

Curriculum Vitae
Thomas P. Harmon, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Theology
Scanlan Foundation Chair in Theology
Associate Director, University of St. Thomas Center for Advanced Study

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University Positions Held

Associate Director, UST Center for Advanced Study	Fall 2021-Present
Scanlan Foundation Chair in Theology	Fall 2020-Spring 2023
Associate Professor of Theology	Fall 2019-Present
Assistant Professor and Interim Chair of Theology	Fall 2018-Spring 2019
Professor of Theology and Culture and Chair of Humanities at John Paul the Great Catholic University in Escondido, CA	Summer 2016-Spring 2018
Assistant Professor of Theology, University of St. Thomas in Houston, TX	Fall 2012-Spring 2016
Visiting Assistant Professor of Theology, University of St. Thomas in Houston, TX	Fall 2011-Summer 2012
Adjunct Instructor in Theology, Ave Maria University	Spring 2010-Spring 2011

Education

Ph.D., Theology, *summa cum laude*, Ave Maria University, Ave Maria, FL 2012
Major field: Moral Theology; **Minor field:** Systematic Theology
Dissertation Title: “Ignorance and Difficulty in Augustine” (218 pages)
Committee: Marc D. Guerra (Director), Matthew L. Lamb, Stephen F.
Brown (external reader, Boston College). UMI #3615135

M.A., <i>summa cum laude</i> , Theology, Ave Maria University, Ave Maria, FL	2007
B.A., <i>magna cum laude</i> , Philosophy with a concentration in Catholic Studies, Gonzaga University, Spokane, WA	2003

Teaching Experience

University of St. Thomas, Houston

Courses taught (Through Fall 2021):

THEO 5362 Classic Readings of the Patristic Era
 HNRS 4395 Contemporary Problems Seminar
 HNRS 1391 The Tribe and the City (great books seminar)
 HNRS 1392 From Empire to Christendom (great books seminar)
 MLTHE 5357/THEO 3357 Catholicism and Literature
 THEO 4393 Special Topics: St. Augustine's *Confessions*
 THEO 4374 Modern Challenges to Christianity
 THEO 4337 Grace and the Human Condition
 THEO/CS 3357 Catholicism and Literature
 THEO 3345 Theology of St. Thomas Aquinas
 THEO 3332 Theology of the Sacraments
 THEO 3331 Catholic Church: Origin, Structure, and Mission
 THEO 3323 Teachings of the Protestant Tradition
 THEO 1301/3301 Introduction to the Sacred Scriptures
 THEO 1301/3311 Teachings of the Catholic Church

Thesis Reader

Director: Honors Thesis, Alyssa Barnes	2016
“Persian Slippers in the Polis: The Perfect Possibility”	
Second Reader: Honors Thesis, David Markus	2014
“The Baptism of <i>Amicitia</i> : St. Augustine and the Roots of Christian Friendship”	

John Paul the Great Catholic University

Courses taught (Through Spring 2018)

ENTM 495 Catholicism and Art
 ENTM 209 Literature and Film
 PHIL 510 Philosophy in Film
 THEO 532 Moral and Spiritual Theology
 THEO 522 Morality, Theology, and Ethics
 THEO 513 St. Augustine's *Confessions*

THEO 511 Liturgical Theology and Sacramental Theology
THEO 400 Catholic Social Teaching
THEO 321 Studies in John Paul II
THEO 311 Fundamentals of Catholicism
THEO 210 Catholicism and Literature
THEO 200 Scripture II
HUMA 131 Ancient Greece (great books seminar)

Ave Maria University

Course taught: THEO 105 Sacred Scripture

Course assisted: THEO 309 Christ and His Church (Prof. Marc D. Guerra)

Scholarship and Publications

Book

1. *Wisdom and the Renewal of Catholic Theology: Essays in Honor of Matthew L. Lamb*, co-edited with Roger W. Nutt. Pickwick Press (Eugene: 2016). Contributors include, *inter alia*, Matthew Levering, Amb. Michael Novak, Matthew Ramage, and Gerald Boersma. 242 pages.

