

THOMAS W. MERRILL
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Current Positions:

Associate Professor of Government, School of Public Affairs, American University, 2015–present
Associate Director, Political Theory Institute at American University, 2015–present.

Previous Experience:

Visiting Fellow, James Madison Program for American Ideals and Institutions, Princeton University, Fall 2017
Interim Chair, Department of Government, School of Public Affairs, American University (2016-17)
Assistant Professor, Department of Government, School of Public Affairs, American University, 2009–2015
Forbes Visiting Fellow, James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions, Princeton University, 2011–12
Senior Research Analyst, President’s Council on Bioethics, 2008–2009. Research Analyst, 2007–2008. Research Consultant, 2006–2007
Assistant Professor (Tutor), St. John’s College, Annapolis, 2006–2009
Postdoctoral Fellow, Program on Constitutional Government, Harvard University, 2004–2005
Postdoctoral Fellow, American Enterprise Institute, 2003–2004

Education:

Ph.D., Duke University, Department of Political Science, 2003
MA, Duke University, Department of Political Science. Passed Preliminary Exams with Distinction, 1999
BA, University of Chicago, 1996

Administrative Experience:

Interim Chair, Department of Government, 2016-17. Oversaw annual budget of \$110,000; coordinates scheduling for approximately 100 class sections per semester; handles term and adjunct faculty appointments and reappointments; oversaw reform to cut the number of credits in the Political Science Major
Coordinator for the Undergraduate Program in the Department of Government, 2015-16. Led syllabus review each semester; coordinated the first year of the “Conversations with SPA Alumni” speaker series; very engaged with AU’s replacement of its General Education program with the new AUCore.

Fundraising and Institution Building:

Create Political Theory Institute at American University in collaboration with Alan Levine
Raised external funds to support PTI:

Through the SPA Development Office (Grants from Thomas W. Smith, Donner, Donner Canada, Jack Miller/Veritas Foundations): **\$477,000**
Through Office of Sponsored Programs as PI or Co-PI (Koch Foundation): **\$36,000**
Personal Research Funding: **\$49,500**

Total fundraising: \$562,750

Research grant: one course buyout (Spring 2018); summer funding (Koch Foundation)
\$32,000

Publications:

Book: *Hume and the Politics of Enlightenment*. Cambridge University Press, 2015.
Winner of the Delba Winthrop Award for Best Recent Work in Political Philosophy
Reviewed in *Perspectives on Politics*, *Perspectives on Political Science*, *Review of Metaphysics*, *Library of Law and Liberty* (online), and *Voegelin View*.
Subject of a podcast at *Libertarianism.org*, a website of the Cato Institute

Peer-Reviewed Articles:

“Investigating Morality with David Hume.” *Polity* 28 #1 (Winter 2016): 82-108.
“Hume’s Socratism.” *Review of Politics* 77 (2015): 23-45.
“The Later Jefferson and the Problem of Natural Rights.” *Perspectives on Political Science* 44 (2) (2015): 122-30.
“Health Care and the Technological Project.” *Perspectives on Political Science* 40 (1): 1–8 (2011).
“Distracted by Religion: On Doing Bioethics in Public.” *Perspectives on Political Science* 38 (2): 107–12 (2009).
“The Rhetoric of Rebellion in Hume’s Constitutional Thought.” *Review of Politics* 67 (2): 257–82 (2005).

Edited Volumes:

The Political Thought of the Civil War. Edited by Thomas W. Merrill, Alan Levine, and James Stoner. Includes essays by Diana Schaub, Michael Zuckert, Steven Smith, Keith Whittington, James Read, William B. Allen, James Stoner, Alan Levine, and Thomas Merrill. Forthcoming summer 2018 from the University Press of Kansas.
Apples of Gold in Pictures of Silver: Essays Honoring the Work of Leon R. Kass. Ed. Thomas W. Merrill, Yuval Levin, and Adam Schulman. Lexington Press, 2010. Reviewed in *Weekly Standard* and *First Things*.
Human Dignity and Bioethics. Ed. Thomas W. Merrill, Adam Schulman, and Edmund Pellegrino. Notre Dame, 2009. Reviewed in 14 academic and public affairs journals, including *JAMA*, *New England Journal of Medicine*, *The Lancet*, *The New Republic*, and *First Things*.

