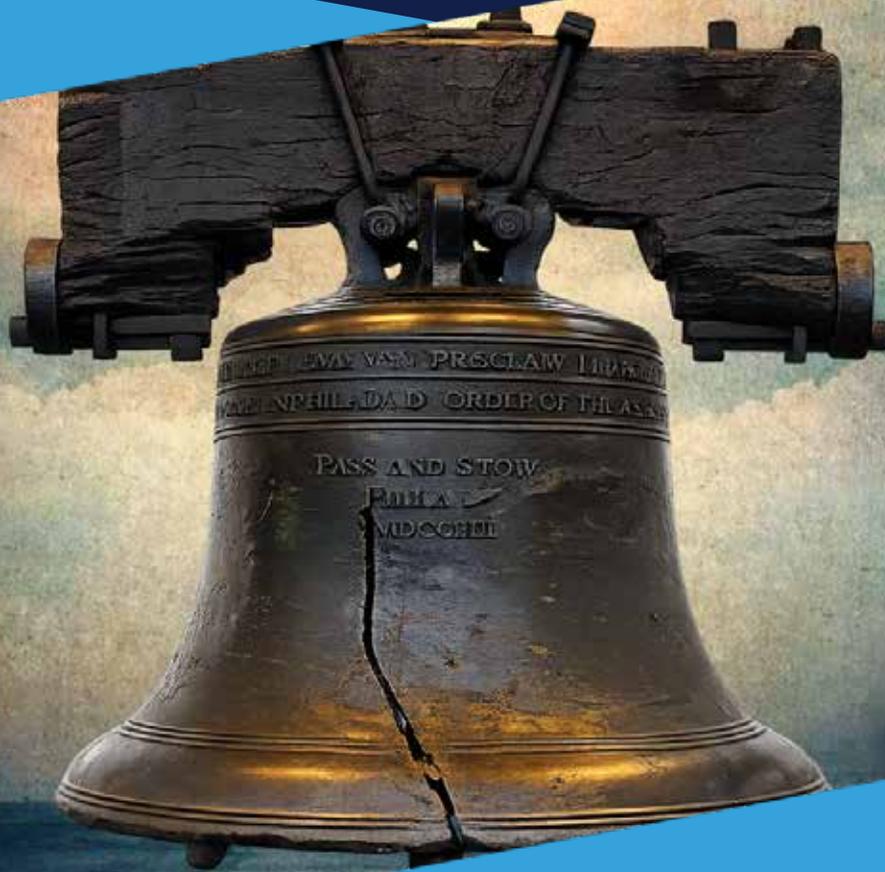


WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS

Liberty, Equality,
and Core Texts



The Association for
CoreTexts and Courses
31st Annual Conference

Sponsored by the

ASU School of Civic and Economic
Thought and Leadership
Arizona State University

The Association for Core Texts and Courses

The Association for Core Texts and Courses (ACTC) is an international, professional, liberal arts organization dedicated to fostering the use of core texts (world classics and other texts of major cultural significance) in undergraduate education and the development of required or widely taken core programs steeped in such texts.

ACTC advocates for core text programs at all undergraduate institutions. It helps initiate such programs and develops networks to support existing ones. ACTC addresses issues such as the status of core text programs within curricula, the recognition of and professional conditions for faculty who teach these courses, the development of materials appropriate for liberal education, the establishment of networks to encourage core text faculty to share their expertise, and the representation of this concept in interdisciplinary education based on foundational texts in the public media.

At stake, we believe, is the soul of higher education in a democratic society. An educated person should be equipped to live a disciplined and examined life, rich in the fullest expressions of our humanity and dedicated to civic and social service to others, as well as to the exploration of the mystery and glory of our existence. As citizens of an increasingly interdependent world, our graduates must acquire the ability to exercise critical judgment in order to free themselves from instant truths and local passions. Integrated core text courses and programs introduce students to questions that are at once timeless in their philosophical significance and timely in their relevance for us.

Members and member institutions are invited to participate in annual ACTC conferences, publications, informational exchanges, staffing networks, public media presentations, and the organization and leadership of the association. We welcome your inquiries, suggestions, and support.



Conference Theme

We Hold These Truths: Liberty, Equality, and Core Texts

Sponsored by Arizona State University
School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership

Theme Statement

Rooted in the American experience—echoing through the Declaration of Independence, Lincoln’s addresses, and Hurston’s prose—these principles transcend borders, resonating in texts from Rousseau’s Social Contract to Gandhi’s writings on justice. We invite educators, scholars, and students to examine how core texts grapple with freedom’s scope, equality’s demands, and their interplay across time and place. As these ideas, central to America’s founding, travel beyond its shores, they spark dialogue in classrooms worldwide, addressing local struggles and global aspirations. Through keynotes, panels, and workshops, we’ll share innovative ways to teach these themes, linking the U.S. narrative to a broader human story. In a fractured world, these texts unite us, fostering critical thought and civic purpose. Join us to celebrate their power, drawing from America’s legacy to inspire universal reflection. Together, let’s carry these truths—tested in one nation—to illuminate and uplift all corners of the globe.



2026 Conference Hosting Sponsor



The School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership is a new type of school, one that challenges its students to study classic works and prepares them to become a leader ready to take on 21st-century issues. Established in 2017, the school combines a classical liberal arts curriculum with intensive learning experiences that include study abroad programs, professional internships, and leadership opportunities. Students graduate ready for careers in government, law, business, and civil society.

The Civics School at ASU

A model for civic education

Undergraduate and Graduate liberal arts programs that explore civic education, American ideals, classic texts, economic theory, and statesmanship.



Learn more:



scetl.asu.edu



The ACTC Liberal Arts Institute at Mercer University, established in 2023, serves as a physical hub for ACTC, offering administrative support and hosting programs for students, faculty, and administrators within the ACTC network on Mercer’s main campus in Macon, Georgia.



The American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA) advocates for academic excellence, freedom, and accountability in higher education, providing resources to trustees, alumni, and policymakers to improve curriculum quality and promote the value of a liberal arts education.



The Jack Miller Center promotes the study and teaching of American founding principles and history. They support educational initiatives, provide resources for educators, and foster public discussions to inspire engagement with the ideas that shape American democracy.



Humanities at Hertog’s virtual seminars are open to all undergraduates. They demonstrate that reading great books with others is compelling on its own terms and needs no promise of credentials, no threat of grades, no gimmicks, and no pandering.



St. John’s College was founded in 1696 and is the third oldest college in the United States. The Graduate Institute was established in 1967 to serve students who desire to explore the persisting questions of human existence by studying classical works.



The Teagle Foundation works to support and strengthen liberal arts education, which they see as fundamental to meaningful work, effective citizenship, and a fulfilling life. Their aim is to serve as a catalyst for the improvement of teaching and learning in the arts and sciences while addressing issues of financial sustainability and accountability in higher education.



Chang Chavkin Center restores liberal education to the heart of the undergraduate curriculum. We support common syllabi built on foundational texts in small discussion classrooms, collaborating with faculty to create experiences preparing students for reflective civic participation.



Liberty Fund offers a rich set of educational programs. These include Socratic-style conferences, thought-provoking books, and engaging online resources focused on the understanding and appreciation of the complex nature of a free and responsible society.



Each year, IHS offers \$4+ million dollars in highly competitive grants for research and teaching in our areas of focus. One hundred percent of our funding goes to helping you deepen and expand the frontiers of your discipline.

The Association for Core Texts and Courses (ACTC)
invites you to

Faring the Strange Ways: Core Texts and Odysseys Past and Future

Although the current academic world may be free of mythological creatures, it has its fair share of monstrous obstacles, seductive ideas, and demanding ghosts. **Faring the Strange Ways: Core Texts and Odysseys Past and Future** invites scholars, educators, and students to use core texts more fully to navigate the strange ways of our current place and time. All great works ask us to leave the comfort of our everyday lives in search of truth, goodness, and beauty, so participants are encouraged to revisit texts that promote discovery and self-discovery: travel narratives such as *The Odyssey*, *The Divine Comedy*, *A Room with a View*, or *Moby-Dick*; non-fiction works of natural science, philosophy, psychology, and religion, such as *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, *On the Origin of Species*, *The Varieties of Religious Experience*, or Montaigne's essays. The conference will look also at new versions of old tales, as today's artists find inspiration to recreate the past in innovative forms. Ultimately, we need to ask, how do we utilize core texts to guide our own students in a meaningful way so that they might name and reclaim their home?

April 1-4, 2027
Hyatt Regency
Newport Beach, California

SPONSORED BY:



PEPPERDINE
UNIVERSITY



CONCORDIA
UNIVERSITY
IRVINE



BIOLA
UNIVERSITY

ACTC 2025-26

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

This year, ACTC has grown in many ways. We expanded our programming and fundraising, grew our membership, developed new partnerships, and launched our *Page Turners* podcast and Substack. Before the end of the calendar year, we will publish the first volume in our new Selected Essays book series with Mercer University press and relaunch our completely reorganized and designed undergraduate journal, *Agora*.

