

JESSE COVINGTON
Westmont College
Department of Political Science
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Political Science, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN (2007)
M.A. Political Science, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN (2004)
M.A.R. Religion, Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, PA (2000)
B.A. Political Science Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA (1997)

APPOINTMENTS & TEACHING

Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA

Director, Augustinian Scholars Program (2017-Present)

Professor, Political Science (2019-Present)

Associate Professor, Political Science (2013-2019)

Assistant Professor, Political Science (2007-2013)

- Political Theory and Ideology (POL 30)
- Constitutional Law (POL 104)
- Classical Political Theory (POL 130)
- Modern Political Theory (POL 131)
- Contemporary Political Theory (POL-133)
- American Political Thought (POL 132)
- Christianity and Politics (POL 140)
- Augustine and the Christian Tradition: Faith Seeking Understanding (IS-010H)
- Augustine and the Christian Tradition: Pilgrim Citizens (IS-020H)

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ—James Madison Program in American Ideals & Institutions

William E. Simon Visiting Fellow in Religion and Public Life (2014-15)

Wheaton College, Wheaton IL—Department of Politics and International Relations

Visiting Instructor (2005-2007)

- American Politics and Government (PSCI 135)
- Political Philosophy (PSCI 145)
- The First Amendment and the Supreme Court (PSCI 380)
- Voting Behavior and Political Participation (PSCI 390)

Guest Instructor (Spring 2005)

- Political Philosophy (PSCI 145)
- American Political Thought (PSCI 348)
- Christian Political Thought (PSCI 349)

CURRENT PROJECTS

- *Taken on Faith: The Concept of Religion in First Amendment Jurisprudence* [book manuscript].
- *The Moralists' Dilemma: Evangelical Christianity, Natural Law, and Democratic Politics* [book manuscript, with Bryan McGraw and Micah Watson; currently under review].

PUBLICATIONS

- “Augustine’s Aspirational Imperfectionism: What Should We Hope for from Politics?” in *Public Justice Review* Vol. VII, Issue. 4. Fall 2018.
- “Review of *John Rawls and Christian Social Engagement*, edited by Anthony Bradley and Greg Forster.” In *Politics and Religion*, Volume 10, Issue 2. February 2017.
- “Response to Jeremy Geddert.” (Originally “The Pathway from Pre-Modernity: Mapping Grotius’ Location.”) in *Nature: Ancient and Modern*, Lexington Books. 2016.
- “Review of *First Amendment Religious Liberties: Supreme Court Decisions and Public Opinion*, by Tracy Cook” in *American Political Thought* V:3. Summer 2016.
- “Why Vote? Towards Civic Faithfulness” in *Capital Commentary*. October 10, 2016.
- “The Electoral College: Balancing Competing Goods” in *Capital Commentary*. May 2, 2016.
- “The Supreme Court: Guardian or Threat” in *Capital Commentary*. June 8, 2015.
- “Sticks, Stones, and Speech” in *Capital Commentary*. March 9, 2015.
- Review essay of James K.A. Smith’s *Imagining the Kingdom: How Worship Works*, for *Books and Culture*. with Maurice Lee, Sarah Skripsky, and Lesa Stern. January/February 2014.
- “The Grammar of Virtue: St. Augustine and the Natural Law.” in *Evangelical Political Theory and Natural Law*. Edited by Jesse Covington, Bryan McGraw, and Micah Watson. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books. 2012.
- “Introduction” and “Editorial Epilogue.” with Bryan McGraw and Micah Watson in *Evangelical Political Theory and Natural Law*. Edited by Jesse Covington, Bryan McGraw, and Micah Watson. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books. 2012.
- “Habits of the Heart and Mind.” with Maurice Lee, Sarah Skripsky, and Lesa Stern. Review Essay of *Teaching and Christian Practices: Reshaping Faith and Learning*, Ed. by David I. Smith and James K.A. Smith, in *Books and Culture* 18:4, July/August 2012.
- “Thomas v. Review Board” and “Reindeer Rule” in *Encyclopedia of the First Amendment*. Edited by David Hudson, David Schultz and John Vile. CQ Press. 2008.
- “John Locke: Towards a Politics of Liberty.” (Michael Zuckert, Jesse Covington and James Thompson) in Richard Velkley, ed., *Freedom and the Human Person*. Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press. 2007.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

