JC TALAMANTEZ

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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION AND COMPETENCE

Specialization: Social and political philosophy; normative ethics; 20th-century American poetry
Competence: Philosophy of technology; philosophy of education; aesthetics (philosophy and literature)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Texas State University, *Assistant Professor of Instruction*	August 2025 – Present
Milwaukee School of Engineering, *Visiting Assistant Professor*	August 2024 – December 2025
Lakeland University, *Visiting Assistant Professor*	August 2020 – May 2023
School of the Art Institute of Chicago, *Lecturer*	September 2018 – December 2019
University of Wisconsin–Whitewater, *Lecturer*	September 2018 – May 2019

EDUCATION

PhD	2024	Philosophy	Northwestern University
MA	2013	Philosophy	Tufts University
MFA	2009	Creative Writing (*passed with distinction*)	Texas State University
BA	2006	Philosophy (*summa cum laude; honors*)	Texas State University
BA	2006	English (*summa cum laude; honors*)	Texas State University

DISSERTATION & MFA THESIS

"On the Nature and Significance of Political Respect"
Committee: Kyla Ebels-Duggan (chair), Rachel Zuckert, and Mark Alznauer

"Carcass"
Committee: Steve Wilson (chair), Cyrus Cassells, and Craig Hanks

PUBLICATIONS

"In God's Peerless Country." *North American Review* (forthcoming).
"West Austin / dusk." *Southern Indiana Review* (forthcoming).
"Bath & Aria." *The Good Life Review* (Issue 23, Spring 2026).
"Poetry for the Void." *Tupelo Quarterly* (Vol. X, Issue 37, February 2026).
"Summer of Roaches." *Tupelo Quarterly* (Vol. X, Issue 37, February 2026).
"make a poem out of nothing." *Aquifer: The Florida Review Online* (2025).
"First Came North." *Poetry Northwest* (Vol. 20, Issue 1, Summer/Fall 2025).
"Reformulated Ockham." *Tupelo Quarterly* (Vol. IX, Issue 34, January 2025).
"Summer of Locusts." *Colorado Review* (Vol. 51, Issue 3, Fall/Winter 2024).
"Mermaid at New Year." *Colorado Review* (Vol. 51, Issue 3, Fall/Winter 2024).
"Half-Life of Krill." *Water~Stone Review* (Vol. 27, 2024–2025).
"Goodbye Texas." *Nimrod International Journal* (Vol. 67, No. 2, Spring/Summer 2024).
"Learning to Live with / A Clockwork Orange." *Water~Stone Review* (Vol. 26, 2023–2024).
"Insect." *Frontier Poetry* (June 2023).
"Physiognomies of a Barbie Doll / a play at erotic history." *Boulevard Magazine* (Vol. 38, Nos. 1–2).
"Flower in Corridors of Sun." *The Hopkins Review* (Summer 2023).
"A Quality of Light." *Poetry Northwest* (Vol. XVIII, Issue 1).
"Petals in Dust." *Salamander* (Issue 54, Summer 2022).
"Sturgeon in the Land of the Nautilus." *Salamander* (Issue 54, Summer 2022).
"What You Have Given, She Withdraws." *Smartish Pace* (Issue 28, Summer 2021).
"Essential Worker." *New Ohio Review* (June 2021).
"Street-side San Antonio." *Salamander* (Issue 51, Fall/Winter 2020–2021).
"Alley Cat." *Salamander* (Issue 51, Fall/Winter 2020–2021).

"Poem for Nightmares." *Smartish Pace* (Issue 27, April 2020).

"Marigold." *The Gideon Poetry Review* (November 2019).

"Goblins." *The Gideon Poetry Review* (November 2019).

SELECTED AWARDS AND HONORS

Best New Poets 2026 Nomination (by *The Florida Review* for "make a poem out of nothing")

2021 Award for New Poets (longlist, *Frontier Poetry*)

17th Annual Beullah Rose Poetry Prize Finalist (for "What You Have Given, She Withdraws," *Smartish Pace*)

Winter Honorable Mention (for "Goblins," *The Gideon Poetry Review*).

MANUSCRIPTS

"A Preference For Diswinged Things Carefully Spoken." (poetry manuscript under review)

"Travelogue: A Crisis." (poetry manuscript in progress)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"Hannah Arendt and the Fragility of Moral Reasoning"
New Mexico–West Texas Philosophical Society, May 2021

"Minimal Liberalism, Well-being, and Public Values in Education"
Education Ethics Conference and Workshop, Harvard University, April 2020

"Political Stability and the Necessity of Modest Comprehensive Liberalism"
New Mexico–West Texas Philosophical Society, March 2016

"Self-Love as the Basis of Ethics in Kierkegaard's Works of Love"
New Mexico–West Texas Philosophical Society, March 2014

"The (New?) Cult of True Womanhood"
Gender and Enlightenment Conference, Texas State University, April 2007
Texas State University Philosophy Symposium, April 2007

CONFERENCE COMMENTS

On Paul Carron and Anne-Marie Schultz, "Plato's Republic, Culture, and the Development of Moral Judgement," New Mexico–West Texas Philosophical Society, March 2016.

On Betha Manninen, "A Philosophical Analysis of the Phenomenology of Child Abuse," Central States Philosophical Association, October 2014.

On Renee Bolinger, "The Specification Problem for Anderson's Democratic Egalitarianism," Northwestern Society for the Theory of Ethics and Politics, April 2014.

On Alejandro Tamez, "Hypothetical Imperatives, Future Selves," New Mexico–West Texas Philosophical Society, March 2014.