None of this would have been possible if we had not also expanded ACTC's volunteer administrative team to include Annie Devries (Core Texts Substack), Judith Levy (*Page Turners* podcast), Samuel Stoner (*Agora*) and had the ongoing support of Laura Bell (Conference Coordinator), Steve Bell (Graphic Design), Sebastian Blanco (Social Media), Marc Jolley (Mercer University Press), Creighton Rosental (ACTC Managing Director), the Mercer University IT Department, and Jeff Cain and Erland Cain of Lemolo Bay Associates.

We are also deeply grateful for financial support of all of our member institutions, organizational sponsors, and dozens of individuals who generously support ACTC's work year after year.

- ***May 18-25, 2025 - The Art of the First Year Seminar, a Summer Faculty Development Workshop at American University***
- ***June 28-July 26, 2025 - Buddhist Core Texts in Taiwan Undergraduate Study Abroad Program***
- ***October 15, 2025 - Deadline for paper submissions for the volume of essays based on our 2025 conference, "Leading Between the Lines: Core Texts and Public Leadership" to be published by Mercer University Press***
- ***November 8, 2025 - Lectio on Ovid's Metamorphoses at Concordia University Irvine***
- ***February 2026 - Lectio on Plato's Republic at the University of South Florida.***
- ***March 2026 - Launched "Page Turners," the ACTC podcast and Substack.***
- ***March 26-29, 2026 - We Hold These Truths: Liberty, Equality, and Core Texts, ACTC's 31st Annual Conference, Omni Tempe Hotel, Tempe AZ, sponsored by the ASU School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership (SCETL)***
- ***April 17-19, 2026 - Why does a Core Text Education Matter for Citizenship and the Pursuit of Happiness? ACTC Undergraduate Conference at Emory University, directed by Prof. Judd Owen***
- ***May 2, 2026 - Lectio on Melville's The Confidence Man at Roosevelt University***
- ***June 27-July 25 - Buddhist Core Texts in Taiwan Undergraduate Study Abroad led by Prof. Franklyn Wu, Dharma Realm Buddhist University. Deep discounts available to students from ACTC Member Institutions***
- ***September 15, 2026 - Deadline for paper submissions for the Selected Essays volume based on our 2026 conference, "We Hold These Truths: Liberty, Equality, and Core Texts" to be published by Mercer University Press***
- ***Fall 2026 - Undergraduate Conference at Assumption University***
- ***April 1-4, 2027 - Faring the Strange Ways: Core Texts and Odysseys Past and Future, ACTC's 32nd Annual Conference, Hyatt Regency Newport Beach CA, sponsored by Pepperdine University and co-sponsored by Biola University and Concordia University Irvine***



Plenary Speakers



Susan Collins

Susan Collins is Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Notre Dame. Her teaching and research interests range the history of political thought. Her main expertise is in classical political philosophy. She is the translator with Robert Bartlett of Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* (University of Chicago, 2011), author of *Aristotle and the Rediscovery of Citizenship* (Cambridge 2006), co-author and translator of *Empire and the Ends of Politics: Plato's "Menexenus" and Pericles' Funeral Oration* (Focus 1999), and co-editor of *Action and Contemplation: Studies in the Moral and Political Thought of Aristotle* (SUNY 1999). Most recently, she has completed a book-length study of the Spartan regime in classical political philosophy and its relevance for debates about political order today, a project that was awarded fellowships by the Earhart Foundation, National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Carl Friedrich von Siemens Foundation in Munich.



Walter Sterling

J. Walter Sterling is currently President of St. John's College, with campuses in Santa Fe and Annapolis. He became the eighth President of the Santa Fe campus in July 2024 and interim College President in June 2025. A graduate of St. John's, he previously served as dean and tutor at the college over a twenty-year tenure on the faculty, teaching across the college's undergraduate and graduate programs. Sterling recently chaired the effort to launch a new master's degree in Middle Eastern Classics. He holds a special interest in growing and supporting the international student population at St. John's. Prior to joining St. John's, Sterling taught at Loyola University Maryland, Temple University, and Gwynedd Mercy University. He has also worked outside academia, supporting mission-driven nonprofits such as Philadelphia's Project HOME. He holds an M.A. in Philosophy from Emory University and an MBA from Notre Dame. His writing and public speaking focus on liberal education, democracy, technology, and the formation of judgment, with recent essays appearing in outlets such as the Los Angeles Times, Newsweek, and The Hill. Sterling is a member of the board and visiting teaching faculty of the Rome Institute of Liberal Arts and serves on the Academic Advisory Council of the Jack Miller Center. His passion for languages and travel led him to study Italian in Florence and Hebrew in Jerusalem, in addition to teaching summer courses in Rome. In his free time, Sterling enjoys participating in triathlons and marathons and has completed six Pike's Peak Marathons, four Ironman Triathlons, and the Boston Marathon.



Molly McGrath

Molly Brigid McGrath, ACTC's president, is a professor of philosophy at Assumption University in Worcester, Massachusetts, where she also serves as Director of the D'Amour Center for Teaching Excellence. She earned her Ph.D. and M.A. in philosophy from The Catholic University of America and holds a B.A. in Political Economy from Mount St. Mary's College of Maryland. Specializing in phenomenology, social ontology, and political philosophy, Professor McGrath's academic interests range widely and include, especially, Husserl, Aristotle, Searle, and the philosophy of culture. Her scholarly contributions include articles such as "The Insidious Ambiguity of 'Ideology'," "Cultural Appropriation: An Husserlian Account," and "Socratism as a Vocation." Beyond academic publications, Professor McGrath also engages contemporary culture, occasionally writing philosophically informed essays on such films as *The Ballad of Buster Scruggs*, *Manchester by the Sea*, *Lady Bird*, and *Rashomon*.



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 19

3:00	Board of Directors Meeting (by invitation)	Amber Room
4:00	Registration Opens	Salt River Prefunction North
6:00	Opening Reception	Salt River Ballroom 4-5 Sponsored by The Teagle Foundation
7:00	Dinner and Presidential Plenary Prof. Molly McGrath, Assumption University “The Bourgeoisification of Liberal Education”	Salt River Ballroom 4-5



Friday, March 20

7:30 Breakfast **Salt River Ballroom 4-5**

Session One: 8:15 - 9:45 am

Session 1a **Confronting the Other, Ancient, Modern, and Right this Moment** **Salt River Ballroom 6**

Traumatized Passion and Political Violence: What Can Euripides' *Medea* Teach Us about American Polarized Political Culture Today?

Tuan Hoang (chair), Pepperdine University

“Miss Sasagwara” by Hisaye Yamamoto: Required Reading for a new I.C.E. Age
John Ruff, Valparaiso University

Strangers in Homer's *Odyssey*: A Way to Receive Migrants?
Fabiola Saul, Centros Culturales De Mexico (Universidad Panamericana)

Session 1b **Persistent Problems in Freedom's Scope: Approaches to Protecting Liberty Across Millennia** **Salt River Ballroom 8**

Cicero's *Res Publica* and Questions About Liberty's Guarantees
Richard Rawls (chair), Georgia Gwinnett College

Lessons for Democracy from Xenophon's *Cyropaedia*
Greg Camp, Fresno Pacific University

“What does it mean to have a President?”
David Mason, Georgia Gwinnett College

Session 1c **“Is Liberal Education itself an Ideology? Reflections Prompted by Molly McGrath's 2025 ACTC Plenary”** **Salt River Ballroom 1**

How reading Simonides' “Epitaph to the Spartan Dead” might contribute to an anti-ideological education
Victor Udwin (chair), The University of Tulsa

Respondant: Molly McGrath, Assumption University

“Is Reading Plato’s *Republic* Liberal Education?”

Matthew Oberrieder, Rogers State University

The careful reading of a Grimms’ tale as an exercise of liberty: A defense of liberal education

David Tingey, The University of Tulsa

Session 1d **Against Equality: The Freedom of Flourishing Humans
and the Alternatives**

Salt River Ballroom 7

American Vitalism

Colin Redemer (chair), Saint Mary’s College of California

Unequal in Dignity: Pascal and the Cultivation of Intellect as the Source of Human Worthiness

Louie Betty, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Empty Equality: Classical Legal Thinkers Against Equality as a Political Goal

Eric Enlow, Liberty University

Session 1e **Essaying Montaigne**

Salt River Ballroom 3

Montaigne on Ancient Esotericism

John Colman (chair), Ave Maria University

Montaigne on the Happiness of the Philosophical Life

Margaret Matthews, Assumption University

Montaigne’s New God: A Reading of the *Essais* “*Au Lecteur*”

Rene Paddags, Ashland University

Session 1f **Dance Lessons: Between Heaven and Earth in Philosophy,
Literature, and Astronomy**

Salt River Ballroom 2

“Won’t you dance?”: The Falling and Rising of Being in Melville’s *Moby-Dick*

Elizabeth Reyes (chair), Thomas Aquinas College

Beauty as a Teacher In Shakespeare’s Sonnets

Melissa Austin, Independent Scholar

Earth’s Dance with the Heavens

Erica Johnson, University of Dallas

Session Two: 10:00-12:30 pm

Session 2a **Federalism, Law, and . . .**

Salt River Ballroom 6

An Approach to Properly Interpreting James Wilson’s Lectures on Law

David Ferkaluk (chair), Clemson University

Discourse or Data: Comparing Publius’s Progressivism to Charles E. Merriam

Trent Bunker, University of Dallas

Reviving Madison's Theory of Interposition as a state response to unconstitutional federal action
Nicholas Higgins, North Greenville University

