

# David J. Siemers

## Office

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## Home

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## Positions Held and Teaching Experience

University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, Assistant Professor, 2001-05; Associate Professor, 2005-10, Professor 2010- , Professor and Chair, 2011-

US Presidency, American Political Thought, Modern Political Thought, Congress and the Legislative Process, Ancient Political Thought, Political Film, American Government and Politics, Honors Introductory Seminar-Ethics, Lincoln's Politics, Politics, Power, and Protest in Great Britain (study abroad), Honors American Government, Political Analysis (capstone), Power, Justice and the State (FYE)

Colorado College Colorado Springs, Colorado, Visiting Asst. Professor, 1999-2001  
American Political Thought, The Western Political Tradition, Politics and Film, the Presidency, American Politics

Wellesley College Wellesley, Massachusetts, Visiting Asst. Professor, 1998-1999  
American Pol. Thought, Intro. to American Gov't, Congress and the Leg. Process

Bradley University Peoria, Illinois, Visiting Asst. Professor, 1997-1998  
Intro. to American Government, Intro. to Theory, American Political Thought

University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Teaching Assistant, 1992-96--Depts. of Pol. Science and Integrated Liberal Studies  
American Politics, Ancient Political Thought, Modern Political Thought

## Education

University of Wisconsin (Madison, Wisconsin)  
Ph.D. Political Science, August, 1997  
M.A. Political Science, December, 1992  
St. Olaf College (Northfield, Minnesota)  
B.A. Political Science, 1991, Magna cum Laude

## Publications

**Book:** *Presidents and Political Thought*, University of Missouri Press, 2009.

**Book:** *The Antifederalists: Men of Great Faith and Forbearance*, Rowman & Littlefield, 2003.  
**Publications, continued**

**Book:** *Ratifying the Republic: Antifederalists and Federalists in Constitutional Time*, Stanford University Press, 2002.

**Journal Article:** “Presidential Coequality: The Evolution of a Concept” with Paul T. Beach. *Congress & the Presidency*, September 2012.

**Journal Article:** “The Roosevelts in Superior” in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*, August 2009.

**Journal Article:** “Bill Clinton’s Contractarian Worldview: The Intellectual Origins and Public Face of the Clinton Philosophy.” Autumn 2008 issue of *Congress & the Presidency* (vol. 35, no. 2: 65-86).

**Journal Article:** “Theories about Theory: A Typology of Theory Based Claims from the Case of James Madison,” in the March 2008 issue of *Presidential Studies Quarterly* (vol. 38, number 1: 78-95).

**Journal Article:** “Principled Pragmatism: Abraham Lincoln’s Method of Political Analysis” in the December 2004 issue of *Presidential Studies Quarterly* (vol. 34, number 4: 804-827).

**Journal Article:** “‘It is Natural to Care for the Crazy Machine’: The Anti-Federalists’ Post-ratification Acquiescence,” in Fall 1998 *Studies in American Political Development*, volume 12, number 2: 383-410.

**Book Chapter:** “John Adams’ Political Thought,” in *A Companion to John Adams and John Quincy Adams*, Wiley-Blackwell, David Waldstreicher, ed., 2013, pp. 102-124.

**Book Chapter:** “James Madison’s Presidency: Foreign Affairs,” in *A Companion to James Madison and James Monroe*, Wiley-Blackwell, Stuart Leibiger, ed., 2012, pp. 207-223.

**Book Chapter:** “The Electoral Dynamics of Ratification: Federalist and Antifederalist Strength and Cohesion, 1787-1803,” pp. 233-266 in *The House and the Senate in the 1790s: Petitioning, Lobbying, and Institutional Development*, Ohio University Press, 2002, Donald R. Kennon and Kenneth R. Bowling, eds., part of the United States Capitol Historical Society’s series in Congressional development.

**Contributor:** *America’s Forgotten Founders*, Gary L. Gregg II and Mark David Hall, eds., 2008. Louisville. KY: Butler Books.

**Encyclopedia Entry** in the *Encyclopedia of the American Enlightenment*, Merylyn Holme, Managing Editor, Bristol, UK: Continuum. Entry on “The Antifederalists,” 2012.

**Encyclopedia Entry** in the *Oxford Encyclopedia of American Political and Legal History*, Donald T. Critchlow and Phil Vandermeer, editors in chief. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Entry on the “Anti-Federalists,” 2012.

## Publications, continued

**Encyclopedia Entry** in the *Encyclopedia of Political Theory*, Mark Bevir, Editor in Chief, Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc. Entry on “The American Revolution,” 2010.

**Encyclopedia Entry** in the *Princeton Encyclopedia of United States Political History*, Michael Kazin, ed. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2010. Entry on “the anti-Federalists.”

