

Bob Pepperman Taylor

Department of Political Science
University of Vermont
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Education

Ph.D. Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ (1986)
M.A. Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ (1985)
M.Phil. Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ (1985)
B.A. (Magna Cum Laude) Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT (1980)

Faculty Appointments

Scholar in Residence, University of Vermont Patrick Leahy Honors College, spring semester 2026
Professor of Political Science Emeritus, University of Vermont, summer 2025
Elliott A. Brown Green and Gold Professor of Law, Politics, and Political Behavior, spring 2019-2025
Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Vermont, fall 2002
Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Vermont, fall 1994
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Vermont, fall 1988
Guest Faculty, Suomi College (Hancock, Michigan), summer 1993
Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Vermont, 1986-1988

Administrative Appointments

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Political Science, University of Vermont, fall 2018 – summer 2022
Honors Coordinator for the College of Arts and Sciences, fall 2008 – spring 2012
Dean of the Honors College, University of Vermont, summer 2003-summer 2007
Director of the John Dewey Honors Program, University of Vermont, summer 1999-summer 2003

Courses Taught at University of Vermont

“Democracy and Liberal Education,” an advanced research seminar
“Henry Thoreau and ‘Civil Disobedience’,” an advanced research seminar
“Democracy and Nature,” a first-year seminar on the relationship between democratic and environmental values (mainly in the American context)
“Twentieth Century Political Thought,” a survey of major twentieth century works of political theory
“The Pursuit of Knowledge,” a full year first year Honors College Seminar
“Dean’s Book Course,” a one credit Honors College course focused on a prominent work investigating the intersection of natural and social science
“Making Ethical Choices: Personal, Public and Professional,” a full year first year Honors

College seminar
“The Democratic Citizen,” an Honors College seminar
“Introduction to Political Theory,” an introductory political theory course
“History of Political Thought,” a yearlong survey of classic works of Western political theory
“Twentieth Century Political Thought,” an intermediate political theory course
“American Political Thought,” an advanced research seminar
“Democratic Theory,” an advanced research seminar
“Senior Honors Seminar,” an advanced research seminar for the Department of Political Science’s outstanding seniors
“Environmental and Political Values,” an intermediate course investigating the intersection between environmental ethics and political theory
“Environmental Politics,” a course in the Integrated Social Science Program
“Knowledge and Theory,” the College of Arts and Sciences sophomore honors seminar
“Freedom and Character in the American Experience,” a College of Arts and Sciences junior honors seminar
“Political Ideologies,” an intermediate political science course
“Democracy and Its Discontents,” an intermediate political science course investigating some of the most important contemporary literature addressing democratic theory and practice

Teaching Fields

Political Theory
History of Political Thought
Environmental Ethics

Honors and Awards

Winner of the American Political Science Association section award for best book of 2020 in American political thought (*Lessons from “Walden”*), 2021
George V. Kidder Outstanding Faculty Alumni Award, University of Vermont, 2016
University Scholar Award, University of Vermont, 2016-2017
Dean’s Lecture Award, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Vermont, 2016-2017
National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowship, 2002-2003
Kroepsch-Maurice Teaching Award, University of Vermont, 1995
University of Vermont Bicentennial Fellow, 1988-1991

Publications

Books

Liberal Education and Democracy (University of Notre Dame Press, 2025)
Lessons from “Walden”: Thoreau and the Crisis of American Democracy (University of Notre Dame Press, 2020). Winner of the American Political Science Association section award for best book of 2020 in American political thought. Paperback edition released summer 2025
The Routledge Guidebook to Thoreau’s “Civil Disobedience” (Routledge, 2015)
Horace Mann’s Troubling Legacy: The Education of Democratic Citizens (University of Kansas

Press, 2010)
Citizenship and Democratic Doubt: The Legacy of Progressive Thought (University of Kansas Press, 2004). *Choice Magazine* "Outstanding Academic Title". Paper edition with new Preface, and Open Access electronic edition with new Preface, 2025
America's Bachelor Uncle: Henry Thoreau and the American Polity (University Press of Kansas, 1996). Open Access electronic edition with new Preface, 2021
Our Limits Transgressed: Environmental Political Thought in America (University Press of Kansas, 1992). Paperback edition with new Preface, 1995. Open Access electronic edition with new Preface, 2021

Edited Books

Civil Disobedience, by Henry David Thoreau (Broadview Press, 2016)
Democracy and the Claims of Nature: A Reader in Political Theory and the Environment, editor with Ben Minteer (Rowman and Littlefield, 2002)

