

# Benjamin Isaak Gross

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*Curriculum Vitae*  
[www.benjaminigross.com](http://www.benjaminigross.com)

Political Science Program  
700 Pelham Rd. N.  
Brewer Hall Room 205D

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Academic & Administrative Appointments	<b>Associate Professor</b> , Jacksonville State University <b>Assistant Professor</b> , Jacksonville State University <b>Director</b> , Tocqueville Lecture Series <b>Co-Editor</b> , <i>Compass: An Undergraduate Journal of American Political Ideas</i>	2023-Present 2017-2023 2020-present 2022-present
Education	<b>University of North Texas</b> PhD in Political Science (Political Theory, American Politics) <b>Northern Illinois University</b> MA in Political Science BS in Political Science, with Honors (Minors: Mathematics, Physics)	2017 2010 2008
Additional Training	Fellow at the Academic Engagment Network Fellow at the Jack Miller Center Graduate Teaching Excellence Program	2021 2016 2014-2015

## INTERESTS

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Research Interests	Modern Political Philosophy, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, American Political Thought, International Human Rights, Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
Teaching Interests	History of Political Philosophy, American Political Thought, American Politics, Research Methodology, International Human Rights

## TEACHING

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Instructor of Record	<b>Jacksonville State University</b>	<b>Sections</b>
	Introduction to American Government (PSC 100)	20x: 2017-2023
	Introduction to Political Science (PSC 101)	6x: 2017-2023
	Politics, the News, & You (PSC 105)	4x: 2018-2019
	Introduction to International Relations (PSC 232)	6x: 2017-2023
	Science, Technology, and Political Theory (PSC 250)	3x: 2018-2022
	Political Science Methods (PSC 301)	4x: 2018-2023
	International Human Rights (PSC 338)	3x: 2018-2022
	Contemporary Political Theory (PSC 356)	3x: 2019-2023
	Ancient & Medieval Political Theory (PSC 451)	4x: 2017-2023
	Modern Political Theory (PSC 452)	4x: 2018-2022
	American Political Thought (PSC 454)	3x: 2018-2022
	Proseminar in American Government (PSC 583)	2020
	University Honors (UH 300)	2x: 2020-2021

	<b>Previous Institutions</b>	<b>Sections</b>
	<i>Texas Woman's University</i>	
	U.S. National Government (POLS 2013)	2017
	<i>University of North Texas</i>	
	Introduction to Political Research (PSCI 2300)	2016
	Political Theory: Eighteenth Century to the Present (PSCI 3320)	2x: 2015-2016
	<i>Harper Community College</i>	
	American Politics & Government (PSC 101)	2011
	<i>Northern Illinois University</i>	
	Democracy in America (POL 150)	2010
Supervision	<b>Jacksonville State University</b>	
	Internship Supervision	2022
	Honors Contract Course: Modern Political Theory	2020
	Honors Contract Course: Political Science Methods	2019
Guest Lectures	<b>Marymount University</b>	
	Political Socialization & You!	2021
	<b>Oglethorpe University</b>	
	Rousseau's <i>Second Discourse</i>	2020
	<b>Texas A&amp;M University-Corpus Christi</b>	
	Undergraduate Publishing: Suggestions on how to be Successful	2020
	<b>University of North Texas</b>	
	Aristophanes' <i>The Clouds</i> : The Just and Unjust Speech	2016
	An Introduction to <i>The Apology of Socrates</i>	2015
	What is Political Participation?	2013
Teaching Assistant	<b>University of North Texas</b>	
	American Government: Laws and Institutions (PSCI 1040)	2017
	American Government: Process and Policies (PSCI 1050)	2x: 2016-2017
	<b>Northern Illinois University</b>	
	Democracy in America (POL 150)	2009
	Introduction to American Government & Politics (POL 100)	2x: 2008-2009

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## SCHOLARSHIP

Blind Peer Reviewed Publications	2022. "Perfectibility, Disaster, and Disease: Rousseau's Application of the Natural Goodness on Man." in <i>Making Sense of Disease and Disasters: Reflections of Political Theory from Antiquity to the Age of COVID</i> , ed. Lee Trepanier. Routledge: New York.
	2021. "Internet Uses and Political Participation in the U.S." <i>The Journal of the Alabama Academy of Science</i> . 91(2): 134-178.
	2021. "Rousseau, Romero, and the 'Sentiment of Existence': The Search for Perfectibility in <i>Dawn of the Dead</i> ." in <i>Beyond the Grave: Essays on Zombies and the Romero Legacy</i> , eds. Gloria Pastorino and Bruce Peabody. McFarland Books: Jefferson, NC.
	2021. "Setting the Agenda: A Simulation of Deciding Tomorrow's Front-Page." <i>Journal of Political Science Education</i> . 17(sup1): 77-92.

