

David Samuel Fott

Curriculum Vitae

April 2024

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Professor of Political Science, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 2014-
Associate Professor of Political Science with tenure, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 1998-2014
Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 1992-98

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Chair, Department of Political Science, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, July 2023 --
Interim Chair, Department of Political Science, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, May-June 2023
Founding director, Great Works Program, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 2004-8, 2009-18, 2019-
23

EDUCATION

PhD in political science, Harvard University, 1993. Dissertation: "Dewey, Postmodernism, and the Philosophical Foundations of Democracy." Advisory committee: Harvey C. Mansfield (chair), Stephen Macedo, Dennis F. Thompson
AM in political science, Harvard University, 1986
BA in political science, *summa cum laude*, minor in philosophy, Vanderbilt University, 1983

PUBLICATIONS

Books

"On the Republic" and "On the Laws," by Marcus Tullius Cicero (Ithaca, NY: Cornell Univ. Press, 2014), translation with introduction, notes, and indexes
John Dewey: America's Philosopher of Democracy (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 1998)

Refereed Articles

- “Philosophy, Politics, and Rhetoric in Cicero’s *On the Orator*,” *Interpretation: A Journal of Political Philosophy* 49 (Spring 2023): 353-73
- “Skepticism about Natural Right in Cicero’s *De re publica*,” *Etica & Politica* 16, no. 2 (2014): 233-52, http://www2.units.it/etica/2014_2/FOTT.pdf
- “Preface to Translation of Montesquieu’s ‘Discourse on Cicero,’” *Political Theory* 30 (October 2002): 728-32; with translation, “Montesquieu’s ‘Discourse on Cicero,’” *Political Theory* 30 (October 2002): 733-37
- “Prudence and Persuasion: Jane Austen on Virtue in Democratizing Eras,” *Lamar Journal of the Humanities* 24 (Spring 1999): 17-37
- “John Dewey and the Philosophical Foundations of Democracy,” *Social Science Journal* 28 (1991): 29-44
- “Presidential Power in Theory and Use: Lincoln, [Franklin D.] Roosevelt, and Nixon,” *Pittsburgh Undergraduate Review* 2 (Fall 1981): 70-103

Book Chapters

- “John Dewey’s Alternative Liberalism,” in *History of American Political Thought*, ed. Bryan-Paul Frost and Jeffrey Sikkenga, 585-97 (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2003); 619-31 (2nd ed., 2019)
- “The Politico-Philosophical Character of Cicero’s Verdict in *De Natura Deorum*,” in *Cicero’s Practical Philosophy*, ed. Walter Nicgorski, 152-80 (Notre Dame, IN: Univ. of Notre Dame Press, 2012)
- “John Dewey: Philosophy as Theory of Education,” in *Political Philosophy in the Twentieth Century: Authors and Arguments*, ed. Catherine H. Zuckert, 19-31 (Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 2011); book translated into Arabic, 2014
- “How Machiavellian Is Cicero?,” in *The Arts of Rule: Essays in Honor of Harvey C. Mansfield*, ed. Sharon R. Krause and Mary Ann McGrail, 149-65 (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2009)
- “Montesquieu on Federalism and the Problem of Liberty in the International System: Ancient Virtue and the Modern Executive” (with Ann Ward), in *The Ashgate Research Companion to Federalism*, ed. Ann Ward and Lee Ward, 107-20 (Farnham, UK: Ashgate, 2009)

Invited Articles

- “John Dewey,” in *Encyclopedia of Modern Political Thought*, ed. Gregory Claeys, vol. 1, 215-19 (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2013)
- “John Dewey and the Mutual Influence of Democracy and Education,” *Review of Politics* 71 (Winter 2009): 7-19
- “Dewey and the Threat of Tyranny of the Majority,” *Perspectives on Political Science* 27 (Fall 1998): 206-11

Other Professional Publications

- Review of *Power and Persuasion in Cicero’s Philosophy* edited by Nathan Gilbert, Margaret Graver, and Sean McConnell, in *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2023.08.38, <https://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2023/2023.08.38/>
- Review of *The Philosophy of Isaiah Berlin* by Johnny Lyons, in *Interpretation: A Journal of Political Philosophy* 47 (Summer 2021): 569-73