**Encyclopedia Entry** in *The Encyclopedia of Political Science*, George T. Kurian, ed., Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2010. Entry on “The Constitution.”

**Encyclopedia Entry** in the *Encyclopedia of the Supreme Court of the United States*, David S. Tanenhaus, Editor in Chief, Farmington Hills, MI: Macmillan, 2008. Entry on “The Articles of Confederation.”

**Encyclopedia Entries** in the *Encyclopedia of the New American Nation*, Paul Finkleman et al., eds. New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2006. Entries on “The Antifederalists” and “James Madison—Presidency” with annotated bibliographies.

**Encyclopedia Entries** in *The Encyclopedia of American Religion and Politics*, ed. Paul A. Djupe and Laura R. Olson. New York: Facts on File, 2003. Entries on “Henry David Thoreau,” “Transcendentalism,” “James Madison” and “Thomas Jefferson.”

**Book Review:** Michael J. Gerhardt’s *The Forgotten Presidents: Their Untold Constitutional Legacy* Oxford University Press, for H-Net’s H Law electronic book review forum, forthcoming

**Book Review:** *Madison’s Metronome* by Greg Weiner (University Press of Kansas, 2012) in *The Journal of American History*, forthcoming.

**Book Review:** Jurgen Heideking’s *The Constitution Before the Judgment Seat* (University of Virginia Press, 2012) in the *Journal of the Early Republic*, forthcoming.

**Book Review:** Benjamin A. Kleinerman’s *The Discretionary President* (Kansas, 2009) on H-Net’s H Law electronic book review forum: <http://www.h-net.org/~law/> (September 2010).

**Book Review:** Alison L. LaCroix’s *The Ideological Origins of American Federalism* (Harvard, 2010) in Autumn 2010 (vol. 97: 3) *Journal of American History*.

**Book Review:** Robert McCluer Calhoun’s *Political Moderation in America’s First Two Centuries* (Cambridge, 2009) in the October 2009 *American Historical Review*.

**Book Review:** *Formative Acts*, Stephen Skowronek and Matthew Glassman, eds. (University of Pennsylvania Press) and David Brian Robertson’s *The Constitution and America’s Destiny* (Cambridge University Press) in September 2008 *Perspectives on Politics*.

**Book Review:** Jon L. Wakelyn’s *The Birth of the Bill of Rights*, vol. 1 (Greenwood Press), on H-NET’s Law book review site.

**Book Review:** Daniel Wirls and Stephen Wirls's *The Invention of the United States Senate* (Johns Hopkins University Press), in the *Journal of American History*, June 2005.

**Book Review:** Gary V. Wood's *Heir to the Fathers: John Quincy Adams and the Spirit of Constitutional Government* (Lexington Books) in Fall 2004 *Perspectives on Political Science*.

**Book Review dialogue** with Richard B. Bernstein on *Ratifying the Republic*, appearing electronically on the Society of Historians of the Early American Republic's H-NET book review page, March 2004.

**Book Review:** Sotirios A. Barber's *Welfare and the Constitution* (Princeton University Press) in the June 2004 issue of *Perspectives on Politics*.

### **Publications, continued**

**Book Review:** John Kane's *The Politics of Moral Capital* (Cambridge University Press) appeared in the March 2003 issue of *Presidential Studies Quarterly*.

**Book Review:** David P. Currie's *The Constitution in Congress* (University of Chicago) appeared in the Spring 1999 *Congress & the Presidency*.

**Book Review:** Alan Brinkley, Nelson W. Polsby and Kathleen M. Sullivan's *New Federalist Papers* (W. W. Norton) appeared in Spring 1998 issue of *Perspectives on Political Science*.

**Book Reviews:** Stanley A. Renshon's *The Psychological Assessment of Presidential Candidates* (NYU Press) and *High Hopes: The Clinton Presidency and the Politics of Ambition* (NYU Press) in the Fall 1996 issue of *Congress & the Presidency*.

## **Current Research**

**Book Project:** The Myth of Equality. This work refutes as a myth the oft-stated myth that the American government consists of "three coequal branches." The work uncovers the origins and popularization of the phrase, noting the motives of those who have argued in favor of the idea. The manuscript demonstrates that such a proposition was never in the mind of the writers of the Constitution. It also suggests that there is a significant civic cost to this belief, in that it privileges executive and judicial power far in excess of what is healthy in a democracy.

**Article:** "Paradox of the Whig Inaugurals: Leading the People away from the Presidency?" In this article I critique arguments about the development of the "rhetorical presidency" offered by Jeffrey K. Tulis, Samuel Kernell, and Mel Laracey through a close examination of the inaugural speeches of William Henry Harrison, Zachary Taylor, and Abraham Lincoln. These speeches suggest a philosophical commitment to a Whiggish or limited presidency, but a willingness to submerge that abstract commitment to active presidential leadership if necessity required.