2018. “How International is Political Science? Patterns of Submission and Publication in the APSR.” *PS: Political Science & Politics* 51(4): 789-798. with Marijke Breuning, Ayal Feinberg, Melissa Martinez, Ramesh Sharma, and John Ishiyama.
2018. “Clearing the Pipeline? Gender and Publishing in the APSR.” *PS: Political Science & Politics* 51(3): 629-642. with Marijke Breuning, Ayal Feinberg, Melissa Martinez, Ramesh Sharma, and John Ishiyama.
2015. “Reviewer Fatigue? Why Scholars Decline to Review their Peers’ Work.” *PS Political Science & Politics* 48(4): 595-600. with Marijke Breuning, Jeremy Backstrom, Jeremy Brannon, and Michael Widmeier.
- Editor  
Reviewed  
Publications 2022. “Professional Norms: Clearing a Barrier to Developing Meaningful Relationships.” in *Strategies for Navigating Graduate School and Beyond*, eds. Kevin Lorentz II, Daniel J. Mallinson, Julia Marin Hellwege, Davin Phoenix, and J. Cheries Strachan. American Political Science Association: Washington, DC. with Kevin M. Kearns and Evan M. Lowe.
- Non-Peer  
Reviewed  
Publications 2016. “Overburdened Reviewers and the Future of Peer Review.” *European Science Editing* 42(2): 42. with Marijke Breuning, Jeremy Brannon, and Michael Widmeier.
- Under  
Review “Tools of the Trade? Methods of State Repression and Authoritarian Regimes.” with Jeremy R. Backstrom and Michael C. Marshall. (*Revise & Resubmit*)
- Pipeline “Rousseau and the Anti-Vaxxers.”  
“Emile’s Three Tutors: Unraveling the Complex Character.”  
“The Case for Limiting Free Speech, But Not in America.”  
“Tools of the Trade: Does Repression Evolve with Authoritarian Regime Transitions?” with Jeremy R. Backstrom and Michael C. Marshall  
“Losing my Marbles: A Simulation of Political Ideology & R-A-S.”  
“Aristotle, Locke, and Rousseau: Virtue and Civic Education.” with Kevin M. Kearns and Sebastian M. Graham  
“The Relief of Man’s Estate: A Virtue or Mask of Virtue?” with Evan M. Lowe  
“A Federal Republic: The U.S. Constitution and William Paley.” with Haimo Li  
“Federalism and Agenda-Setting: A Complex Ecosystem”
- Invited  
Presentations 2022. “The Everywheres & The U.S. Constitution”  
Presented at Oglethorpe University’s Constitution Day.  
2021. “A Problem of Justice”  
Presented at the Faculty Lecture Series of Jacksonville State University.  
2019. “Should an Undergraduate Education include Nietzsche?”  
Presented at Jacksonville State University.  
2015. “Natural Remedies vs. Modern Medicine: Rousseau’s Critique of Doctors and the Modern Scientific Project in the *Emile*.”  
Presented at Northern Illinois University.