Articles, Book Chapters, Essays

"Green Political Thought: Wendell Berry," Chapter 50 of *The Princeton History of American Political Thought*, edited by Nicholas Buccola, Susan McWilliams, and Roosevelt Montas (forthcoming)
 "But Could You Persuade Us, If We Won't Listen?", editorial essay, *Soundings*, vol. 104, no. 2-3, 2021, 252-259
 "Environmentalism," in *American Governance* (Macmillan/Cengage Learning, 2016) (significantly modified version of "Environmentalism" entry in *Encyclopedia of Science, Technology, and Ethics*, 2005/2013)
 "Thinking about Nuclear Power," *Polity* 45, no. 2, April 2013, 297-311
 "Democracy and Excess: Philip Roth's Democratic Citizens," *Soundings* XCIII, no. 3-4, fall/winter 2010, 313-340
 "Thoreau's American Founding," in Jack Turner, ed., *A Political Companion to Henry David Thoreau* (University Press of Kentucky, 2009) (This is a reprint, with very minor changes, of Chapter 2, "Founding," of *America's Bachelor Uncle*), 99-123
 "How to Create an Honors College," in Peter Sederberg, ed., *Development in Honors* (NCHC Press, 2008)
 "Environmentalism," in *The Encyclopedia of Science, Technology, and Ethics* (Macmillan Reference USA, 2005). Revised and updated for 2nd Edition, 2013
 "Henry David Thoreau," in *The Encyclopedia of Science, Technology, and Ethics* (Macmillan Reference USA, 2005)
 "Good Thought, Good Action: The Legacy of James Marsh and John Dewey," *Vermont Quarterly*, fall 2004, 20-21, 61
 "What is Sustainable Forestry?," in Karen Arabas and Joe Bowersox, eds., *Forest Futures* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2004), 84-91
 "Scott Nearing and the American Conservation Tradition," chapter in Ben Minteer and Robert Manning, eds, *Reconstructing Conservation: History, Values, and Practices* (Island Press, 2003), 133-144
 "Introduction" (with Ben Minteer) and "Aldo Leopold's Civic Education," in *Democracy and the Claims of Nature*, Bob Pepperman Taylor and Ben Minteer, eds., (Rowman and Littlefield, 2002), 1-10; 173-187

- “On Intrinsic Value and Environmental Ethics,” and “Comments on Sustainability,” in John Martin Gillroy and Joe Bowersox, eds., *The Moral Austerity of Environmental Decision Making* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2002), 79-86; 301-307
- “Henry David Thoreau’s Use of Nature,” and “Afterword,” in Charles Rubin, ed., *Conservation Reconsidered* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2000), 183-205; 229-239
- “Jane Addams and Democratic Citizenship,” in Dennis Bathory and Nancy Schwartz, eds., *Friends and Citizens* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2000), 130-148
- “Response” in “A Forum on the Role of Environmental Ethics in Restructuring Environmental Policy and Law for the Next Century,” *Policy Currents* 7, June 1997, 4-5
- “Environmental Ethics and Democracy,” in Bill Lafferty and James Meadowcroft, eds., *Democracy and the Environment* (Elgar, 1996)
- “Henry Thoreau, Nature, and American Democracy,” *Journal of Social Philosophy* 25, Spring 1994, 46-64
- “What’s in a Name? Use ‘Socialist’ with Care,” *The [Barre-Montpelier, VT] Times Argus*, 11 March 1993, 7
- “John Dewey’s Vermont Inheritance,” in Robert V. Daniels, ed., *The University of Vermont: The First Two Hundred Years* (University Press of New England, 1991), 121-137. A revision of this article, “John Dewey in Vermont: A Reconsideration,” appeared in *Soundings* 75, Spring 1992, 175-198
- “Environmental Ethics and Political Theory,” *Polity* 23, Summer 1991, 567-584
- “John Dewey and Environmental Thought: A Response to Chaloupka,” *Environmental Ethics* 12, Summer 1990, 175-184

Review Essays

- Review essay of Mark Sagoff, *Price, Principle, and the Environment* in *Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Economics* 18, 2005, 515-520
- Review essay, “Henry Thoreau and the Natural Life,” review of Philip Cafaro, *Thoreau’s Living Ethics* and David M. Robinson, *Natural Life: Thoreau’s Worldly Transcendentalism*, in *Organization and Environment* 18, June 2005, 235-40

Book Reviews

- Review of John Agresto, *The Death of Learning: How American Education Has Failed Our Students and What to Do About It* in *American Political Thought* 12, Summer 2023, 474-477
- Review of Kevin J. Burns, *William Howard Taft’s Constitutional Progressivism* in *American Political Thought* 11, Spring 2022, 283-286
- Review of Peter Wirbicki, *Fighting for the Higher Law: Black and White Transcendentalists Against Slavery* in *American Political Thought* 10, Fall 2021, 653-656
- Review of Bradley C. S. Watson, *Progressivism: The Strange History of a Radical Idea* in *American Political Thought* 10, Spring 2021, 296-299
- Review of Roger L. Geiger, *American Higher Education Since World War II*, in *American Educational History Journal* 47, 2020
- Review of Dan Moller, *Governing Least: A New England Libertarianism*, in *American Political Thought* 9, Spring 2020, 335-338
- Review of Richard W. Judd, *Finding Thoreau: The Meaning of Nature in the Making of an Environmental Icon*, in *Journal of American History* 106 (3), December 2019, 757-758