**Article:** “The Farmer was a Framers: The Case for Elbridge Gerry as the Author of *Letters from the Federal Farmer*” submitted to *The William & Mary Quarterly*. Through content analysis and other evidence this article argues that a Massachusetts delegate to the Constitutional Convention (and later Vice President) wrote “Letters from a Federal Farmer,” perhaps the best commentary on the Constitution by an Antifederalist.

## Recent Conference Presentations

“The Judicial Face of Coequality” delivered at the annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association in Los Angeles, CA, April 2013.

“The Philosophical Origins of Coequality” delivered at the annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association in Portland, OR, March 2012.

“Presidential Coequality: The Evolution of a Concept” (with Paul T. Beach) delivered at the annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association in San Antonio, TX, April 2011.

“Calhoun and Coequality: Dubious Origins of a Respected Ideal” delivered at the annual meeting of the the Western Political Science Association in San Francisco, CA, April 2010.  
“The Myth of Equality: The Theory and the Founding of Institutional Power” to be delivered at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association in Atlanta, Georgia, January 2010.

“FDR as Trimmer: Franklin Roosevelt’s debt to the political thought of Thomas Babington Macaulay” delivered at the Western Political Science Association’s annual conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, March 2009.

“Ambivalent Sage: Thomas Jefferson and Political Philosophy” presented at the annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association in San Diego, March 2008

“Adams and Jefferson: Two Differing Approaches to Political Theory” presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association in New Orleans, January 2008.

“Leading the People away from the Presidency?: The Paradoxes of the Whig Inaugurals,” paper presented at the annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association in Las Vegas, March 2007.

Roundtable panelist on David Brian Robertson’s *The Constitution and America’s Destiny* (Cambridge) at the annual meeting of the Social Science History Association in Minneapolis, November 2006.

“Theories about Theory: A Typology of Theory Based Claims from the Case of James Madison,” conference paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association in Philadelphia, September 2006

“Hiding in Plain View: The Social Contractarianism of Bill Clinton,” conference paper presented at the Midwest Political Science Association annual meeting in Chicago,

April 2006.

“Hiding in Plain View: The Social Contractarianism of Bill Clinton,” conference paper presented at the Western Political Science Association’s Annual meeting in Albuquerque, March 2006.

“Woodrow Wilson and Political Philosophy,” conference paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April, 2005.

“Presidents and Political Thought: Four Perspectives,” conference paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA, Jan., 2005.

### **Recent Grants, Awards, and Honors**

Faculty Development Grant—Research Component, 2012

Community Engagement Award 2011 (Community-wide award presented at the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation and Oshkosh *Northwestern’s* “Evening of Stars” \$2500

Willard Smith Teaching Award co-winner, 2010-11

Give Students a Compass Award, 2010-11 (for student mentoring), \$500

Special Projects Coordinator, (summer money for civic engagement projects, 2010)

Rosebush Professorship (most distinguished campus “lifetime” merit award)

TRISS Endowed Professor, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, 2009-2013

Faculty Development Grant—University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, Summer and Fall 2009

Commencement Address deliverer, May 2009, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

Beeke-Levy Research Fellowship, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, 2008

Editorial Board Member, *Oshkosh Northwestern*, 2007-8

Year Sabbatical-University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, 2007-8

Distinguished Teaching Award Nominee, 2007

Faculty Development Grant—Teaching Component

Distinguished Teaching Award Nominee, 2006

Willard Smith Outstanding Teacher Award, 2005-6

Distinguished Teaching Award Nominee, 2005

Faculty Development Grant—University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, 2005

Chapter Activity Grant—Pi Sigma Alpha, 2005

Willard Smith Outstanding Teacher Award, 2003-4

Faculty Development Grant—University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, 2004

Faculty Development Grant—University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, 2002

Lloyd E. Worner Teacher of the Year Award Nominee—Colorado College, 2001

**Manuscript reviewer:** *American Political Science Review*, Oxford University Press, *Publius*, *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, *Review of Politics*, *American Political Thought*, *American Journal of Political Science*, Stanford University Press, Vanderbilt University Press, Northern Illinois University Press

**Major Service Activities:** Departmental Chair, Faculty Advocacy Committee Chair, Faculty Senate, Faculty Senate Executive Committee, Letters and Science Faculty Committee,

American Democracy Project campus chapter Chair, Oshkosh School District Budget Review Committee, NEW ERA Leadership Team, numerous radio and newspaper interviews.

**Professional Memberships:** American Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association, Southern Political Science Association, Western Political Science Association, Presidency Research Group, APSA Politics and History Section

## References

Dr. Charles O. Jones  
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