A Marathon, not a Sprint: Cicero on Running the Race of Life
Samuel Thompson, University of Texas at Austin

Federalist 1: Reasoned Government, Fake News, and Free Speech
Michael Cantrell, United States Military Academy

Session 2b On Ancient Philosophic Science

Salt River Ballroom 7

"On *Parva Naturalia* and the Perspective of Aristotle's Philosophic Science"
James Guest (chair), Michigan State University

Immediate Knowledge through Intellect and Prophecy in Aristotle
Thomas Cleveland, Jack Miller Center

Plato's *Protagoras*' Myth of Prometheus and his Doctrine of Homomensura
Paul Diduch, University of Colorado, Boulder

The Harried Hellenic's Handbook for Habituating Hounds to Hunt Hares
Gregory McBrayer, Ashland University

Aristotle's Critique of Plato's *Timaeus*
Matthew Wells, Clemson University

Session 2c Political Education Sponsored by the Hertog Foundation

Salt River Ballroom 2



Hobbes on the Freedom from Politics
Cate Gangemi (chair), University of Texas at Austin, Political Theory PhD Student

The Mastiff and the Greyhound: Adam Smith on Educational Freedom and Equality
Chloe Baldauf, American University

Public Liberal Education and the Polis
Maura Cowan, University of Texas at Austin School of Civic Leadership

Seeking Truth at Home and Abroad: On Travel in Rousseau's *Emile*
Amanda Dorney, New Saint Andrews College

Per plura unum: Liberty and Equality and the Permanent Task of Education
Jordan Dorney, New Saint Andrews College

Session 2d Interpretation and Community

Salt River Ballroom 8

Howard Thurman, Freedom, and the Search for Common Ground
Bryan Whitfield (chair), Mercer University

Emmanuel Levinas' understanding of freedom and great literary works
Jan Hresko, Pavol Jozef Safarik University in Kosice, Slovakia



ACTA
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF
TRUSTEES AND ALUMNI

ACTA is proud to support the Association for Core Texts and Courses as part of our advocacy for excellence in the liberal arts.



**WHAT WILL THEY
LEARN?**

the only study of
core curricula at
1,100+ American
higher education
institutions



outstanding
academic honors,
degree, and
certificate
programs



OASES
OF EXCELLENCE

campus programs
dedicated to
educating students
for informed
citizenship in a
free society



a National
Commission
to restore civic
education at
American colleges
and universities

To learn more, visit GoACTA.org/academic-excellence.

Self-Evident Truths in the Poetry of Ada Limón
Antony Lyon, University of California, San Diego

“Be/ware the Furrow”: Agatha, Catherine, and Civic Interpretation in Toni Morrison’s *Paradise*
Kathleen Marks, St. John’s University

Noah Allusions in Williams’ “The Two-Character Play”
Paul Shields, Assumption University

Session 2e Exploring the Relationship Between Liberal Education and Civic Education

Salt River Ballroom 3

Revisiting the *Republic*
Maxim Botstein (chair), Bard College

Is Socrates a Civic Educator?
Stephanie Almeida Nevin, Yale University

Tocqueville’s Reflective Patriotism as a Pillar of an American Civics
Paul Carrese, Arizona State University

Douglass’ Speech above the Chesapeake: Civic Action and Liberal Education in the *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*
Thomas Merrill, American University

The Bayle Problem: Two Approaches to Liberal and Civic Education in Pierre Bayle
James Hooks, The Ohio State University

Session 2f Democracy in Tocqueville's America

Bronze Room

Franklin and Tocqueville on Education for Democracy
Joseph Knippenberg (chair), Oglethorpe University

Tocqueville's Tension Between Liberty and Equality: The New Political Science is Anchored to the Old
David Dolence, Dominican University

Moderating the Democracy: Atticus Finch, American Legal Rhetoric, and the Prospects for Moderating the Tyranny of the Majority
Michelle Kundmueller, Old Dominion University

Session 2g Pedagogical Possibilities

Amber Room

Oedipal Knowledge as Mastery
Patrick Downy (chair), St. Mary's College of California

Teaching *One Hundred Years of Solitude* in the General Education Classroom
Bretton Rodriguez, University of California, San Diego



The Teagle Foundation's Cornerstone: Learning for Living initiative provides grants to colleges and universities to strengthen the humanities in general education. Funding supports faculty-led programs that create shared first-year learning experiences built around transformative texts, while connecting humanities study to career-focused fields like STEM, business, and health. Planning grants up to \$25,000 and implementation grants up to \$300,000 are available.



**Concept paper deadline:
December 1, 2026.**

CORNERSTONE
Learning for Living

Human Nature and the First Amendment
Paul Ulrich, Carthage College

Cancelling Achilles: The Value of Heroism and Fortitude
Cory Grewell, Patrick Henry College

Session 2i Forming Curricula at Civics Centers: An Opportunity for Core Texts
Sponsored by ACTA **Salt River Ballroom 1**



Leading a Civics Center with Innovative Curriculum
Lee Strang (chair), Salmon P. Chase Center for Civics, Culture, and Society, The Ohio State University

Value of the Arts in Civic Education
Daniel Asia, Polyhymnia

Apology for Philology
Solveig Gold, American Council of Trustees and Alumni

Relevance of Religion to Civic Education
Karen Taliaferro, Hamilton School for Classical and Civic Education, University of Florida

Session 2j Religion, Faith, and Politics **Sun Devil Ballroom 1**

Human Freedom and the Development of Doctrine in John Paul II's "Fides et Ratio"
Michael Krom (chair), Saint Vincent College

Locke, Sacraments, and Politics
Kevin Kearns, Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi

Toleration Without Skepticism
Gabe Whitbread, Duke University

Aquinas on Judging People
Juraj Nevjestic, University of Dallas

Hiding in Plain Sight: Speculum Principis as Political Subversion in Machiavelli and Thomas Aquinas
John Kern, Pepperdine University

12:30 Lunch and Plenary **Salt River Ballroom 4-5**

President Walter Sterling, St. John's College
"Deep Literacy in a Post-Literate Age: What Liberty Requires of Education"

Panel Session Three: 2:00-4:30 pm

Session 3a *Lectio on Dickinson's Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania (1767)* **Salt River Ballroom 3**

Creighton Rosental (chair), Mercer University
Kevin Honeycutt, Mercer University
Marc Jolley, Mercer University
Kevin Kearns, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
Joseph Knippenberg, Oglethorpe University

Discussion Leader

Session 3b The Art of the First Year Seminar

Salt River Ballroom 6

Doing Justice to the Question: Notes on Teaching First Year Seminars

Thomas Merrill (chair), American University

Sarah Marsh, Seton Hill University

Jonathan Spiegler, Ohio State University

Christopher Utter, American University

Session 3c Liberty, Equality, and their Perversions

Sponsored by Hertog

Salt River Ballroom 6



The Ultimate Liberation: Nietzsche on Freedom within the State

Hadar Hazony (chair), University of Notre Dame

Alcibiades, Patriotism, and the Psychology of Tyranny in Thucydides

Jack Bevacqua, University of Notre Dame

Boundaries of Belonging: Hobbes on Liberty, Equality, and the Modern State

Amar Singh Bhandal, University of Cambridge: MPhil in Politics and International Relations

The Great White Void: Melville's Whale and the Pathology of American Ambition

Amishai Goodman-Goldstein, BA/MA at American University, Dec. '25/Dec. '26

Christianity: The Religion of Liberty and Equality?

Ben Peterson, Abilene Christian University

Session 3d Frederick Douglass, Philosopher and Exemplar of Liberty and Equality

Salt River Ballroom 7

Compel the Devil to Wear his own Garments:

Frederick Douglass and the Art of Constitutional Close Reading

Bryan Santin (chair), Concordia University Irvine

Frederick Douglass on Freedom and Equality

Jay Lutz, Oglethorpe University

Liberating Mind, Spirit, and Body: The Example of Frederick Douglass

David Weeks, Azusa Pacific University

Session 3e Plato's Socrates and Aristophanes' Socrates as Political Philosopher(s)

Salt River Ballroom 8

A Guide for the Intoxicated: On Plato's *Symposium*

Paul Gray (chair), Brock University

Theology and Politics in the *Clouds*

Adam Kear, Hillsdale College

Grappling with the Siren Song of *Alcibiades I*

Stefanos Kourkoulakos, University West, Trilhättan, Sweden

Learning and Liberty in Plato's *Meno*
Alan Pichanick, Villanova University

Session 3f Women's Work

Bronze Room

Declaring Rights: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the Report from the Seneca Falls Convention
Annie Devries (chair), Samford University

Look Who's (Not) Talking: Voice, Testimony, and Equality in Ovid's *Metamorphoses*
C.J. Armstrong, Concordia University, Irvine

Establishing Gender Binaries: the Meek and the Dead in "Antigone" and "The Oresteia"
Lejla Marijam, Oglethorpe University

Romancing the Stove
Antoaneta Tileva, American University

Politics and Henry James's Central Consciousness
Lauren Weiner, Alexander Hamilton Institute for the Study of Western Civilization

Session 3g Liberty, Equality, Literature, Structure, and Form

Amber Room

"Pied Beauty" and the Fragility of Perfection in Maclean's *A River Runs Through It*
Bryn Ford (chair), University of Houston

