

VAN ANDEL

Graduate School of Statesmanship

*An Exclusive Opportunity for
Ave Maria University Students*

**Full-Tuition Scholarships for the
Master of Arts in Politics**

AVE MARIA
UNIVERSITY



HILLSDALE COLLEGE

A Unique Approach to Graduate Education

Hillsdale College's Van Andel Graduate School of Statesmanship looks to both the theory and practice of government. Aristotle

believed that the art of the statesman was *phronesis*, or practical wisdom, which required two kinds of knowledge: knowledge of right and wrong—of what comprises justice in a political order—and knowledge of the practical—of how one's political regime works and what is possible to do given prevailing laws, customs, and opinions.

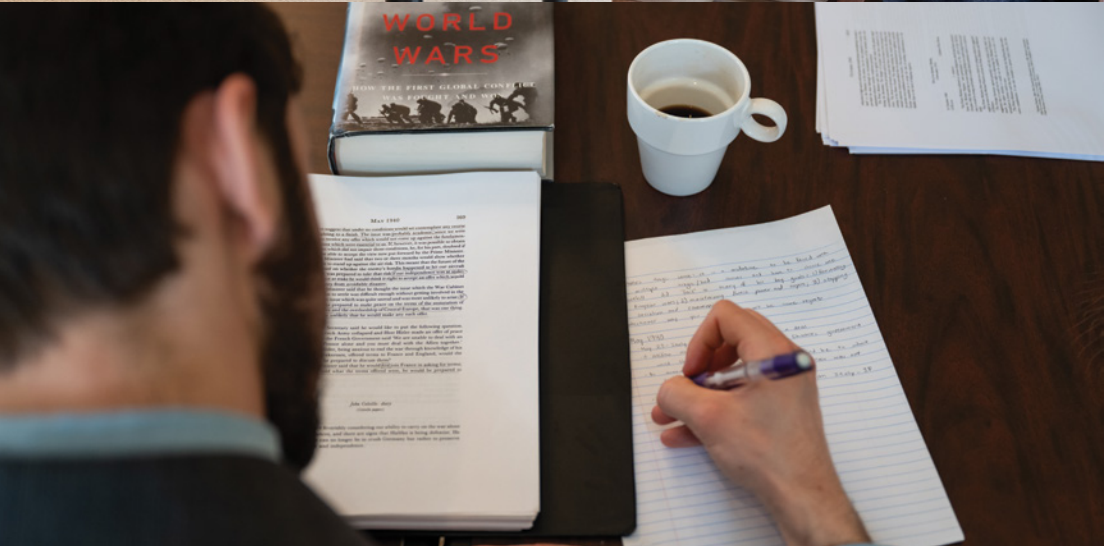
The predominant view in contemporary political science is that the first kind of knowledge is unattainable. Ethics—the study of right and wrong, of the noble and the base, and of the just end toward which politics ought to aim—is rejected as “unscientific” since it deals with mere “value judgments.” At the same time, practical knowledge is reduced to nothing more than quantitative analysis, where mathematics and statistics hold at least equal importance to knowing the laws, institutions, and processes of government.

In contrast with this, the approach of the School of Statesmanship is classical. It begins with the idea that American politics should be understood in light of its first principles. That requires, first, an understanding of those principles as they were understood by America's founders. Additionally, it requires comprehending the relation of those principles to the Constitution and their fate in the development of modern American political institutions and practice.



The first principles of American politics are rooted in what Thomas Jefferson called the “elementary books of public right,” the classic works of the Western tradition from Plato to John Locke. Students begin by reading these and continue by reading more modern writers such as Kant, Hegel, and Nietzsche, to understand the roots of contemporary political thought.

America's first principles are the very principles upon which Hillsdale College was founded, nearly two decades before the Civil War. These principles, and the College's commitment to them, are the reason the College exists and the reason it has served the pursuit of truth and the defense of liberty throughout its history.



The Ave Maria-Hillsdale Partnership

An innovative partnership between Ave Maria University (AMU) and Hillsdale College opens the door for AMU graduates to pursue a Master of Arts in Politics at the Van Andel Graduate School of Statesmanship. Qualified AMU graduates can receive full-tuition scholarships (excluding student fees) to our four-semester program, designed to prepare students for work in the fields of public policy, K-12 education, journalism, law, and public service, broadly understood.