- Review of *The Bonds of Humanity: Cicero's Legacies in European Social and Political Thought, ca. 1100 – ca. 1550* by Cary J. Nederman, in *Perspectives on Politics* 18 (September 2020): 928-29
- Review of *Political Philosophy and the Republican Future: Reconsidering Cicero* by Gregory Bruce Smith, in *Review of Politics* 81 (Spring 2019): 339-42
- Review of *Roman Political Thought* by Jed W. Atkins, in *Interpretation: A Journal of Political Philosophy* 45 (Spring 2019): 307-11
- Review of *Cicero's Skepticism and His Recovery of Political Philosophy* by Walter Nicgorski, in *Interpretation: A Journal of Political Philosophy* 43 (Spring 2017): 475-79
- Translation of selections from Cicero's *On the Republic* and *On the Laws* on website Natural Law, Natural Rights, and American Constitutionalism, by Witherspoon Institute, 2011, <http://www.nlnrac.org/classical/cicero/primary-source-documents>
- Review of *American Mythos: Why Our Best Efforts to Be a Better Nation Fall Short* by Robert Wuthnow, in *Perspectives on Politics* 4 (December 2006): 784-86
- Review of *Dewey on Democracy* by William R. Caspary, in *Perspectives on Politics* 1 (September 2003): 582
- Review of *John Dewey and the High Tide of American Liberalism* by Alan Ryan, in *Perspectives on Political Science* 25 (Fall 1996): 230
- Review of *Rethinking Democratic Education: The Politics of Reform* by David M. Steiner, in *American Political Science Review* 89 (September 1995): 753-54
- "John Dewey: A Postmodern before Postmodernism?," *National Social Science Perspectives Journal* 3, no. 2 (1993): 85-97
- "On the Imposition of Religion on Others," *Harvard Graduate Society Newsletter* (Fall 1988): 9-12

Non-Professional Publications

- "Natural Rights Do Not Entitle Us to Injure the Health of Others," *Nevada Independent*, September 18, 2020
- "Celebrating Constitution Day," *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, September 15, 2019

HONORS

- Sabbatical (awarded by UNLV faculty committee), 2000-2001, 2008-9, 2018-19
- Phi Kappa Phi, 2015
- William Morris Award for Excellence in Scholarship, UNLV College of Liberal Arts, 2014
- UNLV Black Mountain Institute / College of Liberal Arts Research Fellowship, spring 2014
- Political Research Quarterly* Outstanding Reviewer Award, 2011
- National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship, 1983-86
- Founder's Medal for first honors in College of Arts and Science of Vanderbilt, 1983
- Alexander Heard Award for outstanding senior major in political science at Vanderbilt, 1983
- Charles Forrest Alexander Award in Journalism for Vanderbilt student journalism, 1983
- Phi Beta Kappa—elected junior year, 1982
- Avery Leiserson Award for best undergraduate paper in political science at Vanderbilt during academic year 1981-82
- Harry S. Truman Scholarship (for four years of undergraduate and graduate study), 1981
- Pi Sigma Alpha, 1981
- Second place in Eta Sigma Phi National Latin Translation Contest, 1980
- Harold Stirling Vanderbilt Honor Scholarship, 1979-83

National Merit Scholarship, 1979

GRANTS

Jack Miller Center grant for Great Works (Academic Certificate) program for hosting guest lecture for Constitution Day, 2019, 2020, 2022, 2023

Jack Miller Center grant for Great Works Academic Certificate program for hosting guest lectures and Book Club, 2022-23

Jack Miller Center grant for Great Works Academic Certificate program for promoting the program, 2021

Cornerstone implementation grant for Great Works Academic Certificate program from Teagle Foundation and National Endowment for the Humanities, 2021-23

Jack Miller Center grant for Great Works Academic Certificate program for hosting guest lectures, 2021-22

Institute for Humane Studies grant for research, 2021

Association for the Study of Free Institutions grant for Great Works Academic Certificate program for hosting guest lecture, 2016, 2018

Nevada Humanities mini-grant for hosting guest lecture, 2016

Institute for Humane Studies grant for hosting guest lecture, 2015, 2016 (two in one year)

Apgar Foundation grant for Great Works Academic Certificate program, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014

Charles Koch Foundation grant for Great Works Academic Certificate program, 2011, 2012

Anonymous grant for Great Works Academic Certificate program, 2007

UNLV Planning Initiative Award for Great Works Academic Certificate program, 2006

UNLV Center for Advanced Research Award, 1993, 1994 (spring and fall), 1996, 2002

Earhart Foundation Fellowship Research Grant, 2000

UNLV Barrick Faculty Development Travel Award, 1994 (two in one year)

INVITED PAPERS AND TALKS

“The Politico-Philosophical Character of Cicero’s Verdict in *On the Nature of the Gods*,” Symposium on Cicero’s Practical Philosophy, Notre Dame, Indiana, October 28, 2006