What Tolstoy Said About Unhappy Families: Eros, Abstraction, and Intertextuality
in Welke Wang's *Chemistry*
John Hope, Huron University
Linnaeus, Darwin, and Melville's Whale: Questioning human exceptionality
through literature and science in the 19th century
Sara Karam, Concordia University, Irvine

Baldwin's Apparently Improvisational Structure in "Sonny's Blues"
Page Laws, Norfolk State University, Emerita

Melville on Antiquity and Modernity in *Moby-Dick*
Jason Lund, Treasure Valley Classical Academy

Session 3h Practical Pedagogy: Teaching Asian Texts

Sun Devil Ballroom 1

Erin Dolgoy (chair), Rhodes College
Sarah Babcock, Dharma Realm Buddhist University
Fedde de Vries, Dharma Realm Buddhist University
Jay Black, Mercer University

Session 3i Humanities and Civic Education
Sponsored by Jack Miller Center

Salt River Ballroom 1



Film and Civic Education: Coming to Know in *Shadow of a Doubt's* America
Andrea Ray (chair), Jack Miller Center

The Music of the Republic: Albert Murray's "Stomping the Blues" as Civic Education
Nicholas Anderson, The Ohio State University

Tragedy and Civic Education
Chris Colmo, Dominican University

Civics, Literature, and American Identity: Ralph Ellison's "Little Man at Chehaw Station"
Zachary Roberts, Bard College

Panel Session Four: 4:45-6:30 pm

Session 4a The American Proposition: the Declaration, the Constitution, and the Pluralist Unum Salt River Ballroom 7

"We hold These Truths": John Courtney Murray, S. J. on the Declaration, the Constitution, and American National Identity
Frank Rohmer (chair), Austin College

The Bill of Rights
Ann Colmo, Dominican University, Emeritus

"Not a Thesis for Philosophers, but a Whip for Tyrants": The Declaration of Independence in Woodrow Wilson's *The New Freedom*
Dan Palm, Azusa Pacific, Emeritus

Does the Supreme Court Need a Jurisprudence of Natural Right?
John Ray, Xavier University, Cincinnati

Frederick Douglass on Prudence and Principle in Politics
Joseph Reisert, Colby College

Session 4b General Education Reform Then and Now Sponsored by the Chang Chavkin Center at Bard College Salt River Ballroom 3



Roosevelt Montas (chair), Bard College

TBA
Walter Sterling, St. John's College, Santa Fe

TBA
Sarah Igo, Vanderbilt University

Session 4c Forgotten Aspects of the American Founding: Natural Religion and Political Faith Salt River Ballroom 8

The Political Faith of Salmon P. Chase
Tyler Thomas (chair), Arizona State University

Reason, Revelation, and Modernity in Coolidge's Speech on the 150th Anniversary of the Declaration
Michael Fink, Great Hearts Academies

God of the Hills: Natural Right in Ethan Allen's *Reason*
Robert Wyllie, Ashland University

"Triumphs of Unrighteous Power": Theodore Frelinguysen's Defense of Public Christian Morality
Aaron Kushner, Arizona State University

Session 4d Nature, Society, and Education in Rousseau, Emerson, and Aristotle **Bronze Room**

Natural Sociability and Equality in Rousseau's *Discourse on Inequality*
Christopher Utter (chair), American University

Emerson's Platonic Politics: Esotericism and the Civic Responsibility in *Representative Men*
Borden Flanagan, American University

From Habit to Judgment: The Development of Taste in Rousseau's *Emile*
Bridget Haskett, The Catholic University of America

The Virtuous Citizen and the Good Human Being: The Tension between Philosophy and the City in Aristotle
Peter Haskett, The Catholic University of America

Session 4e Education for Citizenship and Statesmanship: Montesquieu, Rush, and Churchill **Amber Room**

Martha Bayles (chair), Boston College

Learning Parliamentarism from Walter Bagehot's *English Constitution*
John von Heyking, SCETL at Arizona State University

Necessary but Insufficient for Liberal Education: Remarks on Churchill's *My Early Life*
Gregory A. McBrayer, SCETL at Arizona State University

Benjamin Rush's Federal University and Discourse Across Difference
Jacqueline L. Pfeffer Merrill, Association for Core Texts & Courses

What Montesquieu's *The Spirit of the Laws* can tell us about Civic Learning in Higher Education
Constantine Vassiliou, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

Session 4f Money, Property, and Liberty **Sun Devil Ballroom 1**

What does true liberty have to do with money? Aristotle, Jane Austen, and Plato
Janelle Aijian (chair), Biola University

Walter Lippmann's *Drift and Mastery*: We've been here before
Jay Black, Mercer University

Money, Credit, and Inalienable Rights: A New Perspective from Spengler's Historical Framework
Simon Frazier, Independent Scholar

In Defense of the Bourgeoisie: Adam Smith, Industrialization, Property, and Social Benevolence
Jason Wallace, Samford University

The Sea is Whose? Hugo Grotius on Navigating Rights and Waterways
Megan Brand, Arizona State University

Session 4g Freedom, Convention, and Community

Sun Devil Ballroom 2

Forgotten Heritage: The Lost Insights of the Declaration of Independence
David Arndt (chair), Saint Mary's College of California

Freedom: Arendtian Reflections on the Meaning of Politics
Minn Thant, The Ohio State University

Liberty and the "Ancient Order into Which We are Born": Edmund Burke on Popular Sovereignty and Corporate Identity
Matthew Wright, Biola University

Images of Freedom in *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
Robert Anderson, Saint Anselm College

Session 4h Aristotelean Considerations

Salt River Ballroom 2

The puzzle of Pleasure in Aristotle's Biology and Ethics
Judd Owen (chair), Emory University

Ethos: The Rhetorical Image of Virtue
Daniel Fram, Middlebury College

Popular Sovereignty and the Rule of Law in Aristotle's *Politics*
Nicholas Gooding, St. John's College, Santa Fe

Alfarabi's *Commentary on Aristotle's Peri Hermēneias*, chapter one (16a1 - 18)
Terence Kleven, Central College

Session 4i David Bolotin on Plato's Republic - A Celebration and Discussion

Salt River Ballroom 6

Introduction to the Discussion and Participants
Lewis Slawsky (chair), Green Lion Press and Political Animal Press

Paul Diduch, University of Colorado, Boulder
Peter Hansen, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Travis Mulroy, St. John's College
Joshua Parens, University of Dallas
Alex Priou, University of Austin
Paul Ulrich, Carthage College

**Session 4j Liberal Arts Education: Institutions, Principles, and Practice
Ballroom 1**

Salt River

Renewing the Shimer School
Stuart Patterson (chair), The Shimer Great Books School at North Central College

Liberty, Equality, and Moral Discernment: Teaching *Korematsu v. United States* through a Lasallian Core
Hilda Ma, St. Mary's College of California

Reading Taipei's Early City Planning with Similes from the *Milindapañha*
Franklyn Wu, Dharma Realm Buddhist University

6:30 Graduate Student Reception (all graduate students welcome)

Sponsored by Hertog Foundation

Salt River Prefunction West

Saturday, March 21

7:30 Breakfast

Salt River Ballroom 4-5

Panel Session Five: 8:15 - 9:45 am

Session 5a Piety, Justice, and Statesmanship

Salt River Ballroom 7

Beowulf's Piety, Prudence, and Justice
Clint Condra (chair), Treasure Valley Classical Academy

The Problem of Aeneas' Piety
Michael Dink, St. John's College, Annapolis

Angelina Grimke's "Slavery and the Boston Riot" (1835)
Erin Dolgoy, Rhodes College

Session 5b Ancient Political Thought's "Coming of Age" in Modern Life

Salt River Ballroom 6

Conference within a Conference: Ancient and Modern Philosophy, Virtue and Citizenship, Session 1
Aaron Slutkin (chair), St. John's College

Montesquieu's Troglodyte Letters and the Doctrine of Self-Interest
Sasha Peterson, St. John's College

If You Hadn't of Reckernized Me: Memory and Extermination in 'A Good Man Is Hard to Find'
Natalie Michaels, St. John's College

America's Coming of Age in Sherwood Anderson's *Winesburg, Ohio*
Abigail Petrich, St. John's College

An Ancient Challenge to Liberty and Equality: Plato's *Alcibiades*
Aidan Sheeran-Hahnel, Bowdoin College

Polybius and the Rise of a New Government
Alexandra Comus, Hillsdale College

Session 5c Modern Declarations in Core Texts

Salt River Ballroom 1

A Pudd'nheaded Approach to Politics: Twain's *Pudd'nhead Wilson*
Bernard Dobski (chair), Arizona State University

Self-Evident Truths: Principles of the Declaration (The American Core Text)
Dustin Gish, The Honors College at The University of Houston

Kant and the Rule of Reason
Daniel Maher, Assumption University

Session 5d Truth, Perspective, Bias, and Justice

Salt River Ballroom 2

The Elephant in the Classroom: Opening a Dialogue on Subjective Truth and Perspective through the short story “Rashomon”
Kerri Pope (chair), Austin Community College

Truth, Community, and Justice in “Twelve Angry Men”
Elizabeth-Jane McGuire, Villanova University