Book Chapters and Scholarly Articles

1. "Prophecy and Some Catholic Writers: Understanding the Catholic Novelist's Quasi-Prophetic Function." *Heythrop Journal* 62:5 (September 2021), <https://doi.org/10.1111/heyj.14031>.
2. "Catholic Dogma vs. Social Science Dogmatism: A Catholic Counselor's Perspective," co-authored with Grant Sasse, forthcoming from the *Catholic Social Science Review*.
3. "The Few, the Many, and the Universal Way of Salvation: Augustine's Point of Engagement with Platonic Political Thought." Book chapter in *Augustine's Political Thought*, edited by Richard Dougherty, University of Rochester Press (Rochester, NY: 2019), 129–151.
4. "The Three Waves of Modernity and the Longer Cycle of Decline: Convergences in the Thought of Bernard Lonergan and Leo Strauss," in *Modern Theology* 32:3 (July 2016), 421–438.
5. "Historicism Versus History and Spirit: Henri de Lubac on What We Can Learn from Studying Origen," in *Logos: A Journal of Catholic Thought and Culture* 19:3 (Summer 2016), 29–58.

6. Introduction to *Wisdom and the Renewal of Catholic Theology: Essays in Honor of Matthew L. Lamb* (see above). 1–10.
7. “Truth and History in ‘Scrutinizing the Signs of the Times’: History and Theology in Catholic Social Teaching,” *Wisdom and the Renewal of Catholic Theology: Essays in Honor of Matthew L. Lamb*, ed. Thomas P. Harmon and Roger W. Nutt. Pickwick Press (Eugene: 2016). 150–175.
8. “Augustine and the Ancient Quarrel Between Poetry and Philosophy,” *Antonianum* 90:2 (June 2015), 249–276.
9. “Augustine on Pilgrimage for the Whole Person,” *Gregorianum* 95:1 (2014), 95–104.
10. “Reconsidering Charles Taylor’s Augustine,” *Pro Ecclesia* 20:22 (Spring 2011), 185–209.
11. “The Efficacy of the Sacraments for Christian Living: A Thomistic View,” *Antiphon*, 14:3 (2010), 247–260.
12. “The Sacramental Consummation of the Moral Life According to St. Thomas Aquinas,” *New Blackfriars* 91:1034 (July 2010), 465–480.

Book Reviews and Review Essays

1. Review of Veronica Roberts Ogle, *Politics and the Earthly City in Augustine’s City of God*, for *Perspectives on Political Science*, 28 July 2021, DOI: 10.1080/10457097.2021.1956273. Print version forthcoming.
2. Review of Roger W. Nutt, *General Principles of Sacramental Theology*, for *New Blackfriars*, vol. 100, no. 1088 (July 2019), 481–483.
3. “Unserious Docility,” Review essay on James V. Schall, *Docilitas: On Teaching and Being Taught* and *On the Unseriousness of Human Affairs: Teaching, Writing, Playing, Believing, Lecturing, Philosophizing, Singing, Dancing*, for *Modern Age*, vol. 59, no. 3 (Summer 2017), 81–85.
4. Review of Craig G. Bartholomew, *Where Mortals Dwell: A Christian View of Place for Today*, in *Pro Ecclesia*, vol. 23, no. 4 (Fall 2014), 478–482.

5. Review essay on J. Brian Benestad, *Church, State, and Society* for *Perspectives on Political Science*, vol. 43, no. 1 (2014), 55–58.
6. Review essay on Matthew L. Lamb, ed., *Catholicism and America: Challenges and Prospects for Nova et Vetera*, English Edition, vol. 12, no. 2 (2014), 575–582.
7. Review of James V. Schall, *The Regensburg Lecture*, in *Nova et Vetera*, English Edition, vol. 7, no. 1 (2009), 276–280.

Works in Progress

1. *Universal Salvation and the Mediation of Christ in Augustine’s Confessions*. Monograph. 60% written. To be 160-200 pages in final form. To be submitted to a university press in Spring 2021.
2. “Making sense of Prophecy in Politics: What We Can learn from Thomas Aquinas.” Scholarly article, to be 15–20 pages.
3. “‘Is It Walls, Then, That Make Men Christians?’ St. Augustine on the Dignity of the Multitude.” Scholarly article, to be 15–20 pages.

Scholarly Interests

Theology of St. Augustine
 Theology of St. Thomas Aquinas
 The theologico-political problem
 The problem of modernity
 Theology and history
 Faith and reason
 Catholic social teaching
 Catholicism and literature

Memberships in Learned Societies

North American Patristics Society	2020-present
Southern Political Science Association	2018-present
Academy of Catholic Theology	2014-present

Honors and Awards

Academy of Catholic Theology, elected May 2015

Each member of the Academy must be nominated by members and elected by the board of the Academy.