Eligibility Requirements:

- AMU bachelor's degree earned within two years of matriculation to Hillsdale.
- Endorsements/Letters of Recommendation from two of the four designated AMU faculty. List available at gradschool.hillsdale.edu/avemaria.
- All eligible students must meet admissions requirements, academic policies, and regulations set forth in the Graduate Handbook.

Masters Program

Two Tracks

All courses fall within one of two tracks: Political Philosophy or American Politics and Political Thought. Master's students complete a minimum of 36 credit hours overall with a minimum of 9 credit hours in each track. Although the program has core and elective courses, there are no specific required courses for the M.A. program.

Two Options

Most M.A. students complete 36 hours through standard coursework and take master's comprehensive exams in their final semester of coursework. Some M.A. students seek permission to complete 30 hours through standard coursework and complete and defend an M.A. thesis, which counts as 6 credit hours.

"One of the great strengths of the graduate school is the rigor of the program. Teaching us how to read well and especially how to think and to write well—those are invaluable. Those skills, those arts, those are what are going to open doors for us as journalists, as speechwriters, as scholars. Those are the skills that we need to cultivate, and this is the place to do that well."



THOMAS TACOMA, B.A., '12, M.A., '16, PH.D., '19
INAUGURAL HEADMASTER,
ASCENT CLASSICAL ACADEMY OF NORTHERN DENVER

Standard Coursework

Core courses are offered on a two-year rotating basis.

Core Courses in Political Philosophy

- Plato
- Aristotle
- Medieval Political Philosophy
- Early Modern Political Philosophy
- Late Modern Political Philosophy

Core Courses in American Politics and Political Thought

- The American Founding
- The Federalist
- Nationalism and Sectionalism
- American Progressivism
- The Modern American Regime

Elective Courses

A variety of elective courses are offered each semester. A sampling of the many possible topics includes: The Natural Law, Politics and Religion, The American Congress, The American Presidency, Parties and Elections, Constitutional Law I and II, Administrative Law, American Foreign Policy, and specialized political philosophy courses, such as Xenophon, Thucydides, Hobbes, Locke, Nietzsche, Machiavelli, Rousseau, and Tocqueville.

Focused Study Courses

These one-credit courses offer students an opportunity for a shorter, more focused study of a specialized topic than is possible in a traditional three-credit course, and are often taught by visiting faculty or outside experts.

For additional details on courses and course requirements as well as recent course schedules, please see gradschool.hillsdale.edu/avemaria.

Core Texts

Our degree programs are centered around the following core texts from the Western and American traditions of political thought. All courses are offered with these texts in mind.

- **Plato**, *Republic*
- **Aristotle**, *Nicomachean Ethics*; *Politics*
- **Aquinas**, *Summa Theologiae*; *Treatise on Law*
- **Machiavelli**, *The Prince*
- **Hobbes**, *Leviathan*
- **Locke**, *Second Treatise of Government*; *Letter Concerning Toleration*
- **Rousseau**, *Second Discourse*; *Social Contract*
- **Kant**, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*
- **Hegel**, *Philosophy of History*; *Philosophy of Right*
- **Marx**, *Communist Manifesto*; *Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right*
- **Nietzsche**, *Use & Disadvantage of History*; *Beyond Good and Evil*
- **U.S. Declaration of Independence**
- **U.S. Constitution**
- **The Federalist**
- **Essential writings of Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, George Washington**
- **Tocqueville**, *Democracy in America*
- **Lincoln-Douglas Debates**
- **Lincoln**, *Lyceum Speech*; *Temperance Address*; *Speech on the Kansas-Nebraska Act*; *Speech on the Dred Scott Decision*; *Cooper Institute Speech*; *House Divided Speech*; *First and Second Inaugural Addresses*; *Message to Congress of July 4, 1861*; *Gettysburg Address*
- **Progressive commentaries on American constitutionalism by Woodrow Wilson, John Dewey, Theodore Roosevelt, and Herbert Croly**
- **Franklin Roosevelt**, *Commonwealth Club Address*; *1944 Annual Message*
- **Other writings on 20th and 21st century thought and politics in America**



Scholarship & Fellowship Support

Due to the generosity of our donors, we are able to offer significant financial support.