Tuan, Young Man of the Land of Viet
LeDung Rohmer, Independent Scholar

Session 5e Early Modern Liberty, Equality, and Truth

Salt River Ballroom 3

We Hold These Trouthes: Chaucer and the Medieval conception of truth
Christopher Snyder (chair), Mississippi State University

Freedom and Predestination in Calderon de la Barca’s *Life is a Dream*
Maria Angélica Solar Mir, Universidad de los Andes

Liberty and Bondage in Shakespeare’s Comedies
John-Paul Spiro, Villanova University

Panel Session Six: 10:00 am-12:30 pm

Session 6a Education In Liberty: Greek and Roman Accounts of Law and Government

Terracotta Room

James Guest (chair), Michigan State University

Livy on the Conditions for Libertas: Servius Tullius to Tarquinius Superbus
Tobin Craig, Michigan State University

Thucydides’ Presentation of Sparta: Laws, Founding, and the Regime
Travis Hadley, Collin College

The Interpreter in Herodotus’ Inquiry
Alex Priou, University of Austin (UATX)

Law and Civic Education in Cicero
David West, Ashland University

Session 6b On Modern Politics, Religion, and Philosophy

Salt River Ballroom 6

Conference within a Conference: Ancient and Modern Philosophy, Virtue and Citizenship, Session 2
Michael Hawley (chair), University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Dostoevsky’s Critique of Natural Science in *Demons*
Aaron Slutkin, St. John’s College

Freedom as Tension: The Unification of Politics, Religion, and Philosophy in the 19th Century
Meredith Johnson, Tulane University

The Rebirth of Philosophy: Nietzsche on Heraclitus in *Philosophy in the Tragic Age of the Greeks*
Luca Frumento, Baylor University

Session 6c **Natural Law: East and West**

Salt River Ballroom 3

Strauss, Averroism, and Machiavelli's Critique of Natural Law: Between NRH and PAW
Joshua Parens (chair), University of Dallas

Leo Strauss's "True" Criticism of Thomistic Natural Law in *Natural Right and History*
Douglas Kries, Gonzaga University

Deliberative Democracy in a Thomistic Key: The Moral Foundations of Consilium
Theresa MacArt, Holy Cross College

Natural Law in Averroes and Avicenna: Early Islamic Developments of a Truncated Tradition
Karen Taliaferro, Hamilton School for Classical and Civic Education, University of Florida

Session 6d **The Lives and Thought of Thoreau and Emerson**

Salt River Ballroom 7

Walden as a Declaration of Independence
Marc Jolley (chair), Mercer University

From Yes I Can to Yes We Can: The Sociopolitical Influence on Varying Concepts of American Liberty From
Emerson's *Self-Reliance* to Steinbeck's *Cannery Row*
Colleen Bowlan, Western New Mexico University

Poetic Liberties: Poetry's Ambivalence and Liberalism's Choices
Bernadette Guthrie, Villanova University

Philosophy as a Way of Life by Abandonment
Phillip Schoenberg, Western New Mexico University

In Tune and Out of Tune: The Impact of Industrial Rhythms on the Embodied Imagination
Laura Schrock Crawford, Samford University

Session 6e **Core Texts and Television**

Salt River Ballroom 8

Erin Dolgoy (chair), Rhodes College

Bureaucracy, Justice, and Knowing When the Rules Should Be Broken in "The Good Place"
Kimberly Hurd Hale, Coastal Carolina University

Appearance and Reality: Navigating Political Life with Machiavelli and "VEEP"
Evan Lowe, Arizona State University

Kallipolis to Springfield, USA: On Political Comedy and Political Education
Benjamin Gross, Jacksonville State University

Presidential Leadership in Locke, *The Federalist Papers*, and "Mad Men"
Kevin Kearns, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christie

Session 6f Civic Education and the United States at 250: Bronze Room
Teaching the American Founding Sponsored by SCETL at ASU



The Fault in Our Founders? The Declaration of Independence Controversy in the Indian Removal Crisis

Aaron Kushner, SCETL at Arizona State University

Civic Education and the United States at 250: Teaching the American Founding

Paul Carrese, Arizona State University

Civic Lessons from the Rip Van Winkle Amendment

Alan Gibson, Arizona State University

Session 6g Liberal Arts and the Civic Renaissance in Academic Programs
Sponsored by ACTA and JMC Salt River Ballroom 1



Thomas Cleveland (chair), Jack Miller Center

Can the Great Books Thrive at a Public Research University?

Catherine Borck, University of Texas at Austin

TBA

Flagg Taylor, Center for Civics, Culture, and Society, Miami University of Ohio

Aristotle's Civic-Minded Liberal Education

Sebastian Graham, Purdue University

Is the Virtue of the Good Student and of the Good Citizen the Same?

Daniel Maher, Assumption University



Session 6h Equality, Natural and Political

Amber Room

The Foundation of America
John Doody (chair), Arizona State University

Reform and Conflict: Martin Luther and the Fight for Truth, Liberty and Equality
Sean Bortz, Concordia University, Irvine

A Truth to Be Kept Secret?: Implications of the Buddha's Teachings on Equality
Fedde deVries, Dharma Realm Buddhist University

The Buddha and the Tyrant: Buddhist Teachings on Community and Freedom
Justin Howe, Clemson University

The Lost Debate: Abraham Lincoln, Stephen Douglas, and the "Old Line Whig"
Jason Stevens, Ashland University

Session 6i Reading, Education, and the University

Salt River Ballroom 2

The Madness of Education
Mary Elizabeth Halper (chair), St. John's College

Harvard at 250: J.R. Lowell on the Useless University
Joshua Kinlaw, University of Dallas

Memory, Meaning, and the Necessity of Books
Carol McNamara, Great Hearts America

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight and the Liberties of Reading Without Use
Christopher Taylor, Western New Mexico University

12:30 Lunch and Plenary

Sponsored by Jack Miller Center

Professor Susan Collins, University of Notre Dame
"Can These Truths Be Taught? Liberty, Equality, and Core Texts"

Salt River Ballroom 4-5



Panel Session Seven: 2:00-4:30 pm

Session 7a *Page Turners Podcast Reels*

Salt River Ballroom 1

Page Turners Podcast Reels
Judie Levy (chair), Oglethorpe University

Session 7b *On Ancient Virtue and Citizenship*

Salt River Ballroom 6

Conference within a Conference: Ancient and Modern Philosophy, Virtue and Citizenship, Session 3
Frank Pagano (chair), St. John's College

The Promise of Prudence
Quinn Rifkin, Boston College

Can Courage be Taught? Aristotle's Critique of the Spartan Education
Maria Goyette, Cleveland State University

Suffrage and Civic Participation in Aristophanes' *Lysistrata*: A Cautionary Tale
Megan Walsh, University of Texas at Austin

On the Plan of Aristotle's Preliminary Examination of Virtue
Stephen Matter, Boston College

Session 7c *Poetic Authority*

Salt River Ballroom 2

Homer's Poetic Authority
Michael McShane (chair), University of Texas at Arlington

Muse and Poet in the *Iliad*
Seemee Ali, Southern Methodist University

Making and Unmaking the City in Euripides' *Bacchae*
Joan Arbery, Southern Methodist University

The *Euthyphro*: A Preface to the Republic
David Sweet, University of Dallas

Arendt on Art
Peter Zuk, University of Texas at Arlington

Session 7d *Ancient Freedom and God(s)*

Salt River Ballroom 7

The Results of Freedom Untethered
Paul Lewis (chair), Mercer University

The Soul, The Septuagint, and the Liberty of a Colonized People
Benjamin Cline, Western New Mexico University

Fearing (trusting) the gods in the *Odyssey* and *Genesis*
Brendan Cook, University of South Florida

Of Gods and Sacrifices: The Heroic Ideal in Christian Scriptures, The *Iliad*, and Reformation Theology
Joel Oesch, Concordia University, Irvine

Knowledge in *Genesis*
Peter Sabo, Huron University College

Session 7e Liberty and Revolution

Salt River Ballroom 8

These Truths Do Not Justify a Revolution: Charles Inglis' Loyalist Response to Thomas Paine
Niel Robertson (chair), University of King's College, Halifax

The Limits of Compassion in Hannah Arendt's "On Revolution"
Roberta Brown, Western New Mexico University

Two Volumes, Octavo, with Notes: Editing *Thomas Paine: Collected Writings*
Scott Cleary, Iona University

Adam Smith on Revolution
Peter McNamara, Arizona State University

Session 7f Inner Freedom

Bronze Room

"We Hold These Truths" to be indifferent: the Stoic Challenge to the American Founding
Kelsey Boor (chair), Boston College

Hegel on Mind, Freedom, and Norms
Daniel Murphy, Saint Peter's University

Inner Freedom: An Unexpected Connection Between Tocqueville and Frankl on Liberty
Bernardo Pacheco Bleichner, Universidad de los Andes

Ralph Ellison and the Inner Life of the American Citizen
David Ramsey, University of West Florida

Jane Bennet's Happiness
Giulia Ricca, University of Florida

Session 7g Interpreting ancient Images, Objects, and Oracles

Amber Room

Reading Herodotus Historically
Michael Ivans (chair), Great Hearts Academies

Helen, Menelaus, and the Meaning of the Trojan Horse
Elizabeth Lund, Treasure Valley Classical Academy