“Toward Cicero’s Thoughts on Natural Law,” Conference for the Study of Political Thought, Toronto, Canada, November 10, 2000

“On Justice and Mercy,” Center for Justice Initiatives, Herndon, Virginia, April 22-23, 1999

“John Dewey’s *Freedom and Culture*,” Bryn Mawr College, March 16, 1994

PRESENTATIONS OF RESEARCH

“John Stuart Mill and #MeToo” (with Rebecca Gill), Western Political Science Association, March 28, 2024; also Northeastern Political Science Association, November 12, 2021

“Natural Right and Ignorance of Nature in Cicero’s *On the Republic*,” Northeastern Political Science Association, November 4, 2023

“The Incoherent Cosmology in Cicero’s Dream of Scipio and Its Relation to Plato,” Northeastern Political Science Association, November 12, 2022

- “The Status of Philosophy in Cicero’s *On Duties*,” American Political Science Association, August 31, 2018
- “Cicero’s Historical Inquiry into the Best Regime,” Northeastern Political Science Association, November 10, 2016; also (in earlier draft as “Cicero’s Historical Approach to the Best Regime”) Western Political Science Association, March 28, 2013; originally accepted by and written for American Political Science Association, 2012 (conference canceled due to weather)
- “Descartes’s Political Philosophy for the Advancement of Mathematics and Science,” American Mathematical Society, April 18, 2015
- “Cicero on the Best Regimes,” American Political Science Association, August 30, 2014
- “The Best Way of Life According to Cicero’s ‘Dream of Scipio,’” Black Mountain Institute, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, March 31, 2014
- “The Guide of Cicero’s Republic,” American Political Science Association, August 30, 2013
- “Skepticism about Natural Right in Cicero’s *De re publica*,” Collegium Politicum (Rethinking Cicero as Political Philosopher), Bologna, Italy, May 31, 2013; also Midwest Political Science Association, April 2, 2011; also (in earlier draft as “Natural Right in Cicero’s Political Philosophy”) American Political Science Association, September 4, 2010
- “Cicero’s Philosophy in the Words of Orators,” Midwest Political Science Association, April 11, 2013; also (in earlier draft as “Cicero on the Relation between Philosophy and Rhetoric”) American Political Science Association, August 28, 2008
- “Cicero’s Theoretical Approach to the Best Regime,” Western Political Science Association, April 2, 2010; also Northeastern Political Science Association, November 21, 2009
- “How Machiavellian Is Cicero?,” American Political Science Association, September 2, 2007
- “Montesquieu on Federalism and the Problem of Liberty in the International System: Ancient Virtue and the Modern Executive” (with Ann Ward), American Political Science Association, August 31, 2007; also Southwestern Political Science Association, March 17, 2007; also (with slightly different title) International Studies Association–West, October 1, 2004
- “Cicero: A Philosopher without Ideals,” American Political Science Association, September 2, 2004; also Midwest Political Science Association, April 17, 2004
- “Cicero on How to Make Virtue Affective and Effective,” American Political Science Association, August 30, 2002
- “Dewey’s Declaration of Independence,” Southern Political Science Association, November 8, 2001
- “Toward Cicero’s Thoughts on Natural Law,” American Political Science Association, August 31, 2000
- “Philosophy and Politics in Cicero’s *On the Republic*,” American Political Science Association, September 5, 1998
- “Dewey and Rorty on Public and Private,” Southern Political Science Association, November 7, 1997
- “Dewey’s *Democracy and Education*,” Northeastern Political Science Association, November 14, 1996
- “The Promise and Problems of Dewey’s Liberalism,” Southern Political Science Association, November 2, 1995
- “Currin V. Shields, Democratic Theory and the American Tradition of Empirical Collectivism” (with Rick Tilman), Western Social Science Association, April 29, 1995
- “Jane Austen’s Wisest Heroine: A Model Democratic Citizen,” Liberal Arts Research Seminar, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, November 16, 1994; also Northeastern Political Science Association, November 10, 1994
- “Tocqueville, J. S. Mill, and Dewey on Liberty,” American Political Science Association, September 4, 1994

“Dewey’s Aesthetics and Its Relation to His Political Thought,” Southwestern Political Science Association, April 2, 1994

“John Dewey: A Postmodern before Postmodernism?,” National Social Science Association, April 2, 1993

“John Dewey and the Foundations of Political Democracy,” American Political Science Association, August 31, 1989