- Master's students receive full-tuition scholarships and the option of a graduate research assistantship and stipend.
- Military veterans may be eligible for additional funding toward housing, food, student fees, and books under the College's Freedom Scholarship. A DD Form 214 is required, and the determination is generally made after an offer of admission is accepted.

Please see gradschool.hillsdale.edu/avemaria for additional information on tuition, student fees, and financial support.

"I'd read about the work Hillsdale was doing on the statesmanship of Winston Churchill as well as its steadfast defense of the Constitution and our founding principles. I went to learn about these things. And I did. I got so much more than I bargained for from this program. It was worth every effort, every sacrifice, and every hour of lost sleep."



KRYSTINA SKURK, M.A., '18
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS,
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE MARK GREEN, TN-7



Student Life

As a full-time residential degree program, Graduate School of Statesmanship students live near the Hillsdale College campus in southern Michigan; there are no online course components.

Consequently, students have access to the facilities, programs, and rich cultural life offered by the College, including lecture series, fine arts performances, and athletic events. The Graduate Statesmanship Society offers social opportunities for students, including movie nights, seasonal celebrations, and dinners with faculty. Many students immerse themselves in the community as well, joining local churches and organizations.

“Hillsdale’s Graduate School of Statesmanship was my first experience with truly excellent education. It was transformative. I got to learn from and work alongside brilliant teachers and peers, studying the greatest ideas of the Western Tradition. The curriculum and professional experiences of the program beautifully prepared me for a career in classical education. I am now the headmaster of a new Catholic classical high school, and I owe everything to the formative experience I received at Hillsdale and the terrific network of friends connected with the College.”



MARK SURRELL, M.A., '20
HEADMASTER, HOLY NAME HIGH SCHOOL,
ESCANABA, MICHIGAN

Graduate Placement

Our master's graduates find work in the fields of public policy, K-12 education, journalism, law, and public service, broadly understood. The following represents a small sampling of placements in these areas:

Public Policy

American Principles Project
Heritage Foundation
U.S. Department of Education

Classical K-12 Education

Ascent Classical Academy, Brighton, CO
Redeemer Classical School, Ft. Wayne, IN
Naples Classical Academy, Naples, FL

Journalism

The American Mind, Assistant Editor
Daily Caller, Staff Writer
The Federalist, Managing Editor

Law

Law Clerk for Hon. Edith Jones,
5th Circuit Court of Appeals
Penn State University Dickinson College of Law
University of Chicago Law School

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Fall Semester—December 15
Spring Semester—October 15

For more information or to apply:
gradschool.hillsdale.edu/avemaria
gradschool@hillsdale.edu | (517) 607-2483

Faculty

The faculty of the graduate program have focused areas of research that will be of benefit to students, but the program's curriculum is not built with these principally in mind. It is built, instead, around a study of first principles that transcends specialization. As such, all faculty members have broad interests in political philosophy and American politics.

Larry P. Arnn, Ph.D.
Claremont Graduate School

Mickey Craig, Ph.D.
Claremont Graduate School

John W. Grant, Ph.D.
University of Dallas

Khalil Habib, Ph.D.
Boston University

Mark Kremer, Ph.D.
University of Chicago

Daniel O'Toole, Ph.D.
University of Texas at Austin

Ronald J. Pestritto, Ph.D.
Claremont Graduate University

John A. Petrakis, Ph.D.
University of Notre Dame

Kevin Portteus, Ph.D.
University of Dallas

Joseph Postell, Ph.D.
University of Dallas

Paul A. Rahe, Ph.D.
Yale University

Kevin Slack, Ph.D.
University of Dallas

Thomas G. West, Ph.D.
Claremont Graduate School

Accreditation

The degree programs of the Van Andel Graduate School of Statesmanship are accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. For more information, see hlcommission.org.

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M.A. Program Application Deadlines

Fall Semester: **December 15** | Spring Semester: **October 15**

For information on our Ph.D. program, which does *not* fall under this partnership, please visit **gradschool.hillsdale.edu**.



HILLSDALE COLLEGE

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