Conference Presentations	“Emile’s Three Tutors: Unraveling the Complex Character.” <i>Chicago, IL: Midwest Political Science Association</i>	2023
	“Losing my Marbles: A Simulation of Political Ideology & R-A-S.” <i>Chicago, IL: Midwest Political Science Association</i>	2023
	“Locke, Rousseau, and Aristotle: Civic Education and Toleration.” with Sebastian M. Graham and Kevin M. Kearns <i>Chicago, IL: Midwest Political Science Association</i>	2023
	“The Effect of Remembering: A Quantitative Study of a Holocaust Remembrance Day.” <i>Dallas, TX: AEN Jr. Faculty Conference</i>	2023
	“Locke, Rousseau, and Aristotle: Civic Education and Toleration.” with Sebastian M. Graham and Kevin M. Kearns <i>Saint Petersburg, FL: Southern Political Science Association</i>	2023
	“Tools of the Trade? Methods of State Repression and Authoritarian Regimes?” with Jeremy R. Backstrom and Michael C. Marshall <i>Jacksonville, AL: Faculty Research Symposium</i>	2022
	“Locke & Rousseau: Virtue and Civic Education.” with Kevin M. Kearns <i>San Antonio, TX: Southern Political Science Association</i>	2022
	“The Case for Limiting Free Speech, But Not in America.” <i>Online Panel: AEN Junior Faculty Fall Conference</i>	2021
	“The Case for Limiting Free Speech, But Not in America.” <i>Online Panel: AEN Junior Faculty Spring Conference</i>	2021
	“The Relief of Man’s Estate: A Virtue or Mask of Virtue?” <i>Online Panel: Midwest Political Science Association</i>	2021
	“Locke & Rousseau: Virtue and Civic Education.” with Kevin M. Kearns <i>Online Panel: Southern Political Science Association</i>	2021
	“The Relief of Man’s Estate: A Virtue or Mask of Virtue?” <i>Corpus Christi, TX: Lone Star Conference for the Study of Political Thought</i>	2020
	“Tools of the Trade? Methods of State Repression and Authoritarian Regimes.” with Jeremy R. Backstrom and Michael C. Marshall <i>Toronto, ON: International Studies Association</i>	2019
	“Rousseau, Romero, and Romanticism: The Living and Living Dead.” <i>Chicago, IL: Midwest Political Science Association</i>	2019
	“Emile’s Three Tutors: Unraveling the Complex Character.” <i>Denton, TX: Lone Star Conference for the Study of Political Thought</i>	2019
	“Emile’s Three Tutors: Unraveling the Complex Character.” <i>Chicago, IL: Midwest Political Science Association</i>	2018
	“Being in Rousseau’s Thought: A System in the <i>Discourses</i> and <i>Emile</i> .” <i>New Orleans, LA: Southern Political Science Association</i>	2017
	“Being in Rousseau’s Thought: A System in the <i>Discourses</i> and <i>Emile</i> .” <i>Chicago, IL: Midwest Political Science Association</i>	2017
	“Citizenship, Modern Science, and the Relief of Man’s Estate in the Thought of Francis Bacon.” <i>Chicago, IL: Midwest Political Science Association</i>	2016
	“Christian Scientists: How Francis Bacon Needs Christianity to Achieve the Relief of Man’s Estate.” <i>San Juan, PR: Southern Political Science Association</i>	2016
	“Christian Scientists: How Francis Bacon Needs Christianity to Achieve the Relief of Man’s Estate.” <i>Chicago, IL: Midwest Political Science Association</i>	2015

	“A Particular Set of Skills: Virtual Groups, Civic Groups, and Their Effect on Political Participation.” <i>New Orleans, LA: Southern Political Science Association</i>	2015
	“Natural Remedies vs. Modern Medicine: Rousseau’s Critique of Doctors and the Modern Scientific Project in the <i>Emile</i> .” <i>New Orleans, LA: Southern Political Science Association</i>	2015
	“Natural Remedies vs. Modern Medicine: Rousseau’s Critique of Doctors and the Modern Scientific Project in the <i>Emile</i> .” <i>Chicago, IL: Midwest Political Science Association</i>	2014
	“Using Falseness to Support the Truth: The Relationship between True Religion, False Religions, and Politics in the thought of David Hume.” <i>Chicago, IL: Midwest Political Science Association</i>	2013
	“Virtually the Same: The Effects of Physical and Virtual Groups on Social Capital.” <i>Orlando, FL: Southern Political Science Association</i>	2013
	“Social Capital and the College Campus.” <i>DeKalb, IL: Northern Illinois University Graduate Student Research Association</i>	2011
Conference Participation	“Re-energize American Government Education: Innovation & Opportunity,” Attendee <i>McGraw Hill</i>	2023
	“Patriotism vs. Nationalism,” Attendee <i>Jack Miller Center and the Lynde &amp; Harry Bradley Foundation</i>	2022
	“Freedom of Speech and Its Critics,” Conferee <i>Liberty Fund</i>	2020
	“Civic Learning & Democratic Engagement Meeting,” Attendee <i>American Democracy Project</i>	2020
	“Free Market Forum,” Attendee <i>Hillsdale College</i>	2019
Research Assistance	Matthew Eshbaugh-Soha (University of North Texas)	2012
	Matthew J. Streb (Northern Illinois University)	2008-2010

