

Joey M. Barretta, Ph.D.

Washington and Lee University
Williams School of Commerce, Economics, and Politics

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CURRICULUM VITAE

EDUCATION

Hillsdale College, Van Andel Graduate School of Statesmanship

Ph.D. in Politics, December 2022

M.A. in Politics, 2019

Dissertation: “Frederick Douglass on the Necessary Conditions of Freedom: Prescriptions for Post-Slavery America”

(Dr. Kevin Porteus, director – Dr. Joseph Postell and Dr. Ronald J. Pestritto, committee)

Fields: American political thought and political philosophy

Ashland University, Ashbrook Scholar Program

B.A. in History and Political Science, minors in English and Classical Civilization, *summa cum laude*, 2017

Thesis: “The Role of God and Statesman: The Differing Approaches of Frederick Douglass and Martin Luther King Jr.”

(Dr. Emily Krichbaum, advisor – Dr. Lucas E. Morel and Dr. Peter C. Myers, committee)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2025-present: Visiting Assistant Professor of Politics, Washington & Lee University | Lexington, VA

- Introduction to Political Philosophy, American Political Thought (Fall 2025)
- Frederick Douglass, Introduction to Political Philosophy (Winter 2026)

2023-2025: Lecturer of Government, University of Texas at Austin | Austin, TX

- Courses taught: African American Social & Political Thought (Fall 2023) – American Political Thought (Spring 2024)

2022-2023: Online Learning Instructional Fellow, Hillsdale College | Hillsdale, MI

- Course taught: American Government (Spring 2023)

2021–2023: Adjunct Instructor, Correctional Education, Ashland University | Ashland, OH

- Course taught: American History After the Civil War (Summer 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2023)

2019–2020: Teaching Apprentice, Hillsdale College | Hillsdale, MI

- U.S. Constitution, instructor Dr. Kevin Porteus (Fall 2019)
- American Conservatism, instructor Dr. Ronald J. Pestritto (Spring 2020)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2023-2025: Civitas Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Texas at Austin | Austin, TX

- Conduct research and publish academic articles covering the political thought of Frederick Douglass
- Present research to the Civitas Fellows and at academic conferences

2018–2022: Graduate Research Assistant, Hillsdale College | Hillsdale, MI

- Research assistant for Dr. Joseph Postell

- Edited book chapters and conducted research for the college's Harry V. Jaffa Archive

RESEARCH INTERESTS

American political thought, political philosophy, natural rights and natural law, race and equality, American history

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

"Frederick Douglass's Five-Decade Fight Against Colonization." *American Political Thought*. (coming in next volume)

"Aristotelian Virtue on Death Row: Masculinity and Courage in *The Green Mile*." In *Winning the Crowd: The Politics of Popular Films*, edited by Jonathan Ashbach. Lanham: Lexington Books, 2025.

"The Development of Frederick Douglass's Educational Program: Cultivating Human Beings to Live as Citizens." *Pietas* 3, No. 1 (Spring 2024).

"Frederick Douglass's Gradual and Sincere Shift on the U.S. Constitution." *New North Star: A Journal of the Life and Times of Frederick Douglass* 3, No. 1 (2021).

WORK IN PROGRESS

"John Locke's Education of Mind and Body: *Some Thoughts* in Response to Postliberalism." In *Liberal Education, Commerce, and the Public Good: Toward a Philosophically Informed School of Industry, Responsible Leadership, and Ethics*, edited by Steven F. Pittz and Constantine C. Vassiliou. Palgrave Macmillan. (under contract—draft submitted)

Frederick Douglass's America: Pursuing the New Life of Liberty. (book manuscript in progress)

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

"Politics, Religion, and the Challenges of Commercial Society in Modern Political Thought." Invited to serve as discussant at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA, January 2026.

"African American Political Thought and Civic Education." Paper to be presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA, January 2026.

"The Importance of African American Political Thought for the Civic Education Movement." Paper presented at the Salmon P. Chase Center Conference on Civic Thought, Education, and Leadership, Columbus, OH, September 2025.

"Book Workshop: *Frederick Douglass and Constitutional Abolitionism* by Bradley Rebeiro." Invited to serve as a discussant providing feedback on book manuscript for the School of Civic Leadership at UT Austin, Austin, TX, April 2025.

"John Locke's Education of Mind and Body." Paper presented at the Free Societies in Crisis: Perspectives in Classical Liberal Thought and Political Economy Conference, Austin, TX, March 2025. (by invitation—with honorarium)

“Douglass, Washington, and Du Bois on Education for Republican Citizens.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, San Juan, PR, January 2025.

“Author Meets Critics: *Moderate Liberalism and the Scottish Enlightenment: Montesquieu, Hume, Smith and Ferguson* by Constantine Vassiliou.” Discussant at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, San Juan, PR, January 2025.