- “Natural Law, Poverty, and Human Trafficking.” Presented at *The Henry Symposium on Religion and Public Life*, Henry Institute for the Study of Christianity and Politics, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, April 27-29, 2017
- “Looking both Ways on the Road to Reform—A Response to Steven Justice.” Presented at the *Berkeley Institute Faculty Colloquium on Higher Education*, Berkeley, CA, August 2, 2015.
- “Pilgrim Politics: Augustinian Natural Law for a Pluralist Democratic Order.” Presented at *The Biennial Henry Symposium on Religion and Public Life*, Calvin College, April 30-May 2, 2015
- “The Pathway from Pre-Modernity: Mapping Grotius’ Location—A Response to Jeremy Geddert.” Presented at *Nature: Ancient and Modern*, Agora Institute for Civic Virtue and the Common Good, April 17-19, 2015

- “Religious Rights and the Definitional Problem: What Sociological Approaches Can and Cannot Accomplish for First Amendment Jurisprudence.” Presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association*, March 2013.
- “The Politics of Exile: St. Augustine and Faithful Presence.” Presented at on at the *Bi-Annual Meeting of Christians in Political Science*, Gordon College, May 2012.
- “Christian Formation and the Liberal Arts: Critical Engagement and Application” Presented at *Educating for Wisdom in the 21st Century University*. Baylor University, October 2011.
- “Folly to the Nations? Cultural Apologetics, Natural Law, and Evangelical Political Thought.” Presented at the *Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association*, September 2009.
- “Towards an Agenda for Evangelical Political Thought: Preliminary Hurdles.” Presented at the *Fourth Biennial Symposium on Religion and Politics*, Calvin College, April 2008.
- “Thought, Word, and Deed: Religion Before the Supreme Court 1961-1981” Presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association*, April 2007.
- “Natural Rights and Social Duty: The Conceptual Boundaries of Religion in Free Exercise Jurisprudence 1879-1961.” Presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association*, January 2007.
- “The Problem of Mixed Motives: Towards Clarity in First Amendment Jurisprudence.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the *Midwest Political Science Association*, April 2005.
- “Human Subjects at the Federal Bench: The Social Science that Justices Do.” Presented as a poster at the Annual Meeting of the *Midwest Political Science Association*, April 2005.
- “‘Under God’ Under the Microscope: Re-thinking the Pledge of Allegiance and the Establishment Clause.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the *Midwest Political Science Association*, April 2004.
- “Sticks and Stones: Comparative Constitutional Perspectives on Understandings of the Human Person in the Restriction of Harmful Speech.” Presented at the *Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association*, September 2003.
- “On What Authority? Citation Religiosity in Aquinas on Justice in *Summa Theologica*.” Presented at the inaugural conference for the *Association for Political Theory*, October 2003.
- “Natural Religion and Revealed Religion in Locke: On the Place of Christianity in the First Treatise.” (Michael Zuckert, Jesse Covington and James Thompson). Presented at the *Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association*, September 2003.
- “The Key to Locke: ‘Who Heir?’ and the Subversive Theological Project in Locke’s First Treatise of Government.” (with James Thompson). Presented at the *Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association*, November 2002.

INVITED LECTURES & PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

- “Embattled Civil Liberties: Speech, Religion, and the First Amendment.” Invited panelist lecture at *Northwood University*, Michigan. October 9, 2017.
- “Round Table on Teaching the U.S. Constitution.” Invited panelist for *Rothermere American Institute’s Seminar in Constitutional Thought and History*, *Christ Church College, Oxford University*, Oxford, UK. June 2016.
- “Taken on Faith: The Concept of Religion in First Amendment Jurisprudence.” Invited Presentation for the "Crossroads in Politics and Religion" series at the *Woodrow Wilson School of Public & International Affairs with the Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University*, November 2014.