TEACHING

Instructor of Record

Texas State University
Ethics and Society (8x)

Milwaukee School of Engineering
AI Ethics and Governance (graduate course, M.S. in Machine Learning)
Ethics for Professional Managers and Engineers (6x)
Ethics of Digital Technologies and AI (2x)
College Writing (4x)

Lakeland University
Writing Workshop
Composition I (9x)
Composition II (5x)
Critical Thinking (2x)
Love and Lust
Prejudice and Discrimination (2x)
The Global Child (3x)
The Environment and Consumption

School of the Art Institute of Chicago
The Philosophy of Love (2x)
The Meaning of Life Beyond Ethics (2x)

University of Wisconsin–Whitewater
Contemporary Moral Issues
Introduction to Ethics
Introduction to Aesthetics

Texas State University
Philosophy and Critical Thinking (4x)

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Northwestern University
Introduction to Existentialism (3 sections; instructor: Mark Alznauer)
Introduction to Critical Theory (3 sections; instructor: Mark Alznauer)
Ethical Problems and Public Issues (3 sections; instructor: Mark Sheldon)
Philosophy of Race and Racism (3 sections; instructor: Charles Mills)
Bioethics (3 sections; instructor: Mark Sheldon; 2x)

Tufts University
Introduction to Ethics (instructor: David Denby; 2x)
Justice, Equality, and Liberty (instructor: David Denby)
Feminist Philosophy (instructor: Erin Kelly)

Texas State University
Philosophy and Critical Thinking (instructor: Jeffrey Gordon; 5x)

Course Design

Co-developed the 13-week graduate course "AI Ethics & Governance" with Andrew McAninch for MSOE's M.S. in Machine Learning program (Summer 2025).

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

AAPT–APA Seminar on Teaching and Learning in Philosophy, Seminar on Course Design (July 2022)
Searle Center for Advancing Learning and Teaching, Teaching Certificate Program (2017)

SERVICE

First-Year Academic Advisor, Lakeland University	August 2021 – May 2023
Treasurer, Women in Philosophy Workshop, Chicago	September 2016 – August 2017
Member, Philosophy Department Climate Committee	September 2014 – August 2016
Assistant Editor, Narrative Magazine	April 2009 – April 2013
Assistant Editor, Front Porch Literary Magazine	January 2007 – December 2008

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Kyla Ebels-Duggan
Professor
Department of Philosophy, Northwestern University
kebelsduggan@northwestern.edu

Mark Alznauer
Associate Professor
Department of Philosophy, Northwestern University
m-alznauer@northwestern.edu

Rachel Zuckert
Professor
Department of Philosophy, Northwestern University
r-zuckert@northwestern.edu

Cyrus Cassells
Professor
Department of English, Texas State University
cc37@txstate.edu

TEACHING REFERENCES

Craig Hanks
Professor and Chair
Department of Philosophy, Texas State University
ch25@txstate.edu

Alicia Domack
Professor and Chair
Humanities, Social Science, and Communication, Milwaukee School of Engineering
domack@msoe.edu

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

Title: *"On the Nature and Significance of Political Respect"*
Supervisor: Kyla Ebels-Duggan

The concept of "political respect" is commonly employed within political theorizing, especially within the history of liberal thought. Even so, there is, at present, no consensus among liberal theorists concerning what political respect consists of, how it relates to other normative and psychological notions (such as self-respect), and what political and social conditions support its emergence and persistence. This essay attempts to illuminate these and other related issues by providing a generalized conceptual framework within which we can more accurately understand the kinds of relations that constitute political respect and how to reason more effectively about them.

With this goal in mind, this dissertation proceeds in five main stages. Stage one identifies and motivates a dominant view within contemporary liberalism that I call thin liberalism: the view that governmental policies are justified if and only if they bring about a state of affairs in which the negative liberties of all individuals are respected. I outline multiple objections to this variety of liberalism and conclude that its failure indicates several ways forward for the development of alternative versions of liberal theory.

Stage two discusses and evaluates the viability of egalitarian liberalism: a family of political views, each of which emphasizes the importance of considerations of equality within our political reasoning. I discuss an objection often leveled against egalitarian liberalism that I call the problem of the private sphere and conclude that while the objection successfully undermines some versions of egalitarian liberalism, it does not undermine all of them. If egalitarian liberalism is supplemented with a concept that I call "the commons," it acquires the argumentative resources necessary to address the objection adequately.

In stage three, I develop and distinguish my preferred version of liberalism, which I call respect-forward liberalism, from its theoretical competitors. Political respect, I argue, should be understood as consisting of the relations represented within my proposed respect framework. After advancing and illustrating the theoretical value of this framework, I enumerate the theses that I take to constitute the respect-forward liberal view and explain why they should be accepted.

With my positive view concerning the nature of political respect presented, stage four consists of evaluating its relationship to contemporary debates about how the state should conceive of citizens. I accomplish this by discussing the capabilities approach and a criticism that its proponents have leveled against distributive justice liberalism that I call the opacity objection. The capabilities approach, I argue, identifies some important considerations that a theory of political respect ought to be receptive to, but it is not, by itself, capable of recognizing all the relations about which political respect can be present or absent. The insights of the capabilities approach, however, can be subsumed within my proposed respect framework and the theory of respect-forward liberalism. Doing this, I argue, results in a complete theoretical framework within which to conduct our future political reasoning.

Finally, in stage five, I conclude with some brief thoughts concerning the current state of political discourse and how the ideas discussed in the preceding chapters can both assist us in diagnosing precisely why so many current political discussions become unproductive as well as provide guidance about how they can be improved going forward.