of California, Hastings College of the Law (1995)
- A.B. Dartmouth College, Government (1992)

Academic Employment

University of Portland, Professor of Political Science, 2018-present
Associate Professor of Political Science, 2013-2018
Assistant Professor of Political Science, 2007-2013

University of Vermont, Visiting Lecturer in Political Theory, 2006-2007

University of Alabama, Birmingham, Visiting Assistant Professor, 2005-2006

Harvard University, Teaching Asst., Spring 2005

Duke University, Instructor/Teaching Asst., 1999-2003

Book

Defending Rorty: Pragmatism and Liberal Virtue (Cambridge University Press, 2015)

Articles and Chapters

“Rhetoric Between Philosophy and Poetry: Rorty as Essayist,” in *A Companion to Rorty*, ed. Alan Malachowski, Wiley-Blackwell, forthcoming in 2018

“Rorty as Virtue Liberal,” *Contemporary Pragmatism* 13, 4 (December 2016): 400-419.

- Revised version will be included in the *Companion to Richard Rorty*, ed. Martin Müller (Wiesbaden, Germany: Springer, forthcoming).

“Rorty’s Liberal Utopia and Huxley’s *Island*,” *Philosophy and Literature*, 35, 1 (April 2011): 91-103

“Hemingway, Hopelessness, and Liberalism,” in *Hemingway on Politics and Rebellion*, ed. Lauretta Frederking (Routledge Press, 2010), 50-72

“Members Only? Critical Response to Herr’s ‘Defense of Nonliberal Nationalism,’” *Political Theory* 35, 3 (June 2007): 334-340

“Liberals and Pluralists: Charles Taylor vs. John Gray,” *Contemporary Political Theory* (February 2007): 86-107

“Hate Speech,” *Encyclopedia of Political Theory*, Sage Publications, 2010

“Communitarianism,” *Encyclopedia of Political Theory*, Sage Publications, 2010

“‘Honey, If We Can’t Kill People, What’s the Point of Being a Vampire?’: Can Vampires Be Good Citizens,” in *True Blood and Philosophy*, ed. George A. Dunn and Rebecca Housel (New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2010).

Conference and Colloquia Presentations

“Rorty as Hayekian Classical Liberal,” Pacific Northwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Portland, OR, November 10-12, 2016

“Rorty and Hayek: Pragmatism as Creative Destruction,” Richard Rorty Society Conference, Hamilton College, Clinton, NY, September 8-10, 2016

“Rorty as Virtue Liberal,” American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Conference, San Francisco, March 30 – April 2, 2016

“Rhetoric Between Philosophy and Poetry: Rorty as Essayist,” 2nd European Pragmatism Conference, Paris, France, September 2015

Chair and Discussant for Manisha Sinha’s “Abraham Lincoln’s Competing Political Ideals: The Union, Constitution, and Antislavery,” presented at The Frederick Douglass Forum on Law, Rights, and Justice: Conference on the Political Thought of Abraham Lincoln, Linfield College, McMinnville, OR, May 2014

“Rorty, Religion, and Pragmatic Liberalism,” Western Political Science Association Annual Conference, Portland, OR, March 2012

“Rorty vs. Taylor: Pluralism, Ontology, and Authoritarianism,” American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Seattle, WA, September 2011

“Understanding Rorty’s Project: Experimentalism and Liberal Culture,” Association for Political Theory Annual Conference, Portland, OR, October 2010

“Rorty’s Liberal Utopia and Huxley’s *Island*,” Pacific Northwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Victoria, BC, October 2009

“Defending Judicial Power: Pragmatism and Public Justification,” Pacific Northwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Portland, OR, October 2008

“Fishing for Liberalism: What Stanley Fish Has Right and Wrong About Liberal Theory,” Southwestern Political Science Association Annual Conference, Las Vegas, NV, March 2008

“Tribal Liberalism: The Ethical Implications of Public Justification,” Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, April 2007