Achilles' Shield, the City, and the Limits of Human Life
Jonathan Gondelman, Jack Miller Center

Political Prediction: Some Common Problems in Oracles and Constitutions
Daniel Walden, University of Tulsa

Session 7h Fairness, Felicity, and Magnanimity

Terracotta Room

The Origins of the Modern Tension between Efficiency and Fairness in Xenophon's *Education of Cyrus*
John Anders (chair), Trinity University

Reign of Equity, Reign of Cyrus: On Justice as the Fitting in Xenophon's *Cyropaedia*
Joshua A. Shmikler, University of Mount Saint Vincent

What Hobbes Terms Felicity
Michael Kelly, University of San Diego

The wishes and choices of a "Man Called Horse"
Thomas Larson, Saint Anselm College

Session 7i Teaching Core Texts to High School Students

Salt River Ballroom 3

What is lost through assimilation? Reading texts on immigration with high school students
Jessica Lee (chair), Bard College

Reading the Riddle of the World: Education as a Search for Meaning in DuBois's *Souls*
Amanda Lowe, Columbia University

Living Well Together: Political Polarization and the Immigrant Experience
Mark Makin, Biola University

The Gettysburg Address
Matthew Pinsker, Dickinson College

Panel Session Eight: 4:45-6:30 pm

Session 8a Meeting of the Liberal Arts Consortium (by invitation)

Amber Room

One representative of each school is invited to join this invitation-only session

- Assumption University
- The Chang Chavkin Center at Bard College
- Concordia University, Irvine
- The Dallas Institute for Humanities and Culture at SMU
- Dharma Realm Buddhist University
- The Lincoln Scholars Program at AU
- Mercer University
- Oglethorpe University
- Pepperdine University
- Samford University
- The Shimer Great Books School at North Central College
- St. John's College Annapolis
- St. John's College Santa Fe
- Universidad de Navarra
- Universidad Panamericana
- University of Chicago
- University of Dallas

Session 8b Modern Philosophy and Modern Politics

Salt River Ballroom 6

Conference within a Conference: Ancient and Modern Philosophy, Virtue and Citizenship, Session 4
Rachel Mackey (chair), Hudson Institute

Civic Prejudice and Civic Skepticism in The Federalist
Michael Hawley, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Resentment in America
Frank Pagano, St. John's College, St. John's College

Session 8c Heroines Only an Author Could Love? The Misadventures of Emma Woodhouse and Fanny Price

Salt River Ballroom 2

Revolution at *Mansfield Park*
Mary Mathie (chair), University of Texas at San Antonio

A Lucky Guess is Never Merely Lucky: Fortune and Politics in Austen's *Emma*
Steven Block, Baylor University

TBA
Tobin Craig, Michigan State University (James Madison College)

TBA
Benjamin Kleinerman, Baylor University

Session 8d Freedom and Constraint in Ancient and Modern Thought

Salt River Ballroom 3

Hobbes on Compulsion and Natural Right in the State of Nature
Kevin Akalski (chair), Baylor University

Democracy, Empire, and Household Management in Xenophon's Political Thought
Emma Bernstein, Baylor University

The Religious Basis of Civic Virtue in Hegel's Political Philosophy
Ian MacFarlane, Harvard University

On Hedonism and Democracy in Plato's *Gorgias*, *Protagoras*, and *Republic*
Sasha Rickard, Boston College

Session 8e Beyond Written Texts: Reading Representation

Salt River Ballroom 7

Liberty, Truth, and Beauty in W.E.B. Du Bois
Michele Rozga (chair), Norfolk State University

Representing the Revolution
Martha Bayles, Boston College

Pricking the Listening Ear: Augustine's Hermeneutics of Hearing
Cana Beverage, University of Dallas

Session 8f Generic Inquiries

Salt River Ballroom 8

How to Begin Reading Descartes's *Meditations*
Sam Stoner (chair), Assumption University

Myth and Prophecy in Bacon's *New Atlantis*
Derek Duplessie, Assumption University

Painting as Craft and Story-Telling: The Influence of Aristotle on Odd Nerdrum's work and process
Andrea Kowalchuk, University of Colorado, Boulder

What Manner of Hero is Plato's Socrates?
Mary Townsend, St. Johns University

Session 8g Essays in Honor of William B. Allen and the American Founding Salt River Ballroom 1

A Reading of John Quincy Adams' 1837 Oration on the Sixty-First Anniversary
of the Declaration of Independence
Elizabeth Eastman (chair), Independent Scholar

George Washington: The American Character
John Eastman, The Claremont Institute

Self-Government, National Character, and the Moral Architecture of the
American Republic in the Thought of William B. Allen
Colleen Sheehan, Arizona State University

Sunday, March 22 9:00 am Continental Breakfast and Business Meeting



Scan to
follow us!





**For more information contact
ACTC:
info@coretexts.org**

Would you like to get more involved with ACTC?

We're looking for people who can help us with the following things:

- Interviewing ACTC members on books they love or love to teach
- Being interviewed about a book you love or love to teach
- Managing ACTC's Social Media
- Coordinates ACTC's student programs
- Contributing to ACTC's new substack



HUMANITIES AT HERTOG

Launched in 2020, Humanities at Hertog offers rigorous, small-group online seminars on classic works of literature, history, and philosophy. Free of grades and credentials, our courses foster deep inquiry and vibrant discussion—empowering participants to engage with timeless texts and enduring human questions.

Visit: hertogfoundation.org/programs/humanities



NOMINATE A STUDENT

Students can apply directly, but nominations are crucial to helping us find the curious, committed readers who will flourish in this work.

If you meet a student or recent graduate whose desire for learning stretches past the boundaries of the classroom, who reads closely, asks honest questions, and loves conversation, please nominate them by filling out this brief form; your nominee will receive an email with information about our programs and how to apply.

To submit multiple nominations, simply refresh the page between submissions.

Nominate here:
hertogfoundation.org/nominate-a-student

RECENT SEMINARS



SAMUEL 1 & 2
FALL 2025
GREG MCBRAYER | ASHLAND UNIVERSITY



CHURCHILL'S THE GATHERING STORM
FALL 2025 & WINTER 2026
SAMUEL ZEITLIN | UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON



PLATO'S PROTAGORAS
WINTER 2026
MARY TOWNSEND | ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY



DANTE'S DIVINE COMEDY
SPRING 2026
CHRISTOPHER UTTER | AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

The Hertog Foundation offers selective educational programs designed to impact America's intellectual and civic life—spanning Humanities, Political Studies, Constitutional Studies, War Studies, and Security Studies. Founded by Roger Hertog, a pioneering businessman and philanthropist, the Foundation is committed to deep engagement with foundational texts and ideas that shape public discourse and leadership.

Washington, DC

hertogfoundation.org

JACK MILLER CENTER

ADVANCING THE TEACHING OF
AMERICA'S FOUNDING PRINCIPLES
AND HISTORY





PAGE TURNERS

The ACTC Podcast

“Page Turners” is a podcast produced by the Association for Core Texts and Courses (ACTC). It’s described as “The ACTC Podcast” and focuses on exploring influential literary texts and the ideas behind them. In each episode, scholars from around the world discuss the what, how, and why of reading and teaching important works—texts that have shaped culture, conversation, and intellectual history.



2025-26 ACTC Institutional and Liberal Arts Consortium Members

The ACTC Liberal Arts Consortium

Assumption University
 The Chang Chavkin Center at Bard College
 Concordia University, Irvine
 The Dallas Institute for Humanities and Culture at SMU
 Dharma Realm Buddhist University
 The Lincoln Scholars Program at American University
 Mercer University
 Oglethorpe University
 Pepperdine University
 Samford University
 The Shimer Great Books School at North Central College
 St. John's College Annapolis
 St. John's College Santa Fe
 Universidad de Navarra
 Universidad Panamericana
 University of Chicago
 University of Dallas

ACTC Institutional Members

Austin Community College
 Baylor University Honors College
 Biola University
 The College of New Jersey
 Emory University
 Hillsdale College
 The Jefferson Center at the University of Texas
 The Montesquieu Forum at Roosevelt University
 Norfolk State University
 Purdue University
 Rhodes College
 SCETL at Arizona State University
 St. Anselm College
 St. Mary's College of California
 St. Thomas University
 St. Vincent College
 Universidad de los Andes
 Universitat Internacional de Catalunya
 University of Houston Honors College
 University of Kings College Halifax

ACTC

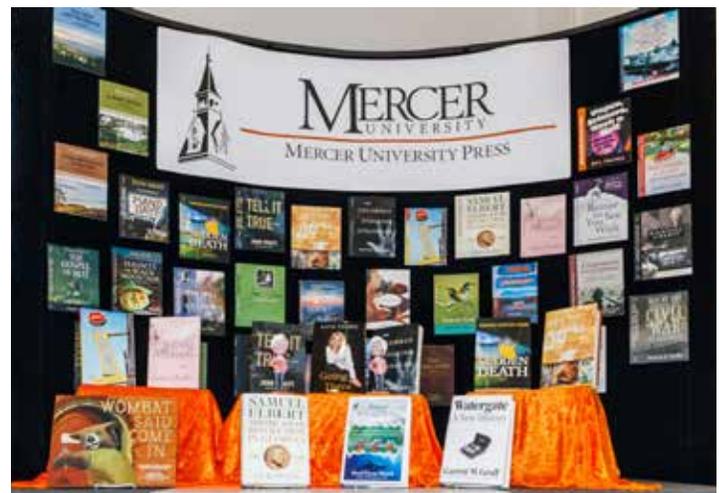
DHARMA REALM
BUDDHIST UNIVERSITY

SCAN FOR
MORE INFO

Dr. BU
in
Taipei
JULY
2026

SUMMER PROGRAM
We invite you to join us in Taipei, Taiwan, for a month-long exploration of Buddhist philosophy and urban phenomenology centered on the study of core texts—including the city itself, read as a text.