Other Academic Work: Co-editor of special issue of *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* (with Dan Klein, Department of Economics, George Mason University).
Topic: Esotericism and Liberalism. Expected Publication, 2019.

Book Chapters and Other Academic Publications:

“Hume Contra Humean Practical Reason.” Forthcoming in *The Modern Turn* (Catholic University of America Press, 2015), edited by Michael C. Rohlf.

“Metaphysics or Theology?” Published as part of a symposium on Michael Gillespie’s *Theological Origins of Modernity* in *Review of Politics* 72: 687–95 (2010).
“Children of Skeptics.” In *Apples of Gold in Pictures of Silver: Honoring the Work of Leon R. Kass*. Ed. Thomas W. Merrill, Yuval Levin, and Adam Schulman. Lexington (2010).

Academic Book Reviews:

Review of Siep Stuurman, *The Invention of Humanity: Equality and Cultural Difference in World History* (Harvard, 2017). *Voegelin View*, forthcoming.
Review of Alexander Duff, *Heidegger and Politics: The Ontology of Radical Discontent* (Cambridge, 2015). *Interpretation* 44 #2 (Winter 2018).
Review of Emily Nacol, *An Age of Risk: Politics and Economy in Early Modern Britain* (Princeton, 2016). *Review of Politics*, 80 (2017).
Review of Richard Hassing, *Cartesian Psychophysics and the Whole Nature of Man* (Lexington, 2015). *Perspectives on Political Science*, 2017.
Review of Robert Lamb, *Thomas Paine and the Idea of Human Right* (Cambridge, 2015). *Perspectives on Politics* 14 #2 (June 2016).
Review of *Hume’s Politics: Coordination and Crisis in Hume’s History of England* (Princeton, 2012), by Andrew Sabl. *Review of Politics* 76 (Summer 2014).
Review of *Logos and Eros: Essays Honoring Stanley Rosen* (St. Augustine’s Press, 2006), ed. by Nalin Ranasinghe. *Review of Metaphysics* 61 #3: 656–58 (2008).
Review of *Leo Strauss and the Theologico-Political Problem*, by Heinrich Meier (Cambridge, 2006). *Review of Metaphysics* 60 #4: 872–74 (2007).
Review of *Manliness*, by Harvey Mansfield (Yale, 2006). *Society* 44 #3: 98–100 (2007).
Review of *Michael Oakeshott: An Introduction* (Yale, 2006), by Paul Franco. *Society* 43 #1: 98–100 (2005).

Nonacademic Publications:

“Masters and Possessors of Nature.” Review essay of several books on Descartes. *The New Atlantis* 19: 91–107 (2008).
Review of *The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief*, by Francis Collins (Free Press, 2006). *The New Atlantis* 14: 113–17 (2006).
Review of *Breaking the Spell: Religion as a Natural Phenomenon*, by Daniel Dennett. *Weekly Standard* 11 #46: 39–40 (Aug. 21/28, 2006).
Writings for President’s Council on Bioethics: “Medical Care and the Common Good”; “Health and Medical Care Reform: Ethical Questions and Concerns”; “The Council’s Inquiry into Health Care: Progress to Date, Key Questions, and Possible Future Directions.” Available at bioethics.georgetown.edu/pcbe/

Academic Honors:

Invitation to speak in nationally known lecture series hosted by the School of Philosophy at Catholic University of America, Fall 2010. Video of the lecture available at: <http://video.cua.edu/ACADEMICS/PHIL/lecturesFALL10.cfm>
Awarded internationally competitive residential fellowship by James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions, Princeton University, 2011-12
Invited to participate in Jack Miller Center Summer Institute in Chicago, IL, 2010

Public Outreach and Speaking Engagements:

Program on Constitutionalism and Democracy, University of Virginia, 2011, 2012, 2014

Ethics and Lobbying Workshop at American University, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014
Books That Shaped America at Bender Library, American University, 2013
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, American University, 2013, 2014

Work with Political Theory Institute at American University:

Associate Director (Invited speakers, scheduled lectures, etc.), 2015-16, 2016-17