“Liberal Education in a More Perfect Union: Washington and Du Bois's Debt to Frederick Douglass.” Paper presented at the Shawnee Trail Conference on American Politics & Constitutionalism, Austin TX, October 2024.

“Montesquieu and *The Federalist* on the Principles of Republican Government.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA, September 2024.

“Frederick Douglass’s Five-Decade Fight Against Colonization.” Paper presented virtually at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 2024.

“Douglass on Why Education is Necessary for Human Beings and Citizens.” Paper presented virtually at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 2023.

“Frederick Douglass on the Slaveholders’ Religion: How Slavery Destroys True Christianity.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Core Texts and Courses. Notre Dame, IN, April 2022.

“Frederick Douglass on Civil Rights: Equal Suffrage for African Americans.” Paper presented virtually at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 2022.

“Frederick Douglass’ Conceptions of the American Founding: Race, Natural Rights, and the Constitution.” Paper presented at the Statesmanship Colloquium, Van Andel Graduate School of Statesmanship. Hillsdale, MI, October 2021.

“From Garrisonian Purist to Prudent Patriot: Frederick Douglass’ Shift on the U.S. Constitution.” Paper presented virtually at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. April 2021.

“Broadcast Regulation and the New Ends of Politics: The Public Interest, Convenience, or Necessity Standard of the Communications Act of 1934.” Paper presented virtually at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. April 2021.

“The Rightly Ordered Ambition of Pericles.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Northeastern Political Science Association. Philadelphia, PA, November 2019.

“The Decline of Athenian Statesmanship: Cleon in Aristophanes’ *Knights*.” Van Andel Graduate School Doctoral Humanities Seminar, Hillsdale, MI, September 2019.

“The Human Art of Science.” Van Andel Graduate School Doctoral Humanities Seminar, Hillsdale, MI, April 2018.

“The Role of God and Statesman: The Differing Approaches of Frederick Douglass and Martin Luther King Jr.” Ashbrook Center Statesmanship Thesis public oral defense. Ashland, OH, April 2017.

PUBLIC WRITING, MEDIA APPEARANCES, AND ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

2025: Washington and Lee University | Lexington, VA

- Moderated conversation between Lucas E. Morel and Jonathan W. White on their book *Measuring the Man: The Writings of Frederick Douglass on Abraham Lincoln*

2025: The Bill of Rights Institute

- Gave keynote address on Frederick Douglass's views on civil rights to a group of teachers as part of the Candy Brown Holocaust and Human Rights Educator Series at the Dallas Holocaust Museum

2025: Constituting America

- Contributed an essay as part of "The Genius of America – A Journey into Our Republic: A Study on Alexis de Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*"
- Essay as narrated by Janine Turner has over 30,000 views on YouTube

2025: "Our American Stories" radio program

- Appeared on April 18, 2025 episode: "The Rise of Frederick Douglass: From Slave to Freedom Fighter & Beyond"
- Served as expert commentator in a dramatic retelling of Frederick Douglass's escape from slavery

2023-2025: University of Texas at Austin | Austin, TX

- Recorded videos on the Progressive Movement and Great Society for the OnRamps program to be seen by thousands of students in Texas (Fall 2024)
- "Frederick Douglass's Gradual and Sincere Shift on the U.S. Constitution" (Fall 2024: Research presentation delivered to Civitas Fellows as a requirement for the Civitas Postdoctoral Fellowship)
- "Frederick Douglass's Educational Project: Fostering the 'Latent Possibilities' of Self-Governing Human Beings" (Spring 2024: Public lecture for the Thomas Jefferson Center for the Study of Core Texts and Courses)
- "Frederick Douglass's Five-Decade Fight Against Colonization" (Fall 2023: Research presentation delivered to Civitas Fellows as a requirement for Civitas Postdoctoral Fellowship)
- Constitutional Principles: Core Texts (Fall 2023: Guest lecture covering the development of Frederick Douglass's constitutional thought)

2023: Hillsdale College | Hillsdale, MI

- Instructor: U.S. Constitution (Filled in for a colleague for the final few weeks in Spring 2023)

2022: The Hilda E. Bretzlaff Ashbrook Academy for High School Students, Ashbrook Center | Ashland, OH

- Instructor: Telling America's Story (Summer 2022)
- Instructor: Lincoln and the Causes of the Civil War (Summer 2022)

LANGUAGES

English: Native Language

Latin: Reading (by examination)

German: Reading (by examination)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Midwest Political Science Association

Southern Political Science Association

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Dr. Kevin Portteus
Professor of Politics
Director of American Studies
Hillsdale College
Hillsdale, MI
kportteus@hillsdale.edu

Dr. Justin Dyer
Dean, School of Civic Leadership
Rex W. Tillerson Chair
Jack G. Taylor Regents Professor
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Dr. Joseph Postell
Associate Professor of Politics
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Dr. Ronald J. Pestritto
Dean of the Graduate School
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Dr. Lucas E. Morel
John K. Boardman, Jr. Professor of Politics
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