There are three \$3000 fellowships available to students attending the program. This brings the price down to \$1500 plus airfare, including tuition.



ACTC's new "Selected Essays" series, published by Mercer University Press

MERCER
UNIVERSITY PRESS

1501 Mercer University Drive
 Macon, GA 31207
 (478) 301-2880 direct
 (866) 895-1472 toll-free
www.mupress.org



Governing Board and Officers

ACTC Board Membership, Officers, and Standing Committees

Current Board membership

- Molly McGrath, President
- Jacquie Pfeffer-Merrill, Vice President
- Neil Robertson, Treasurer
- Kerri Tom, Secretary
- Charlotte Thomas, Executive Director

ACTC Board of Directors

- David Carl, Assistant Dean, St. John's College Santa Fe
- Emma Cohen de Lara, Assistant Professor of Social Sciences, University of Amsterdam
- Erin Dolgoy, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Political Science, Chair, Department of Politics and Law, Rhodes College
- Theodore Hadzi-Antich, Association Professor of Government and Humanities, Austin Community College
- Tuan Hoang, Associate Professor of Great Books, Blanche E. Seaver Professor of Humanities and Teacher Education, Pepperdine University
- Richard Kamber, Professor of Philosophy, College of New Jersey
- Joseph Knippenberg, Professor of Politics, Oglethorpe University
- Michael Krom, Professor of Philosophy, St. Vincent College
- Page Laws, Dean, Honors College Emerita, Norfolk State University
- Gregory McBrayer, Director, Core Curriculum, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Ashland University
- Molly McGrath, Professor of Philosophy, Assumption College; President of ACTC
- Roosevelt Montas, Director of the Center for the Core Curriculum, Columbia University
- Joshua Parens, Professor of Philosophy and Politics, University of Dallas
- Jacqueline Pfeffer Merrill, Council of Independent Colleges; Vice President of ACTC
- Neil G. Robertson, Associate Professor in the Foundation Year, Early Modern Studies, and Contemporary Studies programs, University of King's College, Halifax; Treasurer of ACTC
- Sarah Skwire, Senior Fellow and Director of Communications, Liberty Fund Inc.
- Kerri L. Tom, Professor of English and Director of the Enduring Questions and Ideas Curriculum, Concordia University Irvine; Secretary of ACTC
- José M. Torralba, Director of the Core Curriculum Institute, University of Navarra
- Charlotte Thomas (non-voting, ex officio), Professor of Philosophy, and co-director of the McDonald Center, Mercer University; Executive Director of ACTC
- Jason Wallace, Richard Stockham Jr. Chair of Western Intellectual History, Samford University



Did you know that ACTC is a 501c3 organization?

Principally, we are supported by institutional memberships and individual donations, that is, by people like you!

If you would like to help ACTC promote liberal arts education through the use of primary texts and seminar pedagogies, please consider making a tax-deductible charitable donation.

Mail your checks to:

ACTC
Knight Hall, Mercer University
1501 Mercer University Drive
Macon GA 31207

Or contribute electronically at:

<https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/TX8R8UYS27WVA>

Directory

Last name	First name	Institutional Affiliation	Email address	Session
Aijian,	Janelle	Biola University	janelle.ajjian@biola.edu	4f
Akalski,	Kevin	Baylor University	kevin_akalski1@baylor.edu	8d
Ali,	Seemee	SMU	seemeeali@smu.edu	7c
Almeida Nevin,	Stephanie	Yale University	stephanie.almeida@yale.edu	2e
Anders,	John	Trinity University	janders@trinity.edu	7h
Anderson,	Robert	Saint Anselm College	randerso@anselm.edu	4g
Arbery,	Joan	Southern Methodist University	jarbery@smu.edu	7c
Armstrong,	CJ	Concordia University, Irvine	clinton.armstrong@cui.edu	3f
Arndt,	David	Saint Mary's College of California	dda2@stmarys-ca.edu	4g
Bayles,	Martha	Boston College	martha.bayles@bc.edu	8h
Bevacqua,	Jack	University of Notre Dame	jbevacqu@nd.edu	3c
Beverage,	Cana	University of Dallas	cbeverage_adj@udallas.edu	8h
Black,	Jay	Mercer University	black_je@mercer.edu	4f
Block,	Steve	Baylor University	steve_block@baylor.edu	8c
Boor,	Kelsey	Boston College	kelsey.boor@bc.edu	7f
Bortz,	Sean	Concordia University Irvine	sean.bortz@cui.edu	6i
Botstein,	Maxim	Bard College	mbotstein@bard.edu	2e
Bowlan,	Colleen	Western New Mexico University	cbowlan@wnmu.edu	6d
Brand,	Megan	Arizona State University	megan.brand@asu.edu	4f
Brown,	Roberta	Western New Mexico University	roberta.brown@wnmu.edu	7e
Bryant,	Veronica	American Council of Trustees and Alumni	vbryant@goacta.org	2i, 6g
Camp,	Greg	Fresno Pacific University	gregalancamp@yahoo.com	1b
Cantrell,	Michal	United States Military Academy	michal.cantrell@westpoint.edu	2a
Charney Colmo,	Ann	Dominican University, (IL)	charneca@dom.edu	4a
Cleary,	Scott	Iona University	sclearyphd@gmail.com	7e
Cline,	Benjamin	Western New Mexico University	clineb@wnmu.edu	7d
Colman,	John	Ave Maria University	john.colman@avemaria.edu	1e
Condra,	Clint	Treasure Valley Classical Academy	clint.condra@gmail.com	5a
Cook,	Brendan	University of South Florida	brendancook@usf.edu	7d
Craig,	Tobin	Michigan State University	tobincraig@hotmail.com	6a
de Vries,	Fedde	Dharma Realm Buddhist Uni.	fedde.devries@drbu.edu	6i
de Vries,	Annie	Samford University	adevries@samford.edu	3f
Dink,	Michael	St. John's College, Annapolis	michael.dink@sjc.edu	5a
Dobski,	Bernard	Arizona State University	bernard.dobski@asu.edu	5c
Dolence,	David	Dominican University (IL)	ddolence@dom.edu	2f
Dolgoy,	Erin	Rhodes College	dolgoye@rhodes.edu	3h, 5a, 6e
Doody,	John	Arizona State University	john.doody@asu.edu	6i
Downey,	Patrick	St. Mary's College of California	pdowney@stmarys-ca.edu	2g
Eastman,	Elizabeth	Retired	e.eastman@verizon.net	8g
Enlow,	Eric	Liberty University	eenlow@liberty.edu	1d
Ferkaluk,	David	Clemson University	dferkal@clemson.edu	2a
Fink,	Michael	Great Hearts Academies	mfink@lincolnprep.org	4c
Foote,	Melissa	Austin Community College	melissa.foote@austincc.edu	3e
Ford,	Bryn	University of Houston	beford@uh.edu	3g
Fram,	Daniel	Middlebury College	dfram@middlebury.edu	4h
Frazier,	Simon	Independent	sf1@posteo.de	4f
Fruemento,	Luca	Baylor University	luca_fruemento1@baylor.edu	6b
Gish,	Dustin	University of Houston	dgish@uh.edu	5c
Gondelman,	Jonathan	Jack Miller Center	jgondelman@gmail.com	7g
Gooding,	Nicholas	St. John's College, Santa Fe	nicholas.gooding@sjc.edu	4h