TEACHING

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Survey of Political Theory

Ancient Political Theory

Medieval Political Theory

Early Modern Political Theory

Late Modern Political Theory

Recent Political Theory

American Political Thought

Political Theory in Literature

Special Topics in Political Theory: The Individual and Society; The Political Ethics of Capitalism;

Adam Smith and Capitalism; Tocqueville on Democracy and Aristocracy; Political Moderation in Cicero and Hume

Introduction to American Politics

Introduction to Political Science

Seminar in American National Government: Theory and Perspectives (graduate)

Seminar in Political Theory (graduate)

Proseminar in Political Theory (graduate)

Political Theory from 1500 to 1900 (graduate seminar)

Political Theory since 1900 (graduate seminar, cross-scheduled with Boyd School of Law)

Ethics (graduate seminar in Ethics and Policy Studies Program)

Great Works of Philosophy and Literature (Great Works Academic Certificate Program)

Senior Seminar in Great Works (Great Works Academic Certificate Program)

Exploring American Politics (Honors College)

Individual, Society, and Freedom (Honors College)

Special Topics Seminars—International (The Morality of Markets) (Honors College)

Chair of doctoral dissertation committee on just war theory, international law, and nonstate actors

Co-chair of doctoral dissertation committee on the importance of democratic discourse

Doctoral dissertation committee on forms of repentance in early modern drama (English)

Chair of master’s thesis committees on (1) clinical decision making, (2) direct democracy and state legislatures, (3) eminent domain, (4) relation between nation-building and liberty, and (5) US nuclear waste policy

Master’s thesis committees on (1 and 2) idealism and realism in international relations, (3) ethics of physician-assisted suicide, (4) Old Testament politics, (5) religion in US and Norwegian politics, (6) US policy toward Iraq, (7) civic engagement and youth, (8) John Henry Newman’s poetry (English), (9) journalistic ethics, (10) constitutional loyalty in Republika Srpska, (11) right to privacy, (12) constraints on presidential rhetoric, (13) Plato’s *Gorgias*, and (14) Quebec Act

Adviser of senior honors theses on (1) Madison, (2) Burke, (3) US treatment of Islam, (4) W. E. B. Du Bois and Booker T. Washington, and (5) Machiavelli and Kant
 Honors thesis committee on ethics of political action by nonstate actors in internal conflicts
 Instructor of thirty-three independent studies

Harvard University (Teaching Fellow, Department of Government and Core Curriculum)

Tutorial–Sophomore Year (Constitutional Democracy in America)
 The History of Political Theory I (ancient and medieval political theory)
 The History of Political Theory II (modern political theory)
 Realism and Moralism (Moral Reasoning course; examination of the relation between moral virtue and reason through Aristotle, Machiavelli, Locke, Kant, and Nietzsche)
 Introduction to American Government
 Senior Honors Thesis (adviser of theses on Puritan political thought, democratic education, the jurisprudence of Brandeis, the right to privacy in US constitutional interpretation, and federalism; grader of theses)

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Graduate coordinator:

MA in Political Science, 1999-2000, 2001-8
 MA in Ethics and Policy Studies, 2004-8, 2009-12

Committees:

Great Works Faculty, 2023-
 University Undergraduate Curriculum, spring 1997 to spring 2000, 2022-23; chair, 1997-99
 Departmental Graduate, 1995-96, 2001-2 (chair), 2009-10, 2016-18, 2021-23
 Departmental Personnel, 1993-94, 1995-96, 1998-99 (chair), 2001-4, 2005-8, 2015-17, 2019-21, 2022-23
 College Course and Curriculum, 2014-16, 2020-22 (chair, 2015-16, 2020-22)
 Departmental Undergraduate, 2019-21
 President's Advisory Council, 2015-18
 Departmental Course and Curriculum, 1994-95 (chair), 2009-14 (chair), 2015-16, 2017-18 (chair)
 University General Education, 2015-17
 University Academic Freedom and Ethics, 2013-15
 University Tenure and Promotion, 2011-12
 Ethics and Policy Studies Advisory, 1997-2000, 2001-8, 2009-11; chair, 2004-8, 2009-11
 Harry S. Truman Scholarship, 1992-2000, 2006, 2008, 2011
 Chair, departmental investigation of feasibility of PhD program, 2004-5
 Graduate College Curriculum, 1995-96, 1999
 College Social Science Studies, 1995-99
 College Academic Standards, 1996-98
 Assistive Technology Steering, 1992-98

Discussion co-leader, Institute for Humane Studies Douglass Colloquium at UNLV, 2019
 Discussion leader, Institute for Humane Studies Tocqueville Colloquium at UNLV, 2017

