

# ACTC

The Association for Core Texts and Courses

## UNDERGRADUATE CONFERENCE

ATLANTA, GA

APRIL 17-18, 2026



EMORY  
UNIVERSITY

# THE ASSOCIATION FOR CORE TEXTS AND COURSES (ACTC)

Bringing together colleges and universities to promote the integrated and common study of world classics and other texts of major cultural significance.

The Association for Core Texts and Courses is a 501c(3) non-profit organization dedicated to keeping classic texts alive in higher education. We believe in the transformative power of reading important works together and engaging them through serious open-ended discussion, and we support teachers and administrators all over the world who are committed to this good work.

## CONFERENCE SPONSORS



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The Association for Core Texts and Courses



# CONFERENCE INFORMATION

## CONFERENCE LOCATION

**EMORY UNIVERSITY, ATLANTA GA**

**FRIDAY:** CONVOCATION HALL

**SATURDAY:** MATH & SCIENCE CENTER

## FLIGHTS

STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL FLIGHT COSTS. PLEASE PLAN TO ARRIVE IN ATLANTA (ATL) AROUND NOON ON THE FRIDAY. NOTE THAT THE AIRPORT IS OVER 30 MINUTES AWAY FROM THE HOTEL, AND CONFERENCE CHECK IN STARTS AT 4:30PM.

## HOTEL

### COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT

DECATUR DOWNTOWN/EMORY

130 CLAIREMONT AVENUE, DECATUR, GA, 30030

### ROOMS COVERED FOR 2 NIGHTS - THE 17<sup>TH</sup> AND 18<sup>TH</sup>

A 2PM EARLY CHECK-IN HAS BEEN ORGANISED FOR ALL BOOKINGS.

PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#) FOR ROOM ASSIGNMENTS

INCIDENTALS ARE NOT COVERED BY THE CONFERENCE. YOU WILL NEED TO PUT A CREDIT CARD ON FILE UPON CHECK-IN.

PLEASE CONTACT [BIANCA.BERGERON@EMORY.EDU](mailto:bianca.bergeron@emory.edu) WITH ANY ROOMING ISSUES.

## MEALS

MEALS ARE PROVIDED FOR ALL REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS THROUGHOUT THE CONFERENCE.

**PLEASE EMAIL [BIANCA.BERGERON@EMORY.EDU](mailto:bianca.bergeron@emory.edu) ABOUT ANY DIETARY REQUIREMENTS, OR ALLERGIES.**

## TRANSPORTATION

GROUND TRANSPORTATION COSTS ARE NOT COVERED THROUGHOUT THE CONFERENCE. THERE WILL BE A SHUTTLE PROVIDED BY THE HOTEL GOING TO/FROM CAMPUS EVERY DAY.



# PRESENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

## **PRESENTERS**

YOU WILL HAVE FIFTEEN MINUTES TO DELIVER THEIR PAPERS. THE REMAINDER OF THE SESSION TIMES WILL CONSIST OF DISCUSSION.

## **PANEL CHAIRS**

PANEL CHAIRS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING PRESENTERS KEEP TO THEIR TIME AND FOR FACILITATING DISCUSSION

## **SLIDES**

PLEASE UPLOAD ANY SLIDES [HERE](#) FOR PRESENTATIONS IN THEIR CORRESPONDING PANEL FOLDER.

## **PAPERS**

ALL PAPERS FOR PRESENTATIONS ARE LOCATED [HERE](#) IN GOOGLE DRIVE.

# IMPORTANT CONTACTS

## **EMORY POLICE**

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY ON CAMPUS, PLEASE CALL EMORY POLICE.  
EMERGENCY - **404-727-6111**

## **EMORY CONTACTS**

FOR ANY ISSUES OR CONCERNS DURING THE CONFERENCE PLEASE REACH OUT TO  
JUDD.OWEN@EMORY.EDU OR  
BIANCA.BERGERON@EMORY.EDU

## **POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT OFFICE**

PLEASE CALL **404-727-6572** IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE DURING OFFICE HOURS



# CONFERENCE AGENDA

**FRIDAY, APRIL 17**

**EMORY UNIVERSITY,**

**CONVOCATION HALL - 505 N KILGO CIRCLE**

<b>3:30</b>	<b>TRANSPORT FROM HOTEL MEET IN HOTEL LOBBY FOR SHUTTLE TO CAMPUS <u>WALK TO CONVOCATION HALL</u></b>
<b>4:30</b>	<b>CONFERENCE CHECK IN (CONVOCATION HALL LOBBY)</b>
<b>5:00 - 6:15</b>	<b>KEYNOTE ADDRESS CHARLOTTE THOMAS Professor of Philosophy, Mercer University and ACTC Executive Director</b>  <b><i>“Why Does Reading Homer Matter for Citizenship and the Pursuit of Happiness?”</i></b>  <b>CONVOCATION HALL RM 208</b>
<b>6:30 - 8:00</b>	<b>CONFERENCE DINNER CONVOCATION HALL 210</b>
<b>8:15</b>	<b>TAKE SHUTTLE BUS BACK TO DECATUR MARRIOTT</b>

