

## **Thomas J. Tacoma**

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Blue Mountain College email: ttacoma@bmc.edu

### **Teaching and Professional Experience:**

- **Assistant Professor of History & Political Science at Blue Mountain College** (Fall 2019 – Present)
  - Courses Taught:
    - Western Civilization I (Beginnings to 1789)
    - Western Civilization II (1789 to Present)
    - Early American History (to 1877)
    - Modern American History (since 1877)
    - American Government I (Institutions)
    - American Government II (Public Policy and Civil Rights/Liberties)
    - Seminars in European History:
      - The Roman Empire
      - Europe in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century
      - Europe in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century
  - Service:
    - Faculty Adviser, Blue Mountain College Student Body Association
    - Member, Cultural Programming Committee
    - Undergraduate Student Advising (14 advisees)
    - History Internship Supervising
- **Editorial Board Member**, *SpringerNature Social Sciences*, a peer-reviewed journal of interdisciplinary social science research.
- **Lecturer in Political Science at Jackson College (Jackson, MI)**
  - Course Taught: PLS 141: American National Government, for the Jackson College Prison Education Initiative. Spring Semester, 2019.
- **Lecturer in History at Jackson College**
  - History 231: U.S. History to 1877.
  - History 232: U.S. History Since 1877.

- **Lecturer in Politics at Hillsdale College (Hillsdale, MI)**
  - Politics 101: The U.S. Constitution, Fall Semester, 2017.
- **Graduate Faculty Research Assistant**
  - Assisted Dr. Ronald J. Pestritto in research for a book, Fall 2018–Spring 2019
- **Research Assistant, Winston S. Churchill Project at Hillsdale College**
  - Researched editorial footnotes, transcribed and proofread entries for Document Volumes 20–23 of the official Winston Churchill papers
  - Read and reviewed new books for internal College administration purposes
- **Graduate Assistant, Baylor Institute for Oral History**
  - Edited and abstracted transcripts of oral history interviews
- **Student-Athlete History Tutor, Baylor University**
  - Tutored undergraduate student athletes in history courses, including:
    - World History to 1500
    - World History Since 1500
    - American History to 1877

**Education:**

- **Ph.D. in Politics**
  - Van Andel Graduate School of Statesmanship, Hillsdale College
  - Dissertation Title: “The Statesmanship of Civilization: The Political Thought of Calvin Coolidge”
    - Dissertation Successfully Defended (with Honors) March 5, 2019
- **Master of Arts in Politics**
  - Van Andel Graduate School of Statesmanship, Hillsdale College
  - Degree conferred on May 14, 2016
- **Master of Arts in History**
  - Baylor University
  - Degree conferred on May 17, 2014
  - Thesis Title: “Religious and Republican Enlightenment Influences in Early American Education, 1740-1819”
- **Bachelor of Arts in American Studies**
  - Hillsdale College

- Classical Education Minor
- Degree conferred on May 12, 2012
- **Foreign Language Competencies:**
  - Latin reading competency demonstrated in the summer of 2015
  - German reading competency demonstrated in the summer of 2013

