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Department of Political Science  
University of North Texas  
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## **EDUCATION**

### **University of North Texas**

Doctor of Philosophy, Political Science, December 2009  
(successful defense, September 23, 2009)  
Specialization: Political Theory and Comparative Politics

### **University of Alberta (Canada)**

Master of Arts, Political Science, August 2004  
Thesis Title: *Prospero's Return: An Interpretation of 'The Tempest'*  
Thesis Supervisor: Dr. Leon H. Craig

### **University of Alberta (Canada)**

Bachelor of Arts, Honors Program, Political Science, May 2002  
Thesis Title: *Considerations on Machiavelli's Account of Fortune*  
Thesis Supervisor: Dr. Heidi D. Studer

## **DISSERTATION**

*Letters and Liberty in the Democratic Age: Alexis de Tocqueville on Literature, Language, and Thought in Modern Democracy*

Committee: Dr. Steven Forde (Chair), Dr. Richard Ruderman, Dr. John Booth, Dr. Martin Yaffe

*Abstract: When Alexis de Tocqueville observed the spread of modern democracy across France, England, and the United States, he saw democracy giving rise to a new state of letters that influenced how democratic citizens and statesmen understood the new political world. In an effort to direct, refine, and reshape political thought in democracy, Tocqueville undertook a critique of this state of letters, assessing democratic intellectual life and contributing his own ideas, concepts, and modes of speech to help citizens and statesmen think more coherently about democratic political life. Here, I analyze Tocqueville's critique of the democratic state of letters and offer an account of his efforts to reshape political language and letters for democracy. I show that Tocqueville's critique focuses on three subjects: the role of intellectuals in democratic regimes, the intellectual habits that democracy fosters, and the power of literary works for shaping democratic self-understanding. I argue that through his analysis of these subjects, Tocqueville offers a series of lessons to intellectuals on their role as writers, public figures, and political thinkers in the new democratic world, and provides them the means to improve political thought in democracy.*

## SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

American Political Thought  
American Politics  
Democratic Theory  
Literature and Politics  
Modern Political Thought  
The Political and Philosophical Foundations of Modern Science  
Classical Political Thought  
Comparative Politics

## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

**Teaching Fellow.** Department of Political Science, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas, Fall 2009 to present

**Dissertation Fellow.** Department of Political Science, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas, Fall 2008 to Fall 2009

**Jack Miller Center Summer Fellow.** Jack Miller Center for Teaching America's Founding Principles and History, and the Program on Constitutionalism and Democracy at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, July 2008

**Teaching Assistant and Grader.** Department of Political Science, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas, Fall 2004 to Spring 2008. American Government Courses. See "Courses Assisted," below.

**Editor.** Department of Political Science, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas, Summer 2007. Book and Book Proposal: Dr. Idean Sahleyan. *Rebels without Borders: State Boundaries, Transnational Opposition, Civil Conflict*, Cornell University Press, 2009.

**Editorial Assistant.** *International Studies Quarterly*. Department of Political Science, University of North Texas, Denton Texas, Fall 2006.

**Assistant Course Designer.** Department of Political Science, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas, Summer 2006. Course: Honors American Government: The American Political and Economic Experience, combined online and lecture format, under the supervision of Dr. Richard Ruderman

**Seminar Leader.** Department of Political Science, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, 2002-2004. Course: Introduction to the History of Political Philosophy: Plato to Rousseau

**Lecturer.** Department of Political Science, University of Alberta and University of North Texas, 2002 to present. Single day class lectures for a variety of courses. See "Class Lectures," below.

## PUBLICATIONS

“From Questionable Morals to Moral Questions: A Review of Mary Nichols, *Reconstructing Woody: Art Love and Life in the Films of Woody Allen*. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers:1998.” In *Interpretation: A Journal of Political Philosophy* 35, no. 1 (2007): 89-94.

### *Under Review*

“Alexis de Tocqueville on Enlightenment Ideas and the Democratic Intellect,” Submitted for review to *Perspectives on Political Science*, August, 2009.

## CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

### *Panelist*

“On the Place of the Ancients in Tocqueville’s Science of Politics.” Accepted for presentation at the Northeastern Political Science Association Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 2009.

“On the Liabilities of Descartes for Democracy: Tocqueville’s Critique of the Doctrines that Shape the Democratic Mind.” Panel: Reconsidering the Modern Psyche. Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, Illinois, April, 2009.

“Letters and Liberty in the Democratic Age: Alexis de Tocqueville on the Importance of the Literary Arts for Liberal Democracy.” Panel: Politics and Pathos: Philosophic Literature from Plato to Dostoyevsky. Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, Illinois, April, 2008.

“On the Political Lessons of Francis Bacon’s *New Organon*.” Panel: The Moderns on Science, Morality, and Politics. Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, Illinois, April, 2007.

### *Discussant*

Panel: Tocquevillian Political Science. Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, Illinois, April, 2009.

### *Invited Attendee*

Jack Miller Center Fellows Conference. Georgetown University, Washington, D.C, April 2009.