“Pragmatism, Experimentalism, and the Modern Problem of Authority,” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, September 2006

“Liberalism and Pragmatic Modernity,” Association for Political Theory Annual Conference, St. Louis, MO, October 2005

“Public Justification and Pragmatism,” New England Political Science Association Conference, Portland, ME, April 2005

“Liberals and Pluralists: Charles Taylor vs. John Gray,” Western Political Science Association Conference, Oakland, CA, March 2005

“Pluralism and the Follies of Thin Liberalism,” New England Political Science Association Conference, Portsmouth, NH, May 2004

“Liberals Against Liberal Education,” Western Political Science Association Conference, Portland, OR, March 2004

“Ethical Pragmatism,” Kenan Graduate Colloquium in Ethics, Duke University, March 2004

“Defending California: Stephen Macedo’s *Liberal Virtues* and Contemporary Liberal Theory,” New England Political Science Association Conference, Providence, RI, May 2003

Short Book Reviews for *Choice* (190 words)

Pragmatist Egalitarianism, David Rondel (Oxford University Press, 2018)

Investigating the President: Congressional Checks on Presidential Politics, Douglas L. Kriner and Eric Schickler (Princeton University Press, 2016)

Against Democracy, Jason Brennan (Princeton University Press, 2016)

Engines of Liberty: The Power of Citizen Activists to Make Constitutional Law, David Cole (Basic Books, 2016)

Interpreting the Constitution, Kent Greenawalt (Oxford University Press, 2015)

Awards and Fellowships

Butine Grant, University of Portland, Spring 2016

Butine Grant, University of Portland, Fall 2015

Jack Miller Center Summer Institute Fellow, 2012

Butine Grant, University of Portland, Summer 2011

Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, 2005

Kenan Graduate Colloquium in Ethics Award, 2003-2004

Gerst Fellowship, 2003-2004

Values and Ethics in the Marketplace Research Fellowship, 2001-2002

Duke University Summer Graduate Research Fellowship, 2002

H.B. Earhart Fellowship, 1999-2000, 2000-2001

Summer FLAS Award, 1999, (studied German at Middlebury Language School)

Duke University Political Science Teaching Certificate, December 2001

Courses Taught

University of Portland

POL 201 – Introduction to International Relations

POL 203 – Introduction to Political Theory

POL 292 – Mock Trial (co-instructor 2007-2012)

POL 305 – Ancient and Medieval Political Thought

POL 306 – Modern Political Thought

POL 307 – Contemporary Political Theory

POL 344 – Constitutional Law I: Federalism & Separation of Powers

POL 345 – Constitutional Law II: Civil Liberties & Civil Rights

POL 346 – Constitutional Criminal Procedure

POL 392 – Utopian/Dystopian Literature and Political Thought

POL 391 – Renaissance, Reformation, and the Birth of Modernity

- Study Abroad: Siena, Italy/Salzburg Austria, Summer 2015

POL 399 – Honors Thesis

POL 421 – Seminar in Political Theory

University of Portland Service

Primary Appointments:

- Chair, Department of Political Science, 2016-present
- University of Portland Pre-Law Advisor, 2007-present
- Faculty Advisor, University of Portland Mock Trial Team, 2009-present
- Co-Coach/Co-Instructor, University of Portland Mock Trial Team, 2007-2012
- Rank and Tenure Committee, 2014-2016
- University Core Curriculum Committee, 2013(spring) -2014
- Committee on Curriculum and Academic Regulations, 2011-2014
 - CAR Committee Senate Representative, 2013-2014
- Presidential Advisory Committee on Athletics, 2016-present
 - PAC-A Senate Representative, 2016-present
- Academic Senate, 2013-present
- Study Abroad Director Search Committee, 2015
- Chair, Political Science Search Committee, 2013
- Political Science Search Committee, 2010
- Red Mass Planning Committee (Garaventa Center), 2008-2014, 2016-present

Miscellaneous:

