

WILLIAM M. CURTIS

Department of Political Science
University of Portland
5000 N. Willamette Blvd
Portland OR, 97203
(503)-781-9034
curtisw@up.edu

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 & Global Affairs, 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

“Rorty and the L-Word,” *Contemporary Pragmatism* (forthcoming)

“Poetic Justice?: Rorty’s Jurisprudence,” in *The Ethics, Epistemology, and Politics of Richard Rorty*, ed. Giancarlo Marchetti (Routledge, forthcoming in 2021)

“Contingency, Freedom, and Classical Liberalism: Calcaterra and Rorty’s Politics,” *European Journal of Pragmatism and American Philosophy*, XII-2 (December 2020)

“Democracy vs. Neoliberalism: The Second Dewey-Lippmann Debate,” *American Political Thought*, 9(2) (Spring 2020): 285-316

“Rhetoric Between Philosophy and Poetry: Rorty as Essayist,” in *A Companion to Rorty*, ed. Alan Malachowski (Wiley-Blackwell, 2020): 119-134

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

- Revised version included in the *Handbuch Richard Rorty*, ed. Martin Müller (Wiesbaden, Germany: Springer, 2020)

“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. Laretta Frederking (Routledge, 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*, 6 (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 and Legal Theory,” Richard Rorty Society Conference, Penn State University, University Park, PA, November 22-24, 2019.

“Law vs. Democracy: The Second Dewey-Lippmann Debate,” Western Political Science Association Annual Conference, San Diego, CA, April 18-20, 2019

“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

Book Reviews

Review of *In the Ruins of Neoliberalism*, by Wendy Brown (Columbia University Press, 2019) in *American Political Thought*, 9(2) (Spring 2020): 347-351

Short Book Reviews for Choice (190 words)

The Stakes: 2020 and the Survival of American Democracy, Robert Kuttner (WW Norton & Co., 2019)

The Limits of Liberalism: Tradition, Individualism, and the Crisis of Freedom, by Mark T. Mitchell (Notre Dame, 2019)

In Defense of Openness: Why Global Freedom is the Humane Solution to Global Poverty, by Bas Van Der Vossen and Jason Brennan (Oxford, 2018)

Exploring the Political Economy and Social Philosophy of FA Hayek, ed. Peter J. Boettke, et al. (Rowman & Littlefield, 2018)

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

Shepard’s Shepherd Award, 2021 – recognition for teaching chosen by First-Year students

Jack Miller Center Grant – speakers series for Constitutional Studies minor, 2021
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
POL 423 – Jurisprudence and Constitutional Interpretation
POL 430 – Ethics and Public Policy

University of Portland Service

Primary Appointments:

- Chair, Department of Political Science & Global Affairs, 2016-2020
- Director of Constitutional Studies Minor, 2019-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; 2020-present
- 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, 2013-2020
- Study Abroad Director Search Committee, 2015
- Chair, Political Science Search Committee, 2013
- Political Science Search Committee, 2010, 2018
- Red Mass Planning Committee (Garaventa Center), 2008-2014, 2016-2019

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: Oxford University Press (2020)

American Political Science Review (2021)

American Political Thought (2020)

Utopian Studies (2020)

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: "The 2018-2019 SCOTUS Term," 2018

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
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