

J. Michael Hoffpauir

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Political Science, Claremont Graduate University, 2017
Fields: Political Philosophy and American Politics

M.A., Political Science, Boston College, 2007
Fields: Political Theory and American Politics

B.A., Political Science, Louisiana State University, 2003

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

University of Austin, Assistant Professor of Political Theory, 2024-

Arizona State University, Instructor, School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership,
2023-2024

Clemson University, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, and Associate
Director, Lyceum Program, 2018-2023

Hillsdale College, Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Politics, 2017-2018

INVITED FACULTY POSITIONS

Hudson Institute, Faculty Member, Hudson Institute Political Studies, 2018-
Course taught: The American Founding (summer 2026-2021, 2019)
Course taught: Political Foundings (summer 2018)

American Enterprise Institute, Faculty Member, 1789 Fellowship in American Political Thought
& Modern Practice, 2022
Course taught: Tocqueville: Citizenship and Civil Society (summer 2022)

Clemson University, Faculty Member, Clemson Summer Scholars, 2019-2022
Course taught: Statesmanship and Greatness (summer 2022, 2021, 2019)

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Between Socrates and the Many: A Study of Plato's Crito. Lexington Books, 2020

Book Chapters

“The Road to Freedom: Seneca on Fear, Reason, and Death,” in *Political Theory on Death and Dying: Key Thinkers*. Ed. Erin A. Dolgoy et al. Routledge, 2021

Book Reviews

“[Abraham Lincoln and the Union of Sentiments: On His Greatest Speeches](#),” *The James Madison Review of Books* (Winter 2024)

Encyclopedia Entries

“[Plato’s Political Thought](#),” (with Mark Blitz). *Oxford Bibliographies in Political Science*. Ed. L. Sandy Maisel. Oxford University Press, 2016 (updated, 2019)

Other Publications

[Leo Strauss 1971-1972 Course on Nietzsche’s Beyond Good and Evil](#). Ed. Mark Blitz, Jay Michael Hoffpauir, and Gayle McKeen. Chicago: The Leo Strauss Center at the University of Chicago, 2014

Public Scholarship

Co-host of “[The Good Government Podcast](#),” a program on politics, philosophy, literature, and history, with new episodes bi-weekly and over 3000 downloads since Spring 2025

“[America 250: Reflecting on George Washington’s ‘Farewell Address](#),” *The Plains Sentinel* (February 2026)

“[What the Ancients Might Teach Us About Civic Education](#),” *Jack Miller Center* (May 2025)
[Featured in RealClear Politics \(May 2025\)](#)

“[In Praise of Vanity](#),” *Inside UATX* (November 2024)
Revised and reprinted as “[Benjamin Franklin’s Scandalous Praise of Vanity](#),” in *RealClear History* (April 2025)

“[A Liberal and Civic Education for All](#),” *Law & Liberty* (September 2024)
Named among “[The Best of 2024](#)” by Law & Liberty Editors

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2021, Institute for Humane Studies Grant Award for Parents’ Reading Group at Clemson University (Grant awarded)

2019-2023, Jack Miller Center Grant for Constitution Day Events and Lecture Series at Clemson University

2017, 2010-2013, Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation Graduate Fellowship

2013, 2008-2010, Henry Salvatori Center for the Study of Individual Freedom in the Modern World Fellowship

2012-2011, 2009, 2008, Claremont Political Philosophy Association. Grant Awarded by Claremont Graduate University, Transdisciplinary Department

2010-2007, Claremont Graduate University, School of Politics and Economics Fellowship

INVITED TALKS

2026, “An Education for a Self-Governing People.” James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation Summer Institute, Washington, District of Columbia

2026, “Felicity in Benjamin Franklin’s *Autobiography*.” Hudson Institute Political Studies Alumni Event, Washington, District of Columbia

2026, “Liberty and Property Rights: The United States vs The Outer Space Treaty.” Torchlight Summit: Foundations for Freedom Beyond Earth, Austin, Texas

2025, “Good Government in the *Federalist Papers*.” James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation Summer Institute, Washington, District of Columbia

2025, “The Death of Socrates.” Telos Academy, Claremont Institute

2023, “Statesmanship in Speech and Deed: On Washington’s Farewell Address.” Hudson Institute Political Studies Parents Association

2023, “Publius’ Political Science.” James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation Summer Institute, Washington, District of Columbia

2021, “A Place to Ride at Anchor: Reading Seneca’s *On Leisure*.” Hudson Institute Political Studies Alumni Event

2019, “Virtue, Law, and Property in Machiavelli’s *Prince*.” Politics and Economics Lecture Series, Coastal Carolina University, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Papers Presented

2026, “Machiavelli’s Knives.” Southern Political Science Association Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana

- 2019, “Machiavelli’s Republican Virtue.” American Political Science Association Conference, Washington, District of Columbia
- 2015, “On Machiavelli’s *Discourses on Livy*.” American Political Science Association Conference, San Francisco, California
- 2014, “On Friends, Enemies, and Plato.” Southern Political Science Association Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana
- 2013, “On Gratitude and Ingratitude in Machiavelli’s *Discourses on Livy*.” Western Political Science Association Conference, Los Angeles, California
- 2012, “The Two Contracts of Plato’s *Crito*.” Southwestern Political Science Association Conference, San Diego, California
- 2012, National Forum on Civility and American Democracy Web Conference Participant, Boston, Massachusetts
- 2012, “On Book IV of Plato’s *Laws*.” Southern Political Science Association Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana
- 2009, “On War and Injustice in Machiavelli’s *Discourses on Livy*.” Claremont Graduate University Transdisciplinary Conference, Claremont, California
- 2008, “American Cupidity and American Science: Bacon and Tocqueville.” Claremont Graduate University Transdisciplinary Conference, Claremont, California

CAMPUS TALKS

- 2026, “Realism and Morality.” University of Austin Founders Weekend, Austin, Texas
- 2026, “Ambition and Founding.” Futures II with UATX & Palantir, Austin, Texas
- 2026, “Philosophy and Politics.” University of Austin: High School Honors, Pheonix, Arizona
- 2025, “The Perpetuation of Our Political Institutions: On Abraham Lincoln’s ‘Lyceum Address.’” University of Austin, Families and Founders Weekend, Austin, Texas
- 2025, “Machiavelli and the Goodness (or Evil) of Modernity.” University of Austin, Parent’s Summer Series, Austin, Texas
- 2025, “Political Realism: Effectual Truth in Machiavelli’s *Prince*.” University of Austin, Admitted Students Weekend, Austin, Texas

2024, “George Washington and Civil Religion.” University of Austin, Families and Founders Weekend, Austin, Texas

2018-2023, “Summer Fellowships, Internships, and Graduate School.” Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina

2018, “How and Why to Read Plato.” Graduate Student Society Lecture Series, Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, Michigan

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Austin

Plato and Aristotle (spring 2026)

Polaris Ideas: The Morality of Creativity (winter 2026)

Socrates (winter 2026)

Beginning of Politics (fall 2025 x 2)

Knowing, Doing, Making, Wisdom (fall 2024)

Polaris Ideas (fall 2024)

Arizona State University

Great Ideas of Politics and Ethics (spring 2024 x 2, fall 2023)

Great Debates in American Politics (spring 2024, fall 2023 x 2)

Clemson University

Introduction to Political Theory (spring 2023, fall 2022, fall 2021, fall 2020, spring 2020, fall 2019, spring 2019, fall 2018 x 2)

Contemporary Political Thought (spring 2023) Modern Political Thought (fall 2022)

Wisdom of the Ancients (spring 2022, spring 2021)

Political Leadership (spring 2022, spring 2021, spring 2020) Political Rhetoric (fall 2021)

Political Thought of the American Founding (fall 2020)

Hillsdale College

The United States Constitution (spring 2018, fall 2017 x 2) Classical Political Philosophy (spring 2018)

Graduate Seminar: Plato’s Dialogues (spring 2018)

American Government: Executive-Congressional Relations (fall 2017)

California State University, Fullerton

Graduate Seminar: Readings in Political Philosophy (spring 2017)

California State University, San Bernardino

Postmodern Political Thought (spring 2017)

Introduction to American Government (winter 2013, fall 2012)

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Introduction to Political Theory (fall 2013)

UNDERGRADUATE MENTORSHIP

University of Austin

2024-, Faculty Advisor, Student Library Lectures

2024-, Faculty Advisor, Plato Reading Group

Clemson University

2021-2023, Thesis Director:

W.G., “Virtue and Politics in Plato’s Meno”

E.B., “The Beautiful in Plato’s Greater Hippias”

M.J., “On Nietzsche’s The Gay Science”

S.G.V., “Statesmanship in Shakespeare’s Henry V”

A.B., “Borders and the Bosnian War”

2019-2023, Clemson University, American Enterprise Institute (AEI) Executive Council, Advisor

2018-2023, Scholarships and Fellowships Advisor

Hillsdale College

2017-2018, Thesis Director:

L.S., “Skilled Trades and Education”

COLLOQUIA AND FELLOWSHIPS

2026, Law & Liberty, Conference, “Constitutionalism and American Liberty,” Savannah, Georgia

2025, Law & Liberty, Conference, “Conservatism and Liberty,” Indianapolis, Indiana

2025, Liberty Fund, VRG, “Liberty and the American Statesman: George Washington”

2024, Liberty Fund, VRG, “On Cruelty Well-Used: Machiavelli and Realism”

2023, Liberty Fund, Colloquium, “Massachusettensis versus Novanglus: Contending Claims of Liberty and Authority on the Eve of the American Revolution”

2022, Common Sense Society, Carolina Fellowship, Bluffton, South Carolina

2012, Jack Miller Center, Summer Institute Fellowship, Chicago, Illinois

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Rhetorica: A Journal of the History of Rhetoric, Johns Hopkins University Press, Peer Reviewer

James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation, Selection Committee Member

Political Research Quarterly, Sage Publications, Peer Reviewer

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Available upon request

LANGUAGES

Attic Greek, intermediate reading level

REFERENCES

Available upon request