- “The Doctrine of (an) Election: Ultimate Beliefs and the 2012 Presidential Race.” Invited Presentation to the *Westmont College Board of Advisors*. November 2012.
- Response to Tom Knecht’s Paul C. Wilt Phi Kappa Phi Lecture: “You’re Voting Wrong! How Americans Get Elections Wrong and Why It Matters.” *Westmont College*. October 2012.
- “Religion in the 2012 Election: What Difference Is It Making?” (Co-presented with Telford Work). *Westmont Downtown Lecture Series*, October 2012.
- “Christian Formation and the Liberal Arts: Critical Engagement and Application.” Invited for presentation to the Faculty of Point Loma Nazarene University on April 13, 2012. (Co-Presented with Maurice Lee, Sarah Skripsky, and Lesa Stern).
- “Christian Formation and the Liberal Arts: Critical Engagement and Application.” Faculty Exchange at Westmont College, January 20th, 2012. (Co-Presented with Maurice Lee, Sarah Skripsky, and Lesa Stern).
- Scholar in Residence, Trinity Forum Academy, Easton, MD. Speaking on Augustine and politics, natural law, and First Amendment religious liberties. March 15-19, 2010.
- “Lincoln’s Legacy: Race, Liberty, and the Rule of Law.” (Co-presented with Rick Pointer) Santa Barbara County Law Foundation Law Week, May 2009.
- “Diversity in the 2008 Election: Age, Race, and Gender.” (Co-presented with Elena Yee) *Tuesdays with Morals* at Westmont College, October 2008.
- “Does Religion Belong in Politics? Reflections in the Midst of the 2008 Campaign.” (Co-presented with Telford Work). *Westmont Downtown Lecture Series*, October 2008.

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS

- Westmont College Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award, 2017-18—Social Science Division.
- Student Research Assistant Grant from the Charles G. Koch Foundation, supporting a book project on religious liberty, 2011-2012.
- Church and State Seminar Invitee “Protestantism and the American Revolution”, Witherspoon Institute, Summer 2010, Princeton, NJ.
- Westmont College Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award, 2009-10—Social Science Division.
- Westmont College Faculty Development Grant, Summer 2008 (book project research); Summer 2010 (conference organization and writing); Summer 2012 (conference paper; book chapter; book editing).
- Summer Fellow, Lehrman Summer Institute, 2007 (Lehrman American Studies Center / Princeton University James Madison Program).
- Phillip Moore Dissertation Year Fellowship, 2004-05 (University of Notre Dame).
- GSU Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award, 2004 (Graduate Student Union, University of Notre Dame). Annual award granted to one teaching assistant in the graduate school.
- Outstanding Student Teacher Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2004. (Kanab Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Notre Dame).
- McCullough Fellowship in Ethics & Public Morality, 2001-04 (University of Notre Dame).
- Summer Scholar, Civitas Program in Faith and Public Affairs, 2003 (Washington, DC).

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE

- Westmont College Academic Senate*, Spring 2020-present.
- Political Science Department Chair*, June 2016-present.
- Westmont Europe Semester Co-Director*. Fall 2018.
- Westmont College Faculty Personnel Committee, 2016-18.*
- Augustinian Scholars Program Development Task Force Member*, 2015-present.
- External Program Reviewer* for Political Science department at Azusa Pacific University. Fall 2016.
- Incident Manager, Westmont College Risk Management Team*. 2012-Present.
- Director of Global Education Search Committee*, Westmont College. Spring 2016
- Westmont Europe Semester Co-Director*. Fall 2013.
- Faculty Council*, Westmont College. 2011-2014. (Secretary 2011-2012)
- Pre-Law Advisor*, Westmont College. 2008-Present.
- Professional Development Committee*, Westmont College. 2008-2011; Chair, 2009-2011.
- Faculty Secretary*, Westmont College. 2008-2010.
- Political Science Department Co-Chair and Assessment Representative*, Spring 2010.
- Departmental Diversity Recruitment Specialist*, Political Science Department, Westmont College. 2008-2013.
- Political Science Department Faculty Search Committee*, Westmont College. Fall 2008.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- American Political Science Association
- Christians in Political Science
- Trustee, Center for Public Justice (2016-present)