

**ABIGAIL M. STAYSA**  
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Princeton, New Jersey 08540  
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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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University of Texas-Austin Austin, TX  
Civitas Institute and Department of Government  
Postdoctoral Research Fellow and Lecturer, Fall 2023-Present

Princeton University Princeton, NJ  
James Madison Program and Department of Politics  
John and Daria Barry Postdoctoral Research Fellow, 2022-2023

## EDUCATION

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University of Notre Dame Notre Dame, IN  
Ph.D. in Political Science, January 2023  
Dissertation: Aristotle on Pleasure and Prudence in the *Nicomachean Ethics*  
Certificate in Classics, May 2019  
M.A. in Political Science, December 2018

Hiram College Hiram, OH  
B.A. in Philosophy and Political Science, *summa cum laude*, *PhiBK*, June 2015

## RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

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History of Political Philosophy, Ancient Political Philosophy (Plato and Aristotle), The Extent and Limits of Human Knowledge in the Socratic Tradition of Political Philosophy, The Reception of Platonic Political Philosophy in Late Modern Philosophy (Nietzsche, Heidegger, Strauss)

## PUBLICATIONS

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“Aristotle’s Political Science and the Training in Pleasures and Pains” (Forthcoming in the Political Science Reviewer, June 2023)

“Friedrich Hayek on Freedom and Rule of Law in *The Constitution of Liberty*” (Forthcoming in ed. vol. *Political Economy and Social Philosophy of F. A. Hayek*, Routledge, June 2023)

## Research IN PROGRESS

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“Moral Virtue in Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics*” (article in progress)

*Abstract:* This article reproduces the ascent in the account of the particular moral virtues from courage to justice and highlights an important shift in attitude toward pleasure and pain that occurs in the movement of that account. The account, in brief, travels a great distance from the concern with bodily or animal pleasures and pains as things to be resisted and endured in the discussion of courage and moderation to the concern with higher-order and more human pleasures, that is, the pleasures supervening the exercise of the social virtues. Reading the account of the particular virtues through the lens of pleasures and pains also illuminates a stylistic aspect of the *Nicomachean Ethics* that has been hitherto underappreciated by scholars of the text— that is, the manner in which the argument mimics the experience of habituation or “training” in pleasures and pains and in so doing shows how the “natural” order of the desires and appetites is indeed discoverable out of that experience.

*Pleasure and Pain in Aristotle’s Political Science* (book in progress)

*Abstract:* This project strives to understand the significance of pleasure and pain in Aristotle’s presentation of moral virtue and prudence in his *Nicomachean Ethics*. The central question is about the manner in which pleasure and pain operate in moral virtue and how this is essential for the operation of prudence, the intellectual virtue that pertains to the legislative art and political science. The question of prudence has been an object of much dispute in the long history of commentary and in the contemporary scholarship on Aristotle. This project departs from prior treatments by focusing more directly than is usual on the relationship of pleasure and pain to practical intellect (*nous*) and moral perception (*aisthēsis*).

Aristotle’s *Eudemian Ethics* (translation and commentary in progress)

## CONFERENCES & INVITED PRESENTATIONS

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“Friedrich Hayek on Freedom and Rule of the Rule of Law in *The Constitution of Liberty*,” American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Los Angeles, California. September 1-3, 2023.

“Aristotle’s Political Science and the Training in Pleasures and Pains,” Early Career Women in Political Theory Panel at the Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference, St. Pete’s Beach, Florida. January 13, 2023.

“Prudence in Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics*,” American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Montréal, Canada. September 15, 2022.

“Aristotle on the Particular Virtues from Courage to Justice,” American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Seattle, Washington. October 1, 2021.

“Moral Habituation in the *Nicomachean Ethics*,” Graduate Conference in Intellectual History, University of Cambridge, March 31, 2021.

“On the Distortions of Pleasure in Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics*,” guest lecture at Oglethorpe University, September 29, 2020.