## GRANTS

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	<b>Jacksonville State University</b>	
Funded	<i>Jack Miller Center</i> , Constitution Day (\$2,500, competitive)	2023
	<i>Alabama Humanities Alliance</i> , Tocqueville Lecture Series (\$10,000, competitive)	2022
	<i>Jack Miller Center</i> , Tocqueville Lecture Series (\$15,000, competitive)	2022
	<i>Jack Miller Center</i> , Constitution Day (\$1,640, competitive)	2022
	<i>Jack Miller Center</i> , Promotional Grant (\$500, competitive)	2022
	<i>Jack Miller Center</i> , Tocqueville Lecture Series (\$15,000, competitive)	2021
	<i>Jack Miller Center</i> , Tocqueville Lecture Series (\$10,000 competitive)	2020
Unfunded	<i>National Endowment for the Humanities</i> , Improving Civic and Humanities Education at Jacksonville State University through a Digital Game of Constitutional Theory During a Zombie Apocalypse	2022
	<i>Institute for Humane Studies</i> , Compass: An Undergraduate Journal of American Political Ideas	2022

*National Endowment for the Humanities, A More Perfect Union: Digitizing the Preamble Section of the Zombie Apocalypse Constitution Simulation* 2021  
*Institute for Humane Studies, Tocqueville Society* 2020

**University of North Texas**

Funded *Southern Political Science Association, Prestage Cook Travel Grant* 2017  
(\$300, competitive)  
*Toulouse School of Graduate Studies, Travel Grant (\$1,000, competitive)* 2013 & 2017  
*College of Arts & Sciences, Travel Support Grant (\$1,550, competitive)* 2013-2017  
*Student Government Association, Rauple Travel Grant* 2013, 2014, & 2016  
(\$1,750, competitive)  
*Department of Political Science, Conference Grant (\$2,200, competitive)* 2013-2017

PROFESSION

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Development *Academic Engagement Network Short Course Minneapolis, MN* 2021  
*Jack Miller Center Summer Institute Philadelphia, PA* 2016

Service to the Field *American Political Science Review, Lead Editorial Assistant* 2014-2016  
*American Political Science Review, Editorial Assistant* 2012-2014 & 2016  
*Midwest Political Science Association, Chair of Best Graduate Student Paper* 2021-2022  
*Compass: An Undergraduate Journal of American Political Ideas, Jr. Editor* 2020-2021  
*Midwest Political Science Association, Conference Section Head* 2019  
*Bright Line Watch, Survey Participant* 2018-Present  
*Midwest Political Science Association, Discussant* 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2023  
*Southern Political Science Association, Discussant* 2021  
*Lone Star Conference for the Study of Political Thought, Discussant* 2019 & 2020

**Jacksonville State University**

Service to the University *CS&BS Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Committee Member* 2019-Present  
*American Democracy Project, Committee Member* 2020-Present  
*General Education Subcommittee, Committee Member* 2021-Present  
*CS&BS Research Methods Committee, Committee Member* 2022-Present  
*Holocaust Remembrance Committee, Committee Member* 2022-Present  
*JSU College for Kids, Presenter* 2022 & 2023  
*Online@JSU Professional Development, Presenter* 2023  
*Panel on Ukraine-Russia War, Organizer* 2022  
*Faculty Lecture Series, Presenter* 2021  
*Faculty Commons, Faculty Development Workshop Presenter* 2021  
*Presidential Debate Watch Parties, Faculty Representative* 2020  
*JSU Wargaming Club, Faculty Advisor* 2018-2020  
*CS&BS Overview YouTube Video, Participant* 2020  
*Dual Enrollment Orientation, Faculty Panel* 2020  
*MFA Advisement, Consultant* 2019-2020  
*Fall Graduation Ceremony, Faculty Marshal* 2019  
*CS&BS Admission Call Night, Volunteer* 2018 & 2019

*Student Symposium, Judge* 2018 & 2019  
*Sociology Assistant Professor Search Committee, Outside Committee Member* 2018

**University of North Texas**

*Bike Safety Task Force, Committee Member* 2015-2016  
*College of Arts & Sciences Dean Search Committee, Committee Member* 2014

