

**KODY W. COOPER, Ph.D.**

4403 Alabama Ave  
Chattanooga, TN 37409

**APPOINTMENT**

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**University of Tennessee, Knoxville.** Associated Professor at the Institute of American Civics. 2024 – Present.

**University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.** UC Foundation Associate Professor. Fall 2016 – 2024.

**EDUCATION**

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**The University of Texas, Austin,** Department of Government, M.A., Ph.D (May 2014).

**Cambridge University, Wolfson College**  
2009 – 2010, Visiting Scholar.

**Kansas State University,** Political Science (B.A); Spanish (B.A.); Primary Texts Certificate. Graduated *summa cum laude* (2006).

**RESEARCH**

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**PUBLICATIONS**

***Books***

*The Classical and Christian Origins of American Politics: Natural Law, Political Theology, and the American Founding*, coauthor Justin Dyer (Cambridge University Press, 2022).

*Thomas Hobbes and the Natural Law* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2018).

***Refereed Articles***

“A Renaissance of Civic Education and Civic Engagement in Higher Education in the Spirit of the American Founders and Constitutionalism,” *Laws* 2024, 13(1). Online at <https://www.mdpi.com/2075-471X/13/1/8>.

“Thomas Jefferson, Nature’s God, and the Theological Foundations of Natural-Rights Republicanism,” *Religion and Politics* Vol. 10.3 (September 2017).

“Commanding Consistently With Sovereignty: Thomas Hobbes’s Natural Law Theory of Civil Law.” *British Journal of American Legal Studies* 3.1 (2014).

“Reason and Desire After the Fall of Man: A Rereading of Hobbes’s Two Postulates of Human Nature,” *Hobbes Studies* 26.2 (2013).

***Invited Journal Articles***

“The Dignity of the Dead: Insights from the Epic Tradition” *Journal of Bioethics in Law and Culture Quarterly* Vol. 1, Issue 2 (2018).

***Legal Journal Articles***

“How the Founders’ Natural Law Theory Illuminates the Original Meaning of Free Exercise,” *Federalist Society Review*, Vol. 22 (2021).

### ***Refereed Book Chapters***

“Existential Humility and the Critique of Civil Religion in Augustine’s Political Theology,” in *Augustine in a Time of Crisis: Politics and Religion Contested* (Palgrave, 2021), ed. Boleslaw Kabala, Ashleen Menchaca-Bagnulo, and Nathan Pinkoski.

“Thomas Hobbes” in *The Edinburgh Companion to Political Realism*, ed. Robert Schuett and Miles Hollingworth (University of Edinburgh Press, 2018).

“Hobbes and the Ethic and Jurisprudence of Life,” in *Hobbesian Applied Ethics*, ed. Shane Courtland (Routledge, 2017).

### ***Teaching-Related Publications***

“The Battle Within: Confucianism and Legalism in the Nation, the Family, and the Soul,” *Avatar and Philosophy* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2022).

“Always a Team, Always United: Disney’s Philosophy of the Family” in *Disney and Philosophy* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2019).

“Gods and Beetles” in *Game of Thrones and Philosophy* (Open Court, 2016).

“Praying to One’s Self, for One’s Self: The Ethics and Politics of Auto-Eroticism” in *House of Cards and Philosophy* (Blackwell, 2015).

“You Gonna Get Got,” *The Wire and Philosophy* (Open Court, 2013).

“The Unspoken Rules of Manly Warfare: Just War Theory in *Ender’s Game*,” *Ender’s Game and Philosophy* (Blackwell, 2013).

### ***Review Essays***

“What Happened to Natural Law in American Jurisprudence?” A Review of *The Decline of Natural Law: How American Lawyers Once Used Natural Law and Why They Stopped*, by Stuart Banner (Oxford University Press). *Federalist Society Review*, Volume 22 (2021).

### ***Book Reviews***

Review of *Leo Strauss and His Catholic Readers*, Geoffery M. Vaughan ed. (Catholic University of America Press, 2019). *Public Discourse*. April 5, 2019.

Review of Michael P. Krom, *The Limits of Reason in Hobbes’s Commonwealth* (Continuum, 2012), *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 87:3 (Summer 2013).

Review of Bernard Gert, *Hobbes: Prince of Peace* (Polity, 2010), *Journal of Politics* Volume 74 Issue 01 (January 2012).

“Creation Myths,” *The Review of Politics* Volume 72 Issue 04, pp 749 -752.

### **FELLOWSHIPS**

Civitas Institute Visiting Fellow. 2023-2024. University of Texas at Austin.

Summer Fellow. 2021 Benson Center for the Study of Western Civilization Summer Institute. University of Colorado – Boulder.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow. Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy. 2015-2016.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow. James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions. Princeton University. 2014-2015.

**PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)**

- Book Roundtable on *Religious Liberty and the American Founding*. Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2024.
- Book Roundtables on *The Classical and Christian Origins of American Politics: Political Theology, Natural Law, and the American Founding*.” Southern Political Science Association Conference (January 2023); Intercollegiate Studies Institute American Government and Politics Conference (February 2023).
- Book Roundtable (contributor and Chair) on *Conservatism in a Divided America: The Right and Identity Politics*. Intercollegiate Studies Institute American Government and Politics Conference (February 2023).
- “Popular Sovereignty in the American Founding, Originalism, and the Thought of Orestes Brownson” *Society of Catholic Social Scientists Conference*. Fall 2021.
- “Rhetoric and the Art of Scholarly Writing.” Guest Lecture. Covenant College. Fall 2019.
- “Grand Strategy in American Foreign Policy and Hobbes’s Honorable Realism.” UTC Sweet Research Presentation. Fall 2019.
- “Hobbes and the Problem of Modernity.” Roundtable. American Political Science Association Conference. Fall 2019.
- “Thomas Hobbes and the Natural Law.” Book Roundtable and Author Response. Christians in Political Science Conference 2018; Society of Catholic Social Scientists Conference 2018; Southern Political Science Association Meeting 2019.
- “The Search for Meaning in the Terrene City: The Ongoing Relevance of Augustine’s Political Thought” (Panel Organizer and Presenter). American Political Science Association Meeting 2017. Recipient of UTC Faculty Development Grant.
- “Revolutionary Natural Law” (Panel Organizer and Presenter) American Political Science Association, September 2016.
- “The Scrutability of God and Men: Providence in American Revolutionary Counterintelligence and Diplomacy” Shawnee Trail Seminar on American Politics and Constitutionalism. Summer 2016.

**INVITED TALKS AND LECTURES (SELECTED)**

- “The Classical and Christian Origins of American Politics,” Georgetown Law Center. November 7, 2023.
- “The Classical and Christian Tradition in American Democracy: New Cases For & Against.” Colloquium with Anne Norton. Collegium Institute, University of Pennsylvania. November 2, 2023.
- “Constitutional Idolatry.” 2023 Constitution Day Lecture. Ave Maria University. September 2023.
- “A Symposium: Religious Freedom, Economic Freedom, and the Constitution.” With Anne Bradley. 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Richard Gruetzmacher Constitution Day Lecture Series. September 2022.
- “From *Employment Division v. Smith* to *Fulton v. City of Philadelphia*: The Continuing Viability of the Free Exercise Clause.” *Federalist Society Panel with CLE credit*. May 2021.
- “The Jeffersonian Constitution: Enduring Myths and Truths.” *Chattanooga Area Historical Association Speaker Series*. September 2018.

“Augustine, Civil Religion, and Existential Humility.” *Dialogue or Dialectic: Augustine and Political Theory* conference. Princeton University. April 2018.

“Hobbes, Locke and the Foundations of Democracy.” Center for Reflective Citizenship teacher institute “Consequential Ideas in American History.” February 2018.

“Human Meaning and Moral Problems.” Instructor for summer seminar for rising high school juniors and seniors. University of Texas – Austin. Summer 2017, 2018.

“Thomas Hobbes, Rhetoric, and the Foundations of Politics.” Covenant College, Lookout Mountain, GA. Spring 2017.

“Thomas Jefferson, Minority Rights, and the Limits of Majority Rule: Religious Establishment and Free Exercise,” Kinder Institute Teachers Academy, Summer 2016.

“Hobbes, Natural Law, and the US Constitution,” Summer 2016. The Rothermere American Institute, University of Oxford.

## SERVICE

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### DEPARTMENTAL/UNIVERSITY

**Pre-Law Advisor**, UTC (Fall 2016--)

**Chair**, UTC Pre-Law Committee (2019--)

**Chair**, Annual CS Lewis Lecture Committee, UTC (2017--)

**Member**, UTC Undergraduate Petitions Committee (2019-2022)

**Member**, Reimagining General Education: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee (2021-2)

**Member**, College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee

**Member**, Learning Environment Committee

### CHATTANOOGA

**President**, Federalist Society Chattanooga Lawyers Chapter (2022)

**Steering Committee**, Federalist Society Chattanooga Lawyers Chapter (2017-)

### PROFESSIONAL

**Referee** for *Journal of the History of Philosophy* (2015; 2017); *Journal of Politics* (2017; 2018); *Review of Politics* (2017, 2023); *American Political Science Review*; *Hobbes Studies* (2014; three essays in 2017); *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* (2018); manuscript for *Abilene Christian University Press* (2019); *Catholic Social Science Review* (2021); manuscript for *Vernon Press* (2022); *American Political Thought* (2023)

**Endorsement Reviewer** for *Ideological Possession and the Rise of the New Right: The Political Thought of Carl Jung* (Routledge, 2019).

**External Dissertation Examiner**, David Richard Kearns, “Common Law Judicial Office, Sovereignty, and the Church of England in Restoration England, 1660-1688,” University of Sydney (2019).

**External Department Reviewer**, University of Colorado - Colorado Springs Department of Political Science (Spring 2024).

## COURSES TAUGHT (SELECTED)

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PSPS 1010 American Government

PSPS 2300 Judicial Process

PSPS 3000 Leadership

PSPS 3210 American Constitutional Law

PSPS 3220 Civil Liberties  
POLS 4210 Special Topics in Public Law: The Nature of Law  
POLS 4210 Special Topics in Public Law: Constitutional Debates in Bioethics  
POLS 4270 Religion Liberty and the Law  
PSPS 4052 Jefferson  
PSPS 4052 The American Founding  
PSPS 4052 Liberalism and Conservatism

**GRANTS AWARDED (SELECTED)**

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Summer Writing Stipend. Summer 2021.

Interdisciplinary Team Taught Course Competition 2018 Winner. Course Title: "Leadership." Co-authored with Dr. Lucien Ellington.

Ruth Holmberg Grant, UTC (2019).

Association for the Study of Free Institutions Grant.

UTC Faculty Development Grant 2017 for APSA 2017 presentation.