***Attendee***

American Political Science Association Conference, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, September, 2009.

North Texas Philosophical Association Conference. University of North Texas, April, 2009.

American Political Science Association Conference. Boston, Massachusetts, August, 2008.

Southwest Political Science Association Conference. San Antonio, Texas. March, 2006.

Lone Star Political Theory Group Conference. University of Texas at Dallas, October, 2005.

**CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE**

***Courses Taught***

Introduction to American Government I (two sections): Founding principles, American constitutionalism, major institutions, rights and liberties, Texas government

***Courses Assisted***

Introduction to American Government I: Founding principles, American constitutionalism, major institutions, rights and liberties, Texas government

Introduction to American Government II: elections, media, interest groups, public policy, economic policy, foreign policy, Texas government

Honors American Government: American Political and Economic Experience

History of Political Thought: Plato to Rousseau

***Class Lectures***

“Tocqueville’s Teaching on the Arts in *Democracy in America* II 1,” American Political Thought, Department of Political Science, University of North Texas, November, 2007

“On the Field of Political Theory and Approaches to Reading Theoretical Works,” Scope and Methods Seminar (Graduate Level), with Dr. Steven Forde, Department of Political Science, University of North Texas, November 2007

“On the Political Dimension of *Othello*,” Shakespeare’s Political Thought, Department of Philosophy and Religion Studies, University of North Texas, March 2006

“On the Question of Socrates’ Intention in Plato’s *Apology*,” Introduction to Ancient Philosophy, Department of Philosophy and Religion Studies, University of North Texas, April 2005

“On Aristotle’s *Physics β*,” Introduction to Ancient Philosophy, Department of Philosophy and Religion Studies, University of North Texas, February 2005

“On Francis Bacon’s “Prometheus, or the State of Man,” Topics in Political Theory: Francis Bacon’s *Wisdom of the Ancients*, Department of Political Science, University of Alberta, April 2004

“Political Prudence and Learning from Literary History: Lessons from Machiavelli’s *Prince*, Shakespeare’s *Julius Caesar*, and Nietzsche’s ‘On the Uses and Disadvantages of History for Life,’ ” Introduction to Political Philosophy, Department of Political Science, University of Alberta, March 2003

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

Sam B. McAlister Award for Outstanding Graduate Student in Political Science, March 2009 (\$100)

Toulouse School of Graduate Studies Dissertation Fellowship, University of North Texas, 2008 (\$20,000)

Summer Fellowship, Jack Miller Center for Teaching America’s Founding Principles and History, University of Virginia, 2008

Best Graduate Paper in Political Science, Paper Title: “Conjectures on Rousseau’s Account of Human Origins,” University of North Texas, Department of Political Science, 2006 (\$100)

Doctoral Student Grant, Department of Political Science, University of North Texas, 2006 and 2007 (\$1,000)

University of North Texas Scholarship, University of North Texas Scholarships and Awards Committee, 2006 and 2007 (\$2,500)

Toulouse School of Graduate Studies Academic Achievement Scholarship, University of North Texas 2004 and 2005 (\$1,000)

Pender Scholars Award, Department of Political Science, University of North Texas, 2005 (\$1,000)

Mary D. Walsh Award, University of North Texas Scholarships and Awards Committee, 2005 (\$2,500)

Language Study Grant for Ancient Greek, University of North Texas, Department of Political Science, 2005 (\$500)

## **LANGUAGES**

Intermediate French  
Basic Attic Greek

## **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

Reviewer, *Journal of Political Science Education*, July, 2009

Panel Organizer, “Reconsidering the Modern Psyche,” Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, Illinois, April, 2009.

Panel Organizer, “The Moderns on Science, Morality, and Politics.” Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, Illinois, April, 2007.

Reading Group Organizer, Montaigne’s *Essays*, Spring, 2008.

Graduate Student Representative, American Politics Race and Ethnicity Job Search, Department of Political Science, University of North Texas, 2007

Reading Group Organizer, Shakespeare’s *Henry V*, University of North Texas, Spring 2007.

Author of Graduate Student Handbook, Department of Political Science, University of North Texas, 2006

Reading Group Organizer, Plato’s *Phaedrus*, University of North Texas, Spring 2005.

Active Member, Political Science Graduate Students’ Association, Department of Political Science, University of Alberta, 2003-2004

## **PERSONAL INTERESTS**

Literature and Poetry

Journalism

Classical Music

Piano

Guitar

Yoga

Gardening

Mountaineering

Skiing

## REFERENCES

Dr. Steven Forde  
Professor of Political Science  
Department of Political Science  
University of North Texas  
1155 Union Circle, #305340  
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(940) 565-4999  
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Dr. Richard Ruderman  
Associate Professor of Political Science  
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Dr. John A. Booth  
Regents Professor of Political Science  
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Professor of Philosophy and Religion Studies  
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Professor Emeritus of Political Science  
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Edmonton, Alberta, Canada  
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