Last name	First name	Institutional Affiliation	Email address	Session
Gray,	Paul	Brock University	pgray2@brocku.ca	4j
Guest,	James	Unaffiliated	jwguest5040@gmail.com	2b
Guthrie,	Bernadette	Villanova University	bernadette.guthrie@villanova.edu	6d
Hadley,	Travis	Collin College	thadley@collin.edu	6a
Halper,	Mary Elizabeth	Hertog Foundation	maryelizabeth@hertogfoundation.org	2c, 2h, 3c
Higgins,	Nicholas	North Greenville University	Nicholas.Higgins@ngu.edu	2a
Hoang,	Tuan	Pepperdine University	tuan.hoang@pepperdine.edu	1a
Hope,	John	Huron University	jhope24@uwo.ca	3g
Howe,	Justin	Clemson University	howe8@clemson.edu	6h
Hresko,	Jan	Pavol Jozef Safarik University	jan.hresko@protonmail.com	2d
Ivins,	Michael	Great Hearts Academies	mivins@chandlerprep.org	7g
Jolley,	Marc	Mercer University	jolley_ma@mercer.edu	6d
Karam,	Sarah	Concordia University Irvine	sarah.karam@cui.edu	3g
Kear,	Adam	Hillsdale College	akear@hillsdale.edu	4j
Kearns,	Kevin	Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi	Kevin.Kearns@tamucc.edu	2j
Kelly,	Michael	University of San Diego	michaelkelly@sandiego.edu	7h
Kern,	John	Pepperdine University	john.kern@pepperdine.edu	2j
Kinlaw,	Joshua	University of Dallas	jkinlaw@udallas.edu	2h
Kirkland,	Paul	Carthage College	Pkirkland@carthage.edu	1f
Kleven,	Terence	Central College	klevent@central.edu	4h
Knippenberg,	Joseph	Oglethorpe University	jknippenberg@oglethorpe.edu	2f
Kourkoulakos,	Stefanos	University West, Trollhättan, Sweden	stefanosofathens@gmail.com	4j
Kowalchuk,	Andrea	University of Colorado, Boulder	andrea.kowalchuk@colorado.edu	8f
Krom,	Michael	Saint Vincent College	michael.krom@stvincent.edu	2j
Kundmueller,	Michelle	Old Dominion University	mkundmue@odu.edu	2f
Kushner,	Aaron	Arizona State University	arkushne@asu.edu	4c, 6f
Larson,	Thomas	Saint Anselm College	tlarson@anselm.edu	7h
Laws,	Page	Norfolk State University (Emerita)	prlaws@aya.yale.edu	3g
Lee,	Jessica	Bard College	jhlee@bard.edu	7i
Levy,	Judith	Oglethorpe University	jlevy@oglethorpe.edu	7a
Lewis,	Paul	Mercer University	lewis_pa@mercer.edu	7d
Lund,	Jason	Treasure Valley Classical Academy	jlund@tvacademy.org	3g
Lund,	Elizabeth	Treasure Valley Classical Academy	elund@tvacademy.org	7g
Lutz,	Jay	Oglethorpe University	jlutz@oglethorpe.edu	3d
Lyon,	Antony	UC San Diego	alyon@ucsd.edu	2d
Ma,	Hilda	Saint Mary's College of California	hm1@stmmarys-ca.edu	3e
MacArt,	Theresa	Holy Cross College	tmacart@hcc-nd.edu	6c
Makin,	Mark	Biola University	mark.makin@biola.edu	7i
Marijam,	Lejla	Oglethorpe University	librahimbegovic@oglethorpe.edu	3f
Marks,	Kathleen	St. John's University	marksk@stjohns.edu	2d
Mason,	David	Georgia Gwinnett College	dmason@ggc.edu	1b
Mathie,	Mary	University of Texas at San Antonio	mary.mathie@gmail.com	8c
Matthews,	Margaret	Assumption University	ml.mathews@assumption.edu	1e
McBayer,	Gregory	Ashland University	gmcbraze@ashland.edu	4e
McGuire,	Elizabeth-Jane	Villanova University	elizabeth-jane.mcguire@villanova.edu	5d
McNamara,	Carol	Great Hearts America	carol.mcnamara@greathearts.org	2h
McNamara,	Peter	Arizona State University	peter.mcnamara@asu.edu	7e
McShane,	Michael	UTA	michaelmmmcshane@gmail.com	7c
Merrill,	Thomas	American University	merrill@american.edu	3b
Murphy,	Daniel	Saint Peter's University	dmurphy2@saintpeters.edu	7f

Last name	First name	Institutional Affiliation	Email address	Session
Nevjestic,	Juraj	University of Dallas	jnevjestic@udallas.edu	2j
Oberrieder,	Matthew	Rogers State University	matthewoberrieder@gmail.com	1c
Oesch,	Joel	Concordia University Irvine	joel.oesch@cui.edu	7d
Owen,	Judd	Emory University	jjowen@emory.edu	4h
Pacheco Bleichner,	Bernardo	Universidad de los Andes	bapacheco@miuandes.cl	7f
Paddags,	Rene	Ashland University	rpaddags@ashland.edu	1e
Palm,	Daniel	Azusa Pacific University	dpalm@apu.edu	4a
Parens,	Joshua	University of Dallas	parens@udallas.edu	6c
Patterson,	Stuart	North Central College	skpatterson@noctrl.edu	3e
Pfeffer Merrill,	Jacqueline	Association for Core Texts & Courses	jpfeffermerrill@gmail.com	4e
Pichanick,	Alan	Villanova University	alan.pichanick@villanova.edu	4j
Pope,	Kerri	Austin Community College	kpope@austincc.edu	5d
Priou,	Alex	University of Austin/University of Colorado	alexpriou@gmail.com	4i, 6a
Ramsey,	David	University of West Florida	dramsey1@uwf.edu	7f
Rawls,	Richard	Georgia Gwinnett College	rrawls@ggc.edu	1b
Ray,	Andrea	Jack Miller Center	aray@gojmc.org	3j
Ray,	John	Xavier University	rayj@xavier.edu	4a
Redemer,	Colin	Saint Mary's College of California	cr6@stmaries-ca.edu	1d
Reisert,	Joseph	Colby College	jrreiser@colby.edu	3d
Ricca,	Giulia	University of Florida	giuliaricca@ufl.edu	7f
Rickard,	Sasha	Boston College	sasha.rickard@bc.edu	8d
Robertson,	Neil	University of King's College	neil.robertson@ukings.ca	7e
Rodriguez,	Bretton	University of California, San Diego	bsrodriguez@ucsd.edu	2g
Rohmer,	Frank	Austin College	frohmer@austincollege.edu	4a
Rohmer,	Le Dung	Independent scholar	ledungrohmer57@gmail.com	5d
Rosental,	Creighton	Mercer University	rosental_c@mercerv.edu	3a
Rozga,	Michele	Norfolk State University	merozga@nsu.edu	8h
Ruff,	John	alparaiso University	John.Ruff@valpo.edu	1a
Sabo,	Peter	Huron University College	psabo2@uwo.ca	7d
Santin,	Bryan	Concordia University Irvine		3d
Saul,	Fabiola	Centros Culturales de Mexico	fsaul@up.edu.mx	1a
Schoenberg,	Phillip	Western New Mexico University	phillip.schoenberg@wnmu.edu	6d
Schrock Crawford,	Laura	Samford University	lauraschrock1983@gmail.com	6d
Shields,	Paul	Assumption University	pshields@assumption.edu	2d
Shmikler,	Joshua	A University of Mount Saint Vincent	joshua.shmikler@umsv.edu	7h
Slawsky,Lewis	Green	Lion Press and Political Animal Press	lewis@politicalanimalpress.com	4i
Slutkin,	Aaron	St. John's College	aslutkin@hudson.org	5b, 6b, 7b, 8b
Snyder,	Christopher	Mississippi State University	csnyder@honors.msstate.edu	5e
Solar Mir,	María Angélica	Universidad de los Andes	masolar1@miuandes.cl	5e
Spiro,	John-Paul	Villanova University	johnpaul.spiro@villanova.edu	5e
Stevens,	Jason	Ashland University	jsteven2@ashland.edu	6i
Stoner,	Sam	Assumption University	sa.stoner@assumption.edu	8f
Taylor,	Christopher	Western New Mexico University	christopher.taylor@wnmu.edu	2h
Thant,	Minn	The Ohio State University	thant.7@osu.edu	4g
Thomas,	Tyler	Arizona State University	tthom168@asu.edu	4c
Thompson,	Samuel	University of Texas - Austin	smt3749@my.utexas.edu	2a
Tileva,	Toni	American University	atileva@american.edu	3f
Tingey,	David	The University of Tulsa	david-tingey@utulsa.edu	1c
Udwin,	Victor	The University of Tulsa	victor-udwin@utulsa.edu	1c
Ulrich,	Paul	Carthage College	pulrich@carthage.edu	2g

Last name	First name	Institutional Affiliation	Email address	Session
Utter,	Christopher	American University	utter@american.edu	4d
von Heyking,	John	Arizona State University	jvonheyk@asu.edu	4e
Walden,	Daniel	University of Tulsa	daniel-walden@utulsa.edu	7g
Wallace,	Jason	Samford University	wjwallac@samford.edu	4f
Weeks,	David	Azusa Pacific University	dweeks@apu.edu	3d
Weiner,	Lauren	Alexander Hamilton Institute for the Study of Western Civilization	lweiner6@gmail.com	3f
Wells,	Matthew	Clemson University	mwells6@clemson.edu	2b
West,	David	Ashland University	dwest6@ashland.edu	6a
Whitbread,	Gabe	Duke University	gabe.whitbread@duke.edu	2j
Whitfield,	Bryan	Mercer University	whitfield_bj@mercer.edu	2d
Wright,	Matthew	Biola University	matthew.wright@biola.edu	4g
Wu,	Franklin	Dharma Realm Buddhist Univ.	franklyn.wu@drbu.edu	2g, 3h
Zuk,	Peter	University of Texas at Arlington	peter.zuk@uta.edu	7c



**Knight Hall, Mercer University
1501 Mercer University Drive
Macon, Georgia 31207**

www.coretexts.org

For more information contact: info@coretexts.org

Master the Great Books.



MASTER OF ARTS IN
Western Classics

MASTER OF ARTS IN
Eastern Classics

MASTER OF ARTS IN
Middle Eastern Classics



ST JOHN'S
College

GRADUATE INSTITUTE, SANTA FE

In-person or online options available



sjc.edu/worldclassics
gradadmissions@sjc.edu