### **Books, Select Articles, and Select Book Reviews:**

- *The Political Thought of Calvin Coolidge*, published by Lexington Books, October 2020. Book description: <https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781793624420/The-Political-Thought-of-Calvin-Coolidge-Burkean-Americanist>.
- “How Calvin Coolidge Defended the Constitution Amid Riots, Pandemic, and War.” *The Federalist*, September 17, 2020: <https://thefederalist.com/2020/09/17/how-calvin-coolidge-defended-the-constitution-amid-riots-pandemic-and-war/>.
- “Faith, Just War, and the American Revolution.” *Starting Points Journal*, August 2020: <https://startingpointsjournal.com/faith-just-war-and-the-american-revolution-tacoma/>.
- “Augustine’s Political Philosophy in *The City of God*,” in *The Reformed Conservative*, May 2020: <https://thereformedconservative.org/augustines-political-theology/>.
- “Calvin Coolidge and the Great Depression: A New Assessment.” *The Independent Review* 24, Number 3 (Winter 2019/20): 361-380.
- “The Place of Christian Religion in the American Founding,” a review of Mark David Hall’s *Did America Have a Christian Founding* (2019) for the *Public Discourse*: <https://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2019/11/58137/>.
- “Does the Right Have a Future: Assessing the Conservative-Libertarian Debate,” a review of Nikolai Wenzel’s and Nathan Schlueter’s *Selfish Libertarians and Socialist Conservatives: The Foundations of the Libertarian-Conservative Debate* (2017) for the *Public Discourse*: <https://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2017/08/19744/>.

## Conference Presentations and Attendance:

- “Anti-Imperialist Themes in Mark Twain’s *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court*,” scheduled for presentation at the Association of Core Texts and Courses Conference in Birmingham, AL, April 2020.
- Liberty Fund Conference: “Republican Constitutionalism and International Law: Constitutional Resistance During the Progressive Era,” planned for March 12-15, 2020.
- “The Political Thought of Calvin Coolidge: Coolidge’s Vindication of the Constitution during the Progressive Era,” Presented at the Northeastern Political Science Association Conference in Montreal, Canada, in November 2018.
  - Nominated for the NPSA/Lanahan Best Graduate Student Paper Award, Spring 2019.
- “The Political Thought of Calvin Coolidge: Historical and Philosophical Roots,” Presented at the American Political Science Association Conference in Boston, August of 2018.
- Conference attendance – Church and State: Religion and the Young American Republic, held by the Witherspoon Institute in Princeton, New Jersey, July 23-27, 2018.
- “Additional Fences”: The Defense of Constitutional Prohibitions of Bills of Attainder, Ex Post Facto Laws, and Provisions for the Writ of Habeas Corpus in *The Federalist*,” at the Northeastern Political Science Association Conference in Philadelphia on November 10, 2017.
- Panel Moderator, “The Electoral College: Time to Re-evaluate,” at the American Political Science Association Conference in San Francisco on September 2, 2017. Video footage available online: <https://www.c-span.org/video/?433191-2/panel-electoral-college>.
- “‘Because the People are of a Certain Quality’: Aristotle’s Teaching on the Middle Class.” Presented at the Association of Core Texts and Courses Conference in Dallas on May 22, 2017.
- “‘The Foundation of Good Order and Security in Society’: Religious Toleration, Religious Oaths, and the American Founding.” Presented at the American Political Science Association Conference in Philadelphia on September 2, 2016.

- “The Gods of Aristophanes.” Presented at the Association for Core Texts and Courses Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, on April 15, 2016.
- “Competing Histories: Robert Lewis Dabney and George Washington Williams Address Post-Civil War Pro-Slavery Arguments.” Presented at the Southwestern Social Science Association conference in New Orleans on March 29, 2013.

#### **Awards, Grants, and Fellowships:**

- **Mississippi Humanities Teacher Award**, Blue Mountain College, Spring 2020.
- **Academic honors:** Doctoral dissertation and defense, 5 March 2019.
- **Calihan Travel Grant**, awarded by the Acton Institute, June 2018.
- **American Political Science Association 2018 Travel Grant**, awarded June 2018.
- **Hayek Fund for Scholars Travel Grant**, awarded by the Institute for Humane Studies, May 2018.
- **Institute for Humane Studies Ph.D. Scholarship**, awarded for the Fall of 2016.
- **John W. Galbraith Graduate Scholarship** (Van Andel Graduate School), awarded for academic years 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19.
- **Guittard Fellowship** (Baylor University), awarded Fall/Spring 2012-2013.
- **Russell Kirk Scholarship in American Studies** (Hillsdale College), awarded academic years of 2010-2011 and 2011-2012.