

ABIGAIL M. THOMAS

University of Texas-Austin • School of Civic Leadership
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EMPLOYMENT

Arizona State University	2025—
Assistant Professor	
University of Texas-Austin	2023-2025
Postdoctoral Fellow, School of Civic Leadership	
Princeton University	2022-2023
John and Daria Barry Postdoctoral Fellow, James Madison Program	

EDUCATION

University of Notre Dame	
Ph.D. in Political Science	2023
Certificate in Classics	2019
M.A. in Political Science	2018

Hiram College

B.A. in Philosophy and Political Science, *summa cum laude*, *ΦBK* 2015

PUBLICATIONS

Article

“Aristotle’s Political Science and the Training in Pleasures and Pains,” *Political Science Reviewer*, Vol. 47 No. 2 (2024), 17—34.

Book Chapter

“Friedrich Hayek on Freedom and Rule of Law in *The Constitution of Liberty*” in *Toward a Hayekian Theory of Social Change*, ed. Peter J. Boettke, Erwin Dekker, and Chad Van Schoelandt (Lexington Books, 2024), 113—130.

GRANTS, AWARDS, & FELLOWSHIPS

Teaching Innovation Grant (University of Texas-Austin)	2024
Jack Miller Center Summer Fellowship	2023
Bradley Fellowship (Witherspoon Institute)	2021
Sorin Fellowship of Notre Dame’s de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture	2020, 2021
Outstanding Instructor Award (University of Notre Dame)	2020
Adam Smith Fellowship (Mercatus Institute)	2019, 2020
Humane Studies Fellowship (Institute for Humane Studies)	2019, 2020
Stavros Niarchos Foundation Fellowship (Latin/Greek Institute at CUNY)	2017, 2019
Nanovic Institute Snider Family Endowment for Excellence in European Studies	2018

Center for Citizenship and Constitutional Government Summer Fellowship	2018
ND Political Science Department Discretionary Summer Fellowship	2017
Hertog Political Studies Fellowship	2016
Eugene H. Peters Prize in Philosophy	2015
Yuksel Ismail Scholarship in Humanities	2015
Boren Fellowship (awarded, declined)	2014

PUBLICATIONS-IN-PROGRESS

Pleasure and Pain in Aristotle's Political Science (book)

Abstract: This project concerns the significance of pleasure and pain in Aristotle's presentation of moral virtue and prudence in his *Nicomachean Ethics*. The central question concerns the way pleasure and pain operate in moral virtue and how this is essential for the operation of prudence, the intellectual virtue that pertains to good judgement in action and to the legislative art and political science. The question of prudence has been an object of much dispute in the long history of commentary and in the contemporary scholarship on Aristotle. This book departs from prior treatments by focusing more directly than is usual on the relationship of one's disposition toward pleasures and pains with practical intellect (*nous*) and moral perception (*aisthēsis*).

Aristotle's *Eudemian Ethics* (translation and commentary)

“The Ascent of Pleasure in Aristotle’s Moral Education” (article)

“Plato and Aristotle on the Cognitive Limits of Prudence: A Response to Werner Jaeger’s Development Thesis” (article)

TEACHING

Arizona State University

Ancient Political Thought, Autumn 2025

The University of Texas-Austin

Constitutional Principles: Core Texts, Autumn 2024

The Classical Quest for Justice, Autumn 2023

The University of Notre Dame

Foundations of Constitutional Order, co-taught with Susan Collins, Spring 2020

TALKS & CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Aristotle and Citizen Virtue,” A Symposium for High School Teachers, Center for the Study of Liberal Democracy, University of Wisconsin-Madison, June 17-19, 2024.

“Aristotle on the Pleasures (and Pains) of Virtue,” American Philosophical Association in Portland, Oregon, March 21, 2024; Thomas Jefferson Center for the Study of Core Texts and Ideas at the University of Texas at Austin, February 22, 2024.

“Aristotle’s Political Science and the Training in Pleasures and Pains,” James Madison Program at Princeton University, February 23, 2023; Southern Political Science Association, St. Pete’s Beach, Florida on January 13, 2023.

“Prudence in Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics*,” American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Montréal, Canada. September 15, 2022.

“Aristotle on the Particular Virtues from Courage to Justice,” American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Seattle, Washington. October 1, 2021.

“Moral Habituation in the *Nicomachean Ethics*,” Graduate Conference in Intellectual History, University of Cambridge (online), March 31, 2021.

“On the Distortions of Pleasure in Aristotle’s *Ethics*,” Oglethorpe University, September 29, 2020.

“Aristotle on Pleasure and Prudence in the *Nicomachean Ethics*,” American Political Science Association Annual Conference, September 12, 2020.

“Aristotle on Vice and Pleasure in the *Nicomachean Ethics*,” Graduate Conference in Ancient Philosophy, University of Cambridge, March 6-7, 2020.

“Economics, Acquisition, and Natural Slavery in Aristotle’s *Politics*,” Ashland University, September 9, 2020.

“Aristotle on The Problem of the Naturalness of the Polis” and “Thomas Hobbes on the State of Nature and the Nature of ‘the State.’” In Patrick Deneen’s Political Theory course, Fall 2017.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviewer for the journal <i>Polis</i>	2024
Editorial Intern for the journal <i>The Review of Politics</i>	2020
Research Assistant to Susan Collins for <i>Constituting the Ancient City</i>	2018
Editorial Assistant to Megan Altman for <i>Horizons of Authenticity in Phenomenology</i>	2014
Research Intern at the U.S.-Japan Research Institute (Washington D.C.)	2014
Language Instructor (Japanese) at Concordia Language Villages	2011-2013

LANGUAGES

Ancient Greek & Japanese (Advanced)

MEMBERSHIP

Jack Miller Center, James Madison Society, Society for Greek Political Thought, Ancient Philosophy Society, American Political Science Association, American Philosophical Association