“Aristotle on Pleasure and Prudence in the *Nicomachean Ethics*,” American Political Science Association Annual Conference, September 12, 2020.

“Economics, Acquisition, and Natural Slavery in Aristotle’s Politics,” guest lecture at Ashland University, September 9, 2020.

“Aristotle on Vice and Pleasure in the *Nicomachean Ethics*,” Graduate Conference in Ancient Philosophy, University of Cambridge, March 6-7, 2020.

“Lincoln on Discoveries and Inventions,” Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, April 16-19, 2020.

“Employment Division v. Smith” and “A Lecture on the School Desegregation Cases” lectures delivered in Sotirios Barber’s American Conservatism and the Constitution course, Spring 2019.

“The Problem of the Naturalness of the Polis” and “Thomas Hobbes on the State of Nature and the Nature of ‘the State,’” lectures delivered in Patrick Deneen’s Introduction to Political Theory course, Fall 2017.

## TEACHING

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### **Instructor of Record, University of Notre Dame**

The Foundations of Constitutional Order, Co-taught with Dr. Susan Collins, Spring 2020  
Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics*, Fall 2020 (Paideia Institute)

### **Teaching Assistant, University of Notre Dame**

Constitutionalism, Law, and Politics II, Dr. Phillip Munoz, Fall 2019  
American Conservatism and the Constitution, Dr. Sotirios Barber, Spring 2019  
European Politics, Dr. Andrew Gould, Fall 2018  
Introduction to World Politics, Dr. Andrew Gould, Spring 2018  
Introduction to Political Theory, Dr. Patrick Deneen, Fall 2017  
The Quest for Justice, Dr. John Koritansky, Fall 2014 (Hiram College)

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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<b>Editorial Intern</b> , <i>The Review of Politics</i>	Fall 2020
<b>Research Assistant</b> , Dr. Susan Collins	Summer 2018
Research for <i>Constituting the Ancient City: The Political Regime and Ancient Sparta</i>	
<b>Research Intern</b> , American Council of Trustees and Alumni	Spring 2016
Research on curricular reform in American universities	
<b>Editorial Assistant</b> , Dr. Megan Altman	Fall 2014
Editorial work for <i>Horizons of Authenticity in Phenomenology, Existentialism, and Moral</i>	

*Psychology*

**Research Intern**, US-Japan Research Institute Summer 2014  
Wrote reports on US-Japan and US-China relations in Japanese for the institute's sponsoring universities (Kyoto University, Keio, Waseda, Ritsumeikan, Doshisha, Tsukuba, and Sophia)  
**Participant**, Summer Program for Women in Philosophy at UCSD Summer 2014

**AWARDS AND HONORS**

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Bradley Fellowship	2021-2022
Adam Smith Fellowship (Mercatus)	2018-2022
Humane Studies Fellowship (IHS)	2018-2021
Kaneb Center Outstanding Teacher Award (Foundations of Constitutional Order)	2020
Stavros Niarchos Foundation Fellowship for Language Training	2017, 2019
Nanovic Institute Snider Family Endowment for Excellence in European Studies	2018
Hertog Political Studies Fellowship	2016
Eugene H. Peters Prize in Philosophy	2015
Yuksel Ismail Scholarship in Humanities	2015

**LANGUAGE TRAINING**

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Upper-Level Program in Ancient Greek at CUNY's Latin/Greek Institute	2019
Immersion Program in Ancient Greek at the Paideia Institute in Selianitika, Greece	2018
Basic Program in Ancient Greek at CUNY's Latin/Greek Institute	2017
Japanese Language Instructor at Concordia Language Villages in Bemidji, Minnesota	2011-2014

**LANGUAGES**

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Classical Greek & Japanese (Advanced)  
Latin & Arabic (Basic)

**MEMBERSHIP**

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Member, American Political Science Association  
Member, Society for Greek Political Thought