University of St. Thomas Faculty Development Grant (\$750)

Awarded: January 2019. Funded travel and lodging for the Southern Political Science Association annual conference in Austin Texas where I presented my paper, "Augustine on the Few, the Many, and the Universal Way of Salvation."

University of St. Thomas Faculty Development Grant (\$1840)

Awarded: Fall 2014. Funded travel and lodging for the conference I organized, *Wisdom and the Renewal of Catholic Theology*, in February, 2015. See <http://theology.avemaria.edu/post/109896201825/fr-matthew-lamb-conference-this-weekend-february>.

University of St. Thomas Faculty Development Grant (\$1260)

Awarded: Spring 2014. Funded the hiring of a proofreader to assist me in preparing my dissertation for submission to a scholarly press.

Ernest Fortin Memorial Foundation Travel Scholarship (\$600)

Awarded: Fall 2009. Funded travel to the Northeast Political Science Association's 2009 conference to deliver the paper, "Nature, Sin, and Human Happiness," which I later turned into "Augustine and the Ancient Quarrel Between Philosophy and Poetry," see above.

Aquinas Center for Theological Renewal Doctoral Fellowship

Awarded: academic year 2008-2009. Merit-based award to recognize excellence in doctoral studies at Ave Maria University.

Select Publications for a General Audience

"Reading C. S. Lewis in the Time of Covid," in *America: The Jesuit Review* (October 16, 2020), <https://www.americamagazine.org/arts-culture/2020/10/16/reading-c-s-lewis-time-covid>

"Prudence and the Pandemic," in *Catholic World Report* (October 2, 2020), <https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2020/10/02/prudence-and-the-pandemic/>

- “The Godzilla Option,” in *Catholic World Report* (June 4, 2019).
<https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2019/06/04/the-godzilla-option/>
- “The reactionary moralism of Spielberg’s “Ready Player One,” in *Catholic World Report* (April 4, 2018). <https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2018/04/04/the-reactionary-moralism-of-spielbergs-ready-player-one/>
- “From heroism to cynicism: The deconstruction of Luke Skywalker,” in *Catholic World Report* (January 7, 2018). <https://www.catholicworldreport.com/2018/01/07/from-heroism-to-cynicism-the-deconstruction-of-luke-skywalker/>
- “The Strangeness of *Stranger Things*,” in *The American Conservative* (October 25, 2017).
<http://www.theamericanconservative.com/articles/the-strangeness-of-stranger-things/>
- “Judas and St. Peter in Scorsese’s ‘Silence,’” in *Catholic World Report* (January 5, 2017).
http://www.catholicworldreport.com/Blog/5328/judas_and_st_peter_in_scorseses_silence.aspx
- “Who is God?” Review of Remi Brague, *On the God of the Christians (and on one or two others)*, in *Catholic World Report* (Jan. 29, 2014),
http://www.catholicworldreport.com/Item/2895/who_is_god.aspx, also posted at RealClearReligion:
http://www.realclearreligion.org/2014/01/31/who_is_god_258805.html
- “Jim Gaffigan on Fatherhood for the Recovering Narcissist,” review of Jim Gaffigan, *Dad Is Fat*, in *Catholic World Report* (August 7, 2013),
http://www.catholicworldreport.com/Item/2489/jim_gaffigan_on_fatherhood_for_the_recovering_narcissist.aspx#.Ug5Gi5KTif4.
- “The Pope’s Book about Christmas,” review of Joseph Ratzinger/Pope Benedict XVI, *Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives*, in *Catholic World Report* (December 24, 2012),
http://www.catholicworldreport.com/Item/1840/the_popes_book_about_christmas.aspx#.UVRf-RyG28A.
- “The Thought of Benedict XVI,” in *Homiletic and Pastoral Review*, vol. CVII, no. 4 (January 2007), 72-75.

Conference Presentations and Academic Lectures

Paper title: “The Philosophy and Politics of Universalism in the Thought of Augustine”

Venue: Augustine: Frontiers of Pluralism conference, June, 2022, at Villanova University.

Paper Title: “Imperial Religion and the Rhetoric of Universal Salvation: Reading Augustine and Porphyry with Pierre Manent”

Venue: Southern Political Science Association annual conference, January 13–15, 2022

Paper Title: “Prophecy and Some Catholic Writers: Understanding the Catholic Novelist’s Quasi-Prophetic Function”

Venue: University of St. Thomas, Center for Thomistic Study Colloquium, September 3, 2021.