Co-Coach, University of Portland Ethics Bowl Team, 2008-2010
- Won Oregon Independent College Foundation's Ethic Bowl Competition, 2009
Justice Clarence Thomas UP Visit, Host & Moderator for Chiles Center event
Political Science Department Elections Panels (3), Fall 2016
University of Portland *Community of Scholars*, Faculty Profile, 2016
Faculty Discussion Group Leader for Brad Gregory (Notre Dame, History) Garaventa Center lecture/visit, 2012
Honors Program Mentor, 2009-2010
New Faculty Mentor, 2014-2015
Manuscript reviewer, *Contemporary Political Theory* (2015, 2016, 2017)
Philosophy and Social Criticism (2016)
Journal of Law & Religion (2015)
Journal of the Philosophy of History (2014)
European Journal of Political Theory (2011)
Social Theory and Practice (2009, 2010)
Political Research Quarterly (2009, 2011)

Media Appearances:

- Commented on student free speech in schools, May 2016, KATU Television News

- Commented in studio on SCOTUS decision, *Obergefell v. Hodges* (same-sex marriage), June 2015, KATU Television News
- Commented on SCOTUS decision, *Maryland v. King* (4th Amendment/DNA), June 2013, KATU Television News

Constitution Day Presentation: “Travel Bans, Cell Phone Searches, and Wedding Cakes: SCOTUS’s Upcoming Term”, 2017

Constitution Day Presentation: “The Jurisprudence of Justice Clarence Thomas,” 2013

Constitution Day Presentation: “SCOTUS’s Recent Bill of Rights Jurisprudence,” 2009

“Health Care Debate,” panel participant, sponsored by College Democrats, 2009

Second Amendment lecture and discussion, sponsored by College Republicans, 2010

“What Do JAG’s (Military Lawyers) Do?”, talk delivered to U.P. AFROTC cadets, 2011

Guest Speaker at AFROTC Combat Dining-In (traditional military banquet), 2014

Taught two classes to Army ROTC, Military Administrative Law and Uniform Code of Military Justice, 2016

Senator, University Planning Supper, 2011

Oregon Humanities Council Honors Symposium participant, University of Portland, 2010

Political Science Department curriculum review/self-study/assessment, 2010

University of Portland Service Plunge, 2007

Legal and Government Work Experience

Major (ret.), Oregon Army National Guard JAG Corps, 2009-2018

Commissioned as First Lieutenant, November 2009

- Deputy Regional Defense Counsel, TDS West Region, 2017-2018
- Brigade Judge Advocate, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team 2016-2017
- Military Trial Counsel, 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 2015-2016
- Military Trial Defense Counsel, July 2012-September 2015
- Military Legal Assistance Attorney, October 2010-July 2012

Member of Oregon State Bar, 2010-present

Military training and education:

- Judge Advocate Advanced Course, The Judge Advocate General’s Legal Center and School, Charlottesville, VA, December 2015
- Direct Commission Officer Course, Ft. Benning, GA, May-June 2011
- Judge Advocate Officer Basic Course, Ft. Lee and Charlottesville, VA, July-September 2010

Judicial Clerk, Supreme Court of Colorado

Clerked for Justice Rebecca Love-Kourlis

Denver, CO, May 1996-September 1996

Attorney

Rothgerber, Appel, Powers & Johnson, LLP (now Rothgerber, Johnson & Lyons)
Denver, CO, August 1995-April 1996

- Summer Associate, Summer 1994
- Corporate and Securities Practice Group
- Real Estate Practice Group
- Member of the Colorado Bar Association 1995-1998.

Judicial Extern Clerk, United States Federal District Court

Clerked for the Honorable Judge Charles A. Legge. Fall 1994.
San Francisco, CA, Fall 1994

Legislative Assistant, European Parliament

Legislative Assistant to T.J. Maher, Irish M.P. and Christian Ehlers, German M.P.
Brussels, Belgium, Spring 1991