Harvard University

Tutor, Cabot House, 1991-92 (nonresident tutor to approximately four hundred students; available as academic adviser to approximately forty concentrators in government and as general adviser to other students)

Tutor, Dudley House, 1985-91 (resident tutor for five years, nonresident tutor for one year)

Vanderbilt University

Executive Council of chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, 1982-83

Admissions Committee of College of Arts and Science, 1982-83

Task Force on Opportunities for the Handicapped, 1980-83

Academic Standards and Procedures Committee of College of Arts and Science, 1981-82

PROFESSIONAL AND SELECTED PUBLIC SERVICE

Nevada Advisory Committee, United States Commission on Civil Rights, 2012-

Application reviewer for National Endowment for the Humanities: Collaborative Research and Scholarly Editions Program, 2002, 2018; Public Scholars Program, 2020

Manuscript reviewer:

American Political Science Review

American Political Thought

Anamnesis

Classical Journal

Hackett Publishing Company

International Theory

Journal of Politics

Journal of the History of Ideas

Lexington Books

Palgrave Macmillan

Perspectives on Political Science

Polis

Political Research Quarterly

Politics and Religion

Polity

Review of Politics

State University of New York Press

Studies in Symbolic Interaction

Trames (Estonian journal of humanities and social sciences)

University of Wisconsin Press

External reviewer of programs in political science and international studies, Berry College, 1999

Participation at conferences:

Chair (substitute), Epistemic Injustice, Violence, and the Law, Western Political Science Association, March 28, 2024

Chair, New Directions in Democratic Theory, Western Political Science Association, March 28, 2024

- Chair and discussant, Plato's Politics, Northeastern Political Science Association, November 4, 2023
- Chair, Ancients and Moderns, Northeastern Political Science Association, November 4, 2023
- Invited participant, American Council of Trustees and Alumni Oases of Excellence Faculty Conference on administering great books programs, September 23, 2022; September 21, 2018; June 6, 2017
- Discussant, Plato, Thucydides, and the Uses of Political Discourse, American Political Science Association, August 31, 2019
- Organizer and moderator, Roundtable on Walter Nicgorski's New Book on Cicero's Political Philosophy, Northeastern Political Science Association, November 10, 2016
- Invited colloquium on Cicero, National Junior Classical League convention, Las Vegas, Nevada, July 22, 2013
- Chair and discussant, Dialectics, Poetry, and the Elements of Classical Political Philosophy, Midwest Political Science Association, April 11, 2013
- Invited participant, Harvard University Program on Constitutional Government Conference on Harvey C. Mansfield's Scholarship, March 30, 2012
- Invited participant, Liberty Fund Colloquium on Leadership in Education for a Free Society, August 25-28, 2011
- Chair and discussant, Philosophy and the City, Midwest Political Science Association, April 2, 2011
- Organizer, The Language of Ancient Roman Politics, American Political Science Association, September 4, 2010
- Discussant, Political Rhetoric and Decision-Making in Thucydides, Northeastern Political Science Association, November 20, 2009
- Organizer, Cicero: Philosopher and Orator, American Political Science Association, August 28, 2008
- Invited participant, Program on Politics and Economics, George Mason University School of Law, August 13-19, 2007
- Chair, Regimes in Speech vs. Regimes in Deed, American Political Science Association, September 2, 2004
- Discussant, Liberalism, Democracy, and Education, Midwest Political Science Association, April 17, 2004
- Chair, The Problems of Liberalism in Theory and Practice, Southern Political Science Association, November 10, 2001
- Organizer, Whose American Political Thought? Founders, Pragmatists, Postmodernists, Southern Political Science Association, November 8, 2001
- Chair, Democracy and Individual Development in Nineteenth-Century American Thought, American Political Science Association, September 1, 2000
- Organizer, Stoicism, Ancient and Modern, American Political Science Association, August 31, 2000
- Organizer, Foundational Issues in Cicero's Political Philosophy, American Political Science Association, September 5, 1998
- Chair, Morality and Faith in Democratic Communities, American Political Science Association, September 4, 1998
- Chair, Peirce's Revenge, Northeastern Political Science Association, November 12, 1994
- Invited respondent to paper "Can Postmodernism Claim to be True?," Baptist Association of Philosophy Teachers, Las Vegas, Nevada, November 13, 1993

Discussant, Liberals, Communitarians, and the Politics of Identity, American Political Science Association, September 3, 1993

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Latin, French (reading), ancient Greek (some study), German (some study)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Political Science Association
Hume Society
International Society of the Friends of Cicero
Northeastern Political Science Association
Society for Greek Political Thought