Paper title: “The Difficulty of Wisdom: Law, Philosophy, and Christian Faith in *De Libero arbitrio*, Book II.”

Venue: Southern Political Science Association annual conference, January 7, 2020.

Paper title: “Making sense of Prophecy in Politics: What We Can learn from Thomas Aquinas.”

Venue: Southern Political Science Association annual conference, January 7, 2020.

Paper title: “Augustine on the Few, the Many, and the Universal Way of Salvation.”

Venue: Southern Political Science Association annual conference in January, 2019.

Conference Dialogue Participant: “Atonement: A Catholic-Evangelical Dialogue”

Venue: Baylor University Honors College Wilken Colloquium, Feb. 26–27, 2016.

Paper title: “Truth and History in Reading the ‘Signs of the Times’: Theology and History in Catholic Social Teaching.”

Venue: Invited lecture for the University of St. Thomas Center for Thomistic Studies on March, 2015.

Paper title: “Truth and History in Reading the ‘Signs of the Times’: Theology and History in Catholic Social Teaching,”

Venue: Wisdom and the Renewal of Theology conference at Ave Maria University in Ave Maria, FL. February, 2015.

Paper title: “Truth and History in Reading the ‘Signs of the Times.’”

Venue: Catholic Theological Society of America conference, “Soothsaying, Saints, and the Signs of the Times: A debate about history as a source for theological ethics” with Laurie Johnston, Emmanuel College, and respondent Robert Daly, SJ, Boston College, June, 2011.

Paper title: “Truth and History in Reading the ‘Signs of the Times.’”

Venue: New Wine, New Wineskins annual conference, University of Notre Dame, June, 2010.

Paper title: “Nature, Sin, and Human Happiness: Augustine’s Theological Engagement with Natural Philosophy in *De libero arbitrio*.”

Venue: Northeastern Political Science Association annual conference, Philadelphia, PA, November, 2009.

Paper Title: “Three Waves and the Longer Cycle of Decline: Leo Strauss and Bernard Lonergan on Modernity.”

Venue: Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture annual conference, November, 2009.

Paper Title: “Love, Reason, and the Divine: The Ancient Quarrel Between Poetry, Philosophy, and Christianity.”

Venue: American Academy of Religion Annual Southeast Regional (SECSOR) Conference, Philosophy of Religion Unit, Charlotte, NC, March, 2009.

Paper Title: “Augustine on Pilgrimage for the Whole Person.”

Venue: Florida State University Department of Religion Graduate Symposium, February, 2009.

Paper Title: “Aquinas on Virtue and the Human Law.”

Venue: Aquinas Center for Theological Renewal Graduate Student Conference at Ave Maria University, February, 2009.

Paper Title: “Halving the Mystery and the Yearning for the Infinite.”

Venue: Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture annual conference, December, 2006.

Lectures for a General Audience

“Learning in COVID Times” and “Prudence and the Pandemic”, invited lectures for the Blessed Stanley Rother Institute in Oklahoma City, OK, August 7, 2020.

“Ecclesiology,” at St. Michael’s Catholic Church RCIA lecture series in Houston, TX, November 7, 2018.

“Texting from the Edge of the Abyss: What our Tech Distractions Say about our Souls,” at John Paul the Great Catholic University, Escondido, CA, December 12, 2016.

“Divine Revelation,” at St. Michael’s Catholic Church RCIA lecture series in Houston, TX, September 23, 2015.

“Reading the Old Testament in Light of its Most Troubling Texts,” Theme for 3-day in-service session I conducted for St. Theresa’s Catholic School, Sugar Land, TX in November, 2015.

“Christianity and Politics,” Theme for a 3-day in-service session I conducted for St. Theresa’s Catholic School, Sugar Land, TX from August 11-14, 2015.

“The Holy Trinity,” at St. Michael’s Catholic Church RCIA lecture series in Houston, TX, October, 2014 and April, 2014.

“Texting from the Edge of the Abyss,” as part of the University of St. Thomas Department of Theology’s Lenten Lecture series, April, 2014.

“Grace, Sacrament, and the Sacraments of Initiation,” at St. Michael’s Catholic Church in Houston, TX, November, 2013.

“Genesis 24-28,” at St. Michael’s Catholic Church in Houston, TX, March, 2013.

