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**Research and Publication**

My research in political theory has focused on the thought of Antiquity and in particular on Aristotle's political philosophy. This research has produced a range of works for publication, including books, journal articles, book chapters, and review essays. It is anchored by two major works on Aristotle's thought. The first is *Aristotle and the Rediscovery of Citizenship* (Cambridge 2006), a study of Aristotle's treatment of citizenship in his *Nicomachean Ethics* and *Politics*. The second and most recent is *Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics* (Chicago 2011), a new translation with Robert Bartlett that includes an Interpretative Essay, Notes, and Glossary. *Aristotle and the Rediscovery of Citizenship* begins from disputes about the capacity of liberal thought to offer a robust account of citizenship that comprehends the communities by which individuals are shaped and the connection of civic education and virtue with the individual good or happiness. Because Aristotle fully investigates these dimensions of citizenship, I argue, his analysis captures not only the claims of the political community upon us as citizens—the obligations or duties we owe our fellow citizens—but also the genuine goods it provides us as human beings who find our happiness in association with others. My recent translation, with Robert Bartlett, of Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* seeks to be faithful to the Greek, consistent in translating central terms, and attentive to the nuance of Aristotle's language and disputes in the scholarly commentaries. The interpretive essay brings within the compass of the modern reader Aristotle's investigation of the question of crucial human concern, what is happiness or the life well lived? *Aristotle and the Rediscovery of Citizenship* has received positive reviews in the major journals of Political Science, Philosophy, and Classical Studies. The translation of the *Nicomachean Ethics* was nominated for the John D. Criticos prize and favorably reviewed in the *New York Times* book review.

My current project is a book, *The Spartans and the Ancient Regime*, which focuses on the ancient view of the "regime" as a ground of political order wholly distinct from that of the liberal social contract tradition. I argue that the ancient understanding of the regime helps us consider anew questions that the social contract tradition brackets or rules out of court: the non-contractual dimensions of political founding, the idea of a common good, and questions of natural teleology and divine law. To bring out this view in its most famous instantiation, my study also analyzes the classical regime of Sparta. For thinkers such as Plato and Aristotle, Sparta provided the model for the perfectly just political order in which citizens fully identify their own good with that of the community. For this reason too, Sparta and its legendary lawgiver Lycurgus have fascinated political thinkers from Plutarch and Polybius to Machiavelli, Montesquieu, and Rousseau. In focusing on the Spartan regime, I seek to clarify the connection of its law to its celebrated justice, piety, and civic freedom, with a view to understanding more generally the ancient view of these matters. I also bring together the work of classical authors, such as Herodotus, Xenophon, and Plutarch, who are insufficiently studied in political theory, with that of thinkers, such as Thucydides and Aristotle, who are standard fare. The focus of recent conference papers and invited talks, my current work revives themes of empire and freedom from my earlier study of Plato and Thucydides. It also engages the overarching question of a proposed book series in political philosophy and the foundations of reason, with Cambridge University Press and co-edited with Robert Bartlett. This question—whether political philosophy is able to offer a rational account of human affairs—informs all my work in ancient thought.

## Teaching and Program Development

I strive to bring to the classroom the intellectual curiosity that fuels my own study. At Houston, I have taught both undergraduate and graduate courses in political theory, supervised Honors and Masters theses, and sat on Ph.D. committees. Because of my joint appointment in The Honors College, I also regularly teach in the Honors gateway course, *The Human Situation*, a team-taught intellectual history course that covers Antiquity in the first semester and Modernity in the second semester. This course draws from a variety of disciplines—history, philosophy, political philosophy, science, and literature—and faculty deal with texts in their area of expertise as well as less familiar works. As a result, I have lectured on works of the Ancient poets, historians and philosophers as well as on modern and contemporary texts of political thought and literature. In all my courses, I emphasize active reading, clear writing, and the ability to articulate complex arguments and issues. Students and colleagues have recognized my efforts: In 2005 I was awarded the Provost's teaching excellence award in the core curriculum, and this year, I was appointed to the *Ross M. Lence Distinguished Teaching Chair*, the only endowed chair at Houston dedicated to teaching excellence.

This appointment also recognizes my efforts as Founding Director of the *Phronesis* Program in Politics and Ethics, an interdisciplinary program in The Honors College that fulfills a University minor. With the cooperation of two Colleges (Honors and the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences) and three disciplines (Political Science, Philosophy, and Classical Studies), we established *Phronesis* in 2008 to offer high-achieving students an upper-level curriculum focused on fundamental questions of public life. In addition to receiving a grounding in American political thought and the liberal democratic tradition, students also read widely in the history of thought and study issues of moral and political philosophy from a variety of perspectives. The program has secured outside funds to support visiting speakers and public events, as well as the *Phronesis* Fellows, a group of 15-20 students who provide intellectual leadership and participate in seminars with visiting speakers. Now in its fourth year, the program has attracted over 90 top-ranked students, from political science, economics, history, and philosophy to engineering, business, and music. Many of these students are National Merit, Tier One, and Terry Scholars, and several have now graduated to take up their careers or postgraduate education.

## Service

In the Department of Political Science, I have served on every major committee as well as on important ad hoc committees, most significantly the Planning Committee that responded to our 2005 outside review and laid the ground for the department's renewal of its faculty ranks, with ten new faculty hires in two years. In support of this success, I have been active in institutional planning and representing the department in the College, University, and Houston community. My joint appointment in Honors has also involved significant service. In addition to regular committee assignments, I most recently chaired the Honors Bylaws committee, which undertook a complete revision of the College's bylaws. From 2008 to 2012, I chaired the *Ross M. Lence Master Teacher Residency Program*, which brought celebrated teachers and scholars to campus for two full days of lectures, seminars, and an alumni dinner. For the university, I am a faculty mentor in the UH Center for Teaching Excellence, and I have served on the search committee for the Honors Dean and on the Research Curriculum Task Force. I am also now part of an interdisciplinary faculty committee working to establish the future Hobby School of Public Policy. Finally, I am an active member of the discipline, including serving on editorial boards, acting as Political Theory section chair for the 2006 Midwest Political Science annual conference, and reviewing for the major journals and presses.