

# Jonathan Yudelman

## Academic Appointments

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<b>Arizona State University</b> Postdoctoral Fellow, School of Civics, Ethics and Leadership (SCETL)	2023-2024
<b>Baylor University</b> Postdoctoral Fellow; Temporary Lecturer; Assistant Director, Zavala Program	2022-2023
<b>Harvard University</b> Postdoctoral Fellow, Program on Constitutional Government	2021-2022
<b>Princeton University</b> Thomas W. Smith Postdoctoral Research Associate, James Madison Program	2020-2021

## Education

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<b>Boston College</b> Ph.D. in Political Science and Government Political Theory (Primary Field), American Government (Minor Field)	2014-2020
<b>Hebrew University</b> M.A. in Philosophy	2009-2012
B.A. in Jewish Thought, minor in Multidisciplinary Studies (Philosophy / French)	2004-2008

## Dissertation: The Elements of Progress: Ideology and History in Hobbes and Vico

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The liberal theory of progress contains an unstable synthesis of two competing early modern political theories. The first is the ideological mode of politics inaugurated by T. Hobbes, in which personal rule is replaced by an impersonal doctrine of state. The second, first conceived by G. Vico in opposition to Hobbes, is the modern philosophy of history that traces a course of civilizational development. Chapters One and Two show how Hobbes employs a new metaphysics and egalitarian ethics to reconceive political science. This new political science forms the basis of all modern ideologies of state (liberalism, socialism, fascism, etc.) which replace the politics of personal rule with that of an impersonal system. Chapters Three and Four detail Vico's opposition to ideological politics, as well as his theories of the origin of religion and political community. In resisting rationalism and seeking to recover traditional authority, Vico invents the modern philosophy of history, which derives the present order from its antecedents. Ideological politics and the philosophy of history are two main aspects distinguishing modern from ancient politics. They are later combined by Kant and his successors to form the liberal theory of progress. Complementary study of Hobbes and Vico thus exposes the points of greatest tension within the liberal theory of progress, and suggests broadly how the liberal order might be reconceived to survive its current crises.

*Committee: Susan Shell (Chair), Christopher Kelly, Paul Wilford*

## ***Research and Teaching Interests***

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Early modern political thought (especially Thomas Hobbes, Giambattista Vico, Immanuel Kant); Ancient, medieval and modern philosophy; Biblical political thought; Jewish thought; American political thought; politics and literature.

## ***Teaching Experience***

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### **Arizona State University**

Primary Instructor, “Great Debates of American Politics” 2022-2023  
*A 200-level survey course covering important debates in American politics from the founding to today.*

Primary Instructor, “Great Ideas of Politics and Ethics” 2022-2023  
*A 100-level survey course covering ancient and modern ethical and political thought, from Plato to Solzhenitsyn.*

### **Baylor University**

Primary Instructor, “Politics and Literature: The American Experiment” 2022-2023  
*Upper level undergraduate seminar thematically pairing reading in Alexis de Tocqueville with works of American fiction and nonfiction from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present.*

Primary Instructor, “Politics and Religious Tradition: The Hebrew Bible” 2022-2023  
*Upper level undergraduate seminar considering the early narrative books of the Hebrew Bible, from Genesis through Kings, from the perspective of political theory.*

### **Boston College**

Primary Instructor, “The Question of Justice” 2017-2018  
*Upper level undergraduate seminar on the theory, practice and rhetoric of justice in the Western tradition, from Plato to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*

Teaching Assistant, “How to Rule the World: An Introduction to Political Theory” 2018-2019  
*Prof. Robert Bartlett’s survey course of ancient and modern political theory  
Led two sections of 20 students each*

### **Hebrew University**

Teaching Assistant, “Intro to Early Modern Philosophy: From Descartes to Hume.” 2017-2018  
*Multiple sections, Course was taught in Hebrew*

### **Tikvah Foundation**

Primary Instructor, *Tikvah Scholars Program* (for advanced high school students)  
“Western and Jewish Thought” – *two week intensive course* Summer 2021/2

Primary Instructor, *Tikvah Online Academy* (for advanced high school students)  
“War, Peace, and Human Nature” - *six week course* Spring 2021  
“Biblical Heroism, Pagan Love, and the Politics of Nationhood” Winter 2021  
“Israeli Politics: From Herzl to Netanyahu” Fall 2020

Preceptor, *Tikvah Summer Program* (for select undergraduates)  
“Project on Jewish Thought and Enduring Human Questions” Summer 2013

**Abigail Adams Institute** (Cambridge, MA)  
Primary Instructor, “*Giambattista Vico’s New Science*” Summer 2019  
*Six session graduate seminar on key works by G. Vico*