Service

Journals Refereed

Nova et Vetera, English Edition

Perspectives on Political Science

University Service

Member, Core Curriculum Review Committee	Fall 2018-present
Interim Chair, University of St. Thomas Department of Theology	Fall 2018-Spr 2019
Program Director, Master of Arts in Theology	Fall 2018-Jan 2019
Program Director, Master of Arts in Pastoral Theology	Fall 2018-Spr 2019
University of St. Thomas Theology Dept. Assessment Coordinator	Fall 2018-Spr 2019
CCRC Core Goal #3 revision task force member	Fall 2018
Cameron School of Business Leadership Program Guiding Coalition	Fall 2018-Sum 2019
Cameron School of Business McNair Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Guiding Coalition	Fall 2018-Spr 2019
VPAA Rep, Search Committee, Clinical Mental Health Counseling	Fall 2019-present
Search Committee member, Dean of Arts and Sciences	Fall 2018-Spr 2019
VPAA Rep, Search Committee, Center for Thomistic Studies	Fall 2018-Spr 2019

Student Life disciplinary Committee member, JPGCU	Spring, 2018
Designer of JPGCU curriculum integration plan	Summer, 2017
Chief designer of the B.A. in Humanities program at John Paul the Great Catholic University	Summer 2016
Worked with Academic Committee of the Board of Trustees Chair to revise JPGU faculty handbook	Summer 2017
Organized and co-chaired intellectual salon “Automation and the Future of Work” for JPGU donor prospects	Fall 2017
Search committee, JPGCU Professor of Acting	Fall 2017
Faculty advisor, JPGCU Catholic Artists Society	Spr 2017-Spr 2018
VPAA Rep, Search Committee, UST School of Theology	Fall 2015-Spr 2015
Committee on Student Research: Member	Fall 2013-Spr 2015
Student Funding Subcommittee: Member	Fall 2013-Spr 2015
Organized series of public lectures by Marc D. Guerra at the University of St. Thomas.	Fall 2013.
Faculty Advisor for <i>Chi Rho</i> student Theology club	2015-2016
Faculty board member for UST student group, <i>Conversation Generation</i>	Fall 2014-Spr 2016

Departmental Service

Chair of Search Committee, Director of Graduate Programs in THEO	Spring 2019
Theology and Humanities Major Advisor (15-25 students/term)	Fall 2013-Present
Catholic Studies Task Force: Member	Fall 2013
Task force duty: determine the way in which the Catholic Studies offerings at UST would be folded into the Department Of Theology.	
Core Assessment Task Force, Department of Theology	Fall 2013-Spr. 2014
Task force duty: determine assessment strategies for Theology Department core offerings.	
Search Committee, Visiting Assistant Professor of Theology	Spring 2014

Service to the Local Community

Conducted in-service instruction for St. Theresa’s Catholic School, August 12-14, 2015 in Sugar Land, TX.

Topic: “Christianity and Politics”

Conducted in-service instruction for St. Theresa’s Catholic School, November 2015, in Sugar Land, TX.

Topic: “Reading the Old Testament in Light of its Most Troubling Texts”

References

Christopher P. Evans, PhD

Vice President of Academic Affairs
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Relationship: My former dept. chair and
Associate Dean

Roger W. Nutt, STD

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Relationship: Former professor, co-editor

Andrew J. Hayes, PhD

Associate Professor and Dean of Liberal Studies
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Relationship: Colleague, chair

Marc D. Guerra, PhD

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Relationship: Dissertation director

Matthew J. Peterson, PhD

Vice President for Education, Claremont
Institute, and founding editor of *The American
Mind*
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Relationship: Former colleague

Michael P. Barber, PhD

Associate Professor of Scripture and
Theology
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Relationship: Former dept. chair and Dean

Matthew Levering

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Relationship: former professor, collaborator,
editor

John Hittinger, PhD

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Relationship: Former colleague

Randall Smith, PhD

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Relationship: Colleague

Terry Hall, PhD

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Director of the Honors Program
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Relationship: Former co-seminar leader,
Supervisor in the Honors Program

John Kincaid, PhD

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Relationship: Former colleague

Michael Boler, PhD

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the Honors Program
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Relationship: Colleague, co-seminar leader,
supervisor in the Honors Program

Jon Kirwan, PhD

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the MA in Theology program
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Relationship: Director of the MA program in
which I teach

Kevin E. Stuart

Executive Director of the Austin Institute
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(512) 368-4213
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Relationship: Collaborator