Coordinated lecture series “The Political Theory of the Civil War,” 2010-11

Janus Forum Debate: “Is Gay Marriage Good for America?” with Jonathan Rauch (Brookings Institute) and Justin Raimondo (Antiwar.com). Available at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CDU9kMtVVuE>

Janus Forum Debate: “Gender Roles: Nature or Nurture?” with Camille Paglia (University of the Arts) and Jane Flax (American University). Available at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ksgZnPPy9rQ&list=UUBmZKbVyc7AyIODmkTtVLjQ>

Janus Forum Debate: “Economic Inequality: Causes and Consequences” with Charles Murray (American Enterprise Institute) and Tim Noah (Slate and MSNBC). Available at:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0TshYEfxIgM&list=TLKvmFve31DtBRae_LVvfp_vchbW5b-QK4

Selected Conference Presentations and Participation:

Roundtable on Sabl’s *Hume’s Politics*, American Political Science Association (APSA) annual meeting, 2014. Chair and participant

“The Later Jefferson and the Problem of Natural Rights.” APSA annual meeting, 2013

Panel on “The Political Theory of the Civil War.” Southern Political Science Association (SPSA) meeting, 2013. Chair and discussant

“Hume contra Humean Practical Reason.” SPSA meeting, 2012

Panel on “Strauss and Heidegger.” SPSA meeting. 2012. Chair and discussant

Roundtable on Michael Gillespie’s *The Theological Origins of Modernity*. APSA annual meeting, 2008

“Jacob Klein’s Discontinuity Thesis: On Ancient and Modern Mathematics.” Midsouth Philosophy Conference, 2008

“Husserl’s Hume: On the Self-Consciousness of Modern Science.” Northeastern Political Science Association meeting, 2006

“Sympathy and the Self-Alienation of the Passions in Hume’s *Treatise of Human Nature*.” APSA annual meeting, 2002

“Nature, Convention, and Rebellion in Hume’s Political Philosophy.” Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) meeting, 2002.

“John Locke and the Doppelgangers of Justice: Deism in the *Reasonableness of Christianity*.” MPSA meeting, 2001.

Teaching Experience:

Intro to CLEG (Communication, Legal Institutions, Economics, and Government Major), Spring 2017. Developed a new curriculum for this 100-level introduction to the CLEG major with a view to fostering more debate at AU about political ideas. Authors and topics covered include Federalist Papers, Woodrow Wilson, Franklin Roosevelt, William

Brennan and Antonin Scalia, Keynes and Hayek, and realism and liberalism in foreign affairs.

Inequality. Fall 2015, Fall 2016. A new class developed by me; authors covered include Hacker and Pierson, Murray, Putnam, Cowen, Levin, and Frank, as well as Aristotle, Locke, Rousseau, and Marx

Individual Freedom vs. Authority. Fall and Spring terms 2009–14. Authors covered include Plato, Aristophanes, Mill, Tocqueville, Marx, Nietzsche, among others

Bioethics and Politics. Spring terms 2013, 2014. Authors covered include Descartes, Huxley, George and Tollefsen, Jarvis Thomson, Saletan, Kass, and others

Liberalism and Its Critics. Fall terms 2013, 2014. Authors covered include Machiavelli, Mandeville, Hume, Rousseau, Smith, and Marx

Ethical Issues in Public Policy. Fall terms, 2009, 2010. Authors covered include Milton Friedman, Paul Krugman, John Rawls, Robert Nozick, William Julius Wilson, Charles Murray and others

The Political Theory of the Civil War. Spring 2011. Authors covered include Jefferson, Madison, Douglass, Calhoun, Stowe, and Lincoln

American Political Thought, Spring 2010. Authors and books covered include Jefferson, *Federalist Papers*, Tocqueville, Thoreau, and Lincoln

Taught Great Books Curriculum at St. John's College, Annapolis, 2006–2008

Professional Membership and Service:

Member, American Political Science Association

Member, Southern Political Science Association

Reviewer, *American Political Science Review*

Reviewer, *Review of Politics*

Reviewer, *Perspectives on Political Science*

Reviewer, *American Political Thought*

Reviewer, Broadview Books

Reviewer, Polity Books

CV updated: 11/27/2016