### ***Professional Writing***

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*Law’s Tragic Dance: The Conflict over Claims to Rule in Plato’s Laws*  
With Amanda Greene (UC Santa Barbara), [currently under review at *Journal of Politics*]

*Thomas Hobbes and the Birth of Ideological Politics* [book manuscript in preparation]

Review of *Natural Law and Human Rights: Toward a Recovery of Practical Reason* by Pierre Manent,  
*Interpretation: A Journal of Political Thought*, Vol. 47, No. 3, Summer 2021

“Between Decadence and Monism: Jabotinsky’s ambivalent Nietzscheanism,” *Stanford Slavic Studies*,  
Vol. 44, 2013 [Russian].

“Hobbes and the Birth of Ideological Politics” – in preparation  
Journal article examining Hobbes’ misunderstood role in founding modern theory of politics

“Vico’s Theory of Political Origins” – in preparation  
Journal article examining Giambattista Vico’s (1668-1744) critique of social contract theory

Translation of John Selden, *Of the Law of Nature and Nations, According to the Teachings of the Hebrews* – in preparation [with Ethan Alexander-Davey]  
Editing first English translation of this foundational 17<sup>th</sup> century work

Translation of *Averroes’ “Middle Commentary on Aristotle’s Nicomachean Ethics”* (Book V) – in preparation [with Adam Thomas]  
First English translation with commentary from the extant Hebrew and Latin translations.

### ***Grants, Fellowships, Appointments and Awards***

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- Morris and Marilyn Moscowitz Senior Fellow, The Herzl Institute, Jerusalem, 2019-2020
- Engelhard Pingree Fellowship Award, Boston College, 2019-2020 (Awarded to the student whose work has made the greatest contribution to the research mission of the Graduate School)
- Graduate Fellow, Abigail Adams Institute, 2019-2020
- Boston College Presidential Fellowship, 2014-2019 (Competitive university-wide fellowship)
- Clough Center for Study of Constitutional Democracy, Graduate Fellowship, 2018-2020
- Tikvah Fellowship, 2013-2014
- Harold R. Abells Memorial Prize in Philosophy, Hebrew University, 2012
- Hebrew University Full Tuition Merit-Based Masters Scholarship, 2010-2013
- DAAD full scholarship for intensive German course and cultural exchange in Marburg, Germany, 2011

## ***Languages***

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Modern Hebrew (fluent), Ancient and Medieval Hebrew (academic), French (academic), German (academic), Italian (basic)

## ***Select Public Writing***

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“Confront Faith’s Postmodern Problem,” *Public Discourse*, Jan. 16, 2023  
(<https://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2023/01/86855/>) [Editors’ Choice Mosaic Magazine, Reprinted RealClearReligion]

“The Present Age of Babel,” A Contribution to a Symposium on the Thought of Chantal Delsol,  
*University Bookman Press*, June, 2022  
(<https://kirkcenter.org/essays/the-present-age-of-babel/>)

“Making Peace Between Jerusalem and Athens: A review of the Philosophy of Hebrew Scripture,” *Los Angeles Review of Books*, September 28, 2012. [Republished by salon.com and featured on the *NY Times* philosophy blog]

“Prescribing anti-Zionism,” *Jerusalem Post*, March 31, 2012. [Also translated into German and Spanish]

“The spiritual führer: a review of *Heidegger* by Emmanuel Faye,” *Jerusalem Post*, May 21, 2010.

“The Quest for Self-Knowledge: Where Philosophy Went Wrong,” *Azure* No. 29, Summer 2007.  
[Featured on Yale’s *Bookforum*, October 2007.]

“Great Thinkers: Samuel P. Huntington,” *Contemporary Thinkers website*  
([www.contemporarythinkers.org/huntington](http://www.contemporarythinkers.org/huntington))

“Great Thinkers: Judah Halevi,” *Great Thinkers website* ([www.greatthinkers.org/halevi](http://www.greatthinkers.org/halevi))

## ***Conference Papers Presented***

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“The Seven Titles to Rule and the Rule of Law in Plato’s *Laws*” [with Amanda Greene]  
- *American Political Science Association Conference*, Seattle, September 2021

“Vico’s Critique of the Social Contract Theory”  
- *Noscens Conference on Ancient Law and Modern Thought*, Online, April 2021

“Armed Reason: Hobbes and the Invention of Ideology”  
- *New England Political Science Association Conference*, Portland, March 2019

“Reflections on the Hobbesian Revolution: The Natural and Artificial Roots of Modern Ideology”  
- *Northeastern Political Science Association Conference*, Philadelphia, November 2017