# SATURDAY, APRIL 18

EMORY UNIVERSITY,

MATH & SCIENCE CENTER - 400 DOWMAN DRIVE

<b>7:30</b>	<b>TRANSPORT FROM HOTEL</b> MEET IN HOTEL LOBBY FOR SHUTTLE TO CAMPUS <u>WALK TO MATH &amp; SCIENCE BUILDING</u>	
<b>8:00-9:00</b>	<b>BREAKFAST (THE ATRIUM - MATH &amp; SCIENCE BUILDING)</b>	
<b>9:00-10:30</b>	<b>PANEL 1 A</b> <b>MSC W301</b> <b>CHAIR: Max Zhang</b>	<b>PANEL 1 B</b> <b>MSC W303</b> <b>CHAIR: Ben Cordish</b>
	<b>Freedom and Constraints in the Pursuit of Happiness</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “Personal Duty, Conflict, and Happiness”<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ <b>Bishnu Bhatta</b> (Dharma Realm Buddhist University)</li></ul></li><li>• “<i>Tending the Cradle of Happiness: Aristotle on How the City Needs Our Care</i>”<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ <b>Veronika Khomukha</b> (Ashland University)</li></ul></li><li>• “Habit and Happiness in Aristotle’s Ethics”<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ <b>Madeleine Pelli</b> (Emory University)</li></ul></li><li>• “Consciousness and Freedom: Free Will and Happiness and Leo Tolstoy’s <i>War and Peace</i>”<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ <b>Olivia-Irene Polizoos</b> (Huron University)</li></ul></li></ul>	<b>The Citizen and the City in Ancient and Modern Political Philosophy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “The Necessity of Virtuous Politics in Xenophon’s Education of Cyrus”<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ <b>Asher Talty</b> (Emory University)</li></ul></li><li>• “Contemplation and Spiritedness in Plato’s Crito”<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ <b>Jeremy Richter</b> (St. John’s College)</li></ul></li><li>• “Beyond Leviathan: In Defense of Citizenship Versus Thomas Hobbes”<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ <b>Sonya Doubledee</b> (Emory University)</li></ul></li><li>• “Hannah Arendt’s Writings on Thinking and Judgment in the Life of the Mind and Lectures on Kant’s Political Philosophy”<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ <b>Josie Barboriak</b> (University of Chicago)</li></ul></li></ul>

<p>10:45- 11:00</p>	<p><b>COFFEE BREAK (THE ATRIUM)</b></p>	
<p>11:00 - 12:30</p>	<p><b>PANEL 2 A</b> <b>MSC W301</b> <b>CHAIR: Josh Grand</b></p>	<p><b>PANEL 2 B</b> <b>MSC W303</b> <b>CHAIR: Madeleine Pelli</b></p>
	<p><b>Exploring Humanity Through Suffering</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Suffering and Joy Within Myself: What The Brothers Karamazov Taught Me About Happiness” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Madeleine Pardue</b> (Mercer University)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• “Flannery O’Connor and the Meaning of Suffering” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Sofia Tenrani</b> (Saint Vincent College)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• “Individuality and Citizenry: The Moieties of the Human Experience” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Cole Jenkins</b> (Ashland University)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>God, Art, Beauty in Civic Life and Education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Keats’s Ode to a Nightingale: Poetry in the Formation of An Education Person” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Luke Broughel</b> (Emory University)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• “On Reading Beautiful Books” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Nico Rasmussen</b> (St. John’s College)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• “What Expressions of Love are Incompatible with Civic Duty?” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Ella Headman</b> (St. John’s College)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• “Augustine as Citizen” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>John Gigue</b> (Rhodes College)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>12:30 - 1:30</p>	<p><b>LUNCH (THE ATRIUM)</b></p>	

<p><b>1:30</b> - <b>3:00</b></p>	<p><b>PANEL 3A</b> <b>MSC W301</b> <b>CHAIR: Ayman Badawy</b></p>	<p><b>PANEL 3 B</b> <b>MSC W303</b> <b>CHAIR: Bernie Huang</b></p>
	<p><b>Moral Foundations of American Political Thought</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Benjamin Franklin and Immanuel Kant: Ideologies at Odds and the Role of Context in Shaping Moral Philosophy“ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Lily Bowles</b> (Pepperdine University)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• “Revelation and Revolution: Biblical Inspirations for the American Founding” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Ella Bradshaw</b> (Assumption University)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• “Lincoln’s Second Inaugural and Holding Citizenship Accountable” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Shiv Parihar</b> (Claremont McKenna College)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Femininity and Freedom</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Freedom Within Constraints” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Monica Wei</b> (Dharma Realm Buddhist University)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• “Trapped Minds, Hidden Voices: Women, Creativity, and the Fight Against Limits” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Kimberly Anyanwy</b> (Oglethorpe University)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• “Freedom, Out-of-Sync, in Eudora Welty’s The Golden Apples” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Henry Reichman</b> (Boston College)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• “Femininity and Divinity in Persuasion and Paradise Lost” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Alyssa Williams</b> (Pepperdine University)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>3:00</b> - <b>4:00</b></p>	<p><b>COKE HAPPY HOUR IN THE ATRIUM</b></p>	
<p><b>4:30</b></p>	<p><b>TAKE SHUTTLE BUS BACK TO DECATUR MARRIOTT</b> Meet out front of building for shuttle</p>	