**Northern Illinois University**

*Honors Department Committee, Student Representative* 2006-2008

Service  
to the  
Department

**Jacksonville State University**

*Tocqueville Society, Faculty Advisor* 2017-Present  
*Pi Sigma Alpha, Faculty Advisor* 2017-Present  
*Political Science Program's Facebook Page, Manager* 2018-Present  
*Political Science Assistant Professor Search Committee, Committee Chair* 2023  
*Curriculum Committee, Committee Member* 2017-2021  
*Syllabi Standards Committee, Committee Member* 2018-2021  
*Faculty Senate, Alternative Representative* 2019-2021  
*Accepted Students Day, Departmental Representative* 2018, 2020, 2021, & 2022  
*Preview Day, Departmental Representative* 2018, 2020, 2021, 2022 & 2023  
*International Studies Minor Curriculum Proposal, Chair* 2020  
*Political Science Assistant Professor Search Committee, Committee Member* 2019-2020  
*Transfer Student Day, Departmental Representative* 2019  
*Political Science Major Curriculum Change, Chair* 2017-2018  
*Why Study Political Science?”, Presenter* 2017

**University of North Texas**

*Political Theory Working Paper Group, Organizer* 2015-2017  
*Graduate Studies Committee, Student Representative* 2016-2017  
*Political Science Graduate Student Association, VP of Departmental Relations* 2015-2016  
*Political Science Graduate Student Association, Graduate Student Mentor* 2013-2017

Service to  
Students

**Jacksonville State University**

*Student Symposium, Sponsor/Mentor* 2021-2022  
 Mentee was awarded [Best of College of Social & Behavioral Sciences](#)  
*Compass: An Undergraduate Journal of American Political Ideas, Mentor* 2019-2021  
 Mentee published [article](#) in peer-reviewed journal  
*The Chanticleer Publication, Mentor* 2020  
 Mentee published [OpEd](#) concerning international human rights  
*American Bar Foundation, Mentor* 2019-2020  
 Mentee applied & prepared for [ABF Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship](#)  
*Compass Conference, Mentor* 2018-2019  
 Two Mentees applied & prepared for a [national conference](#)  
*Letter of Recommendation, Composer* 2018-2023  
 Composed letters of recommendation for students

Reviewer Service	<i>PS: Political Science &amp; Politics, Perspective on Politics, American Political Thought, BMJ Open, Journal of Information Technology and Politics, Utopian Studies, and Aletheia</i>	
Other Service	<i>Calhoun County Journal, Source</i>	2022
	<i>Anniston Star, Source</i>	2021 & 2022
	<i>Calhoun County Democratic Party, Panel Member</i>	2020
	<i>Honors Program at Northern Illinois University, Guest Speaker</i>	2020
	<i>Mesabi Tribune, Source</i>	2020
	<i>Calhoun County Board of Registrars, Facilitator</i>	2018
Memberships	American Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association, Southern Political Science Association, Academic Engagement Network	
Tools	STATA, R, SPSS, L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X	

## HONORS

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Jacksonville State University	<i>Betty and Earlon McWhorter Outstanding Teaching Award, Nominee</i>	2021
	<i>Student Government Association Golden Apple Award, Nominee</i>	2020
	<i>Betty and Earlon McWhorter Outstanding Teaching Award, Nominee</i>	2020
University of North Texas	<i>Department of Political Science, Outstanding Teaching Fellow</i>	2016
	<i>Department of Political Science, Pender Award</i>	2013
	Awarded for the best graduate paper in political science	
	<i>University of North Texas, Doctoral Fellowship Award</i>	2011
	Provided four years of tuition and stipend	
Northern Illinois University	<i>Graduate Student Research Conference, Best Paper Presentation</i>	2011
	<i>Department of Political Science, Outstanding Graduate Student</i>	2010
	<i>The Northern Star, Ryan Byrne Memorial Award</i>	2007-2009
	<i>Northern Illinois University Graduated Summa Cum Laude, Departmental Honors, &amp; University Honors</i>	2008
	<i>The Lincoln Academy of Illinois, Student Lincoln Laureate Award</i>	2007
	<i>Honors Department, Top Junior Award</i>	2007
	<i>Mortar Board Honor Society Pleiades Chapter, Outstanding Junior Award</i>	2007
	<i>Northern Illinois University Alumni Association, Alumni Merit Scholarship</i>	2005-2008
	<i>Northern Illinois University, Centennial Scholarship</i>	2004-2008
	<i>Northern Illinois University, Academic Finalist Scholarship</i>	2004-2008
	Provided four years of tuition and stipend	
Other	<i>Alpha Phi Omega, Eta Chapter, Distinguished Service Key</i>	2009
	Phi Sigma Alpha, Member	2008
	Scouts BSA, Rank of Eagle Scout	2003

## REFERENCES

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Provided upon request