Review of Laura Dassow Walls, *Henry David Thoreau: A Life*, in *Environmental Values* 27, April 2018, 206-208

Review of Michael Sims, *The Adventures of Henry Thoreau*, in *Environmental Values* 23, December 2014, 745-747

Review of William J. Reese, *Testing Wars in the Public Schools*, in *The Journal of American History* 100 (4), 2014, 1197

Review of Francois Specq, Laura Dassow Walls, and Michel Granger, eds., *Thoreauvian Modernities*, in *Environmental Values* 22, October 2013, 670-672

Review of Rick Anthony Furtak, Jonathan Ellsworth, and James D. Reid, eds., *Thoreau's Importance for Philosophy*, in *Environmental Values* 22, June 2013, 429-432

Review of Sidney Plotkin and Rick Tilman, *The Political Ideas of Thorstein Veblen*, in *Perspectives on Politics* 11, March 2013, 276-277

Review of Marc Stears, *Demanding Democracy: American Radicals in Search of a New Politics* in *American Political Thought* 1, spring 2012, 165-168

Review of Mark Bevir, *Democratic Governance* in *American Review of Politics* 32, spring/summer 2011, 205-207

Review of Mathew Humphrey, *Ecological Politics and Democratic Theory* in *Environmental Values* 16, 2007, 399-401

Review of John S. Dryzek, *Deliberative Democracy and Beyond: Liberals, Critics, Contestations*, in *American Political Science Review* 95, December 2001, 976-977

Review of Raymond H. Dominick III, *The Environmental Movement in Germany*, in *Forest and Conservation History* 38, January 1994, 40

Review of Carolyn Merchant, *Radical Ecology*, in *Social Science Quarterly* 74, December 1993, 918

Review of Mary V. Dearborn, *Love in the Promised Land: The Story of Anzia Yezierska and John Dewey*, in *The New England Quarterly* 61, December 1988, 638-641

University Service (selected, since 2009)

Chair, College of Arts and Sciences review of Miller Center for Holocaust Studies, Fall 2025

Member of Kroepsch-Maurice Excellence in Teaching Awards Committee, May 2019 to May 2022

Member of President's Committee on Curricular Innovation in the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, appointed spring 2019

Co-chair of Department of Political Science Academic Program Review, Fall 2016-Spring 2017

Faculty Advisor, Phi Mu Delta fraternity, Fall 2016 to spring 2018

Member of Integrated Humanities Program Steering Committee, Fall 2016 to present

Member of Search Committee Honors College Dean, Spring 2016

Member of Search Committee for Dean of College of Arts and Sciences, 2015-16

Member of University Fellowships and Scholarships Committee, fall 2012 to present

Member of Humanities Center Executive Committee and Advisory Council, Fall 2011 to present

Member of Lane Series Advisory Board, summer 2007 to spring 2015

Advisor, Political Science Club, 2014-2015

Member of Athletic Department Appeals Hearing Committee, fall 2010

Member of University Rhodes Scholar Committee, fall 2010

Chair, President's Working Group to Recommend Alternative Academic Structures and Policies, Spring 2009

Professional Service

Tenure Review, Fall 2025

Dissertation Committee, Political Science Department, Boston College, 2023-2025

Member of Pi Sigma Alpha Executive Council, fall 2020-fall 2024

Member of *Polity* editorial board, spring 2009 – spring 2020

Program review of Vermont State Colleges' History, Political Science and Global Studies Programs, fall 2014

Program review of Saint Michael's College Department of Political Science, fall 2011

I have reviewed manuscripts for *European Journal of Political Theory*, *American Political Science Review*, *American Political Thought*, *Environmental Studies and Sciences*, *Journal of International Political Theory*, *Journal of American History*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Review of Politics*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Political Theory*, *Journal of Politics*, *Polity*, *Environmental History*, *Journal of Agriculture and Environmental Ethics*, *Environmental Values*, *History of Intellectual Culture*, *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture*, University of Vermont Press, University of Notre Dame Press, University of Georgia Press, University of Massachusetts Press, Palgrave Macmillan, NYU Press, University of Chicago Press, University Press of New England, Yale University Press, MIT Press, SUNY Press, Rowman and Littlefield, CQ Press, Island Press, Harper Collins, University Press of Kansas, Cambridge University Press, University Press of Kentucky, University of Nebraska Press, University of Wisconsin Press, and Pennsylvania State University Press. I have served as a consultant to Northern Lights Productions for a film they were planning on Scott Nearing. I have served as an outside reviewer for several tenure and promotion decisions. And I have served as a reviewer for the NEH (2005: research fellowships for university and college professors and independent scholars).

Community Service

Member of Vermont Humanities Council Board of Directors, appointed by Governor Scott
spring 2019 – December 2021

Honors Society Memberships

Phi Beta Kappa

Alpha Sigma Lambda

Golden Key Honors Society

National Society of Collegiate Scholars

Pi Sigma Alpha