

Alexander I. Orwin

Assistant Professor, Louisiana State University, 2017-

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Political Science Department, LSU
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EDUCATION

PhD, University of Chicago, Committee on Social Thought, Spring 2015

Dissertation Title: “Caught Between City, Religion, and Empire: Alfarabi’s Concept of the Umma (Nation).”

Dissertation Committee: Nathan Tarcov (chair), Ralph Lerner, James Robinson (all University of Chicago), Sari Nusseibeh, (Professor of Philosophy, al-Quds University, Jerusalem)

Postdoctoral Fellow, Program on Constitutional Government, Harvard University, 2015-16 (Visiting Fellow, 2016-17)

MA, University of Chicago, Spring 2012

Masters-level courses at the Sorbonne (with Remi Brague) and École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (with Pierre Manent), Paris, 2008-2009

Studied Egyptian Arabic at the International Language Institute, Cairo, 2007-2008

Studied Arabic Language and Literature at Hebrew University, Jerusalem, 2006-2007

Undergraduate studies: University of Toronto (2000-2003), Tel Aviv University (2003-2004). B.A., University of Toronto (2005), Greek and Latin Classics, Minors in Political Science and South Asian Studies

WORK EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor, Louisiana State University, 2017-

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Islamic political thought, from medieval through modern times

Comparative political theory, in particular the comparison of Islamic political thought with ancient Greek and modern European political thought

TEACHING INTERESTS

Political Theory, Ancient, Medieval, and Modern

Islamic Political Thought

Comparative Political Theory (Especially Islamic and Western).

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Redefining the Muslim Community: Ethnicity, Religion, and Politics in the Thought of Alfarabi. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017.

Edited Volumes:

In progress: Editor and Contributor to Anthology on Averroes' *Commentary on Plato's Republic*, to be published by the University of Rochester Press

Peer Reviewed Articles

"In Search of the Comprehensive Science: The Way to Philosophy of Alfarabi's Plato." *Interpretation*, vol. 44, no. 2, Winter 2018

"A Greek City that Dislikes Greeks: The Paradoxical Relationship Between Magnesia and its Fellow Hellenes in Plato's *Laws*." *History of Political Thought*, vol. 36, no. 3, 2015

"Democracy Under the Caliphs: Alfarabi's Unusual Understanding of Popular Rule." *Review of Politics*, May 2015

"Can Humankind Deliberate on a Global Scale? Alfarabi and the Politics of the Inhabited World." *American Political Science Review*, November 2014

Invited Contributions

"Alfarabi." in *Democratic Moments*. Eds. Xavier Marquez, J.C. Davis, John Morrow. Bllomsbury Academic Press, 2017.

In Progress:

“Democracy in Muslim Spain.” To be published in an anthology on democracy, edited by Stephen Sims

“Submission to Peace, and Polygamy: Should the French Acquiesce to Houellebecq’s Dream of a New Islam?” To be published in an anthology edited by Michael Kochin

“Dawla and Leviathan: Ibn Khaldun and Hobbes in Defense of State Authority.” To be published in *Ibn Haldun Journals*

Other Articles

“In Search of the Vanished Caliphate: From Ibn Khaldūn to Hizb at-Tahrir.” *Current Trends in Islamist Ideology*, Summer 2016
<http://www.hudson.org/research/12781-in-search-of-the-vanished-caliphate>)

BOOK REVIEWS

Carlos Fraenkel: “Teaching Plato in Palestine: Philosophy in a Divided World.” Fall 2015 issue of the *Claremont Review of Books*

Joshua Parens: “Leo Strauss and the Recovery of Medieval Political Philosophy.” Fall 2016 issue of *Interpretation*

Pierre Manent: “Beyond Radical Secularism: How France and the Christian West should Respond to the Islamic Challenge.” Forthcoming in the *Weekly Standard*

“Reforming Islam: Progressive Voices from the Arab Muslim World.” *Online Journal of Law and Liberty*, <http://www.libertylawsite.org/book-review/islam-the-self-critical-version/>

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES

“Dawla and Leviathan: Ibn Khaldūn and Hobbes in Defense of State Authority.” 4th International Ibn Khaldūn Symposium, Istanbul, May 2017

“In Search of the Comprehensive Science: The Way to Philosophy in Alfarabi’s Plato.” Lecture given at Boston College, April 2017

“On Alfarabi’s Plato.” At MIT Program on Engineering, Ethics and Entrepreneurship. January 2017

“Alfarabi and Global Politics.” Presentation at the Seminar in the History and Theory of International Law, New York University School of Law, Oct. 10, 2016

“Could Professors Really be Seduced by Polygamy? A Comment on Michel Houellebecq’s novel *Soumission*.” APSA, September 3, 2016

“How Alfarabi Read Plato’s *Laws*.” Workshop at Claremont MacKenna College, March 10-12, 2016

“From Chicago to Jerusalem, and Back: Alfarabi’s Teaching on the Umma.” Doctoral Lecture, Committee on Social Thought, May 2015

“Alfarabi and Aristotle on Nations and Cities.” Presented at Aristotle and the Peripatetic Tradition, Dominican University, Ottawa, Oct. 16-17, 2014

NEH Conference on Teaching Medieval Political Philosophy. Gonzaga University, June-July 2014. See <http://medievalpoliticalphilosophy.gonzaga.edu/general-description/>

“Alfarabi on the Civilization of the Umma.” Tulane University, May 2014

“Another Kind of Ummah: The Origin, and Mission, of the Islamic Umma.” University of California at Davis Political Theory Workshop, May 24, 2013

“Two Kinds of Umma: Ethnic and Religious.” Middle Eastern History and Theory Graduate Student Conference, University of Chicago, May 4, 2013

“How Greek are the Platonic Cities? Ethnic Identity in Plato’s *Republic* and *Laws*.” Political Theory Workshop, University of Chicago, November 12, 2012

“Alfarabi on Philosophy and Literature.” Literature and Philosophy Workshop, University of Chicago, May 29, 2012

Miller Foundation Conference on American Political Thought, Pasadena, August 2011

Winston Churchill Society Conference, Chicago, April 2010

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Pol 2060: Introduction to the History of Political Thought, Louisiana State University

Pol 4090: Introduction to Islamic Political Thought, Louisiana State University

Pol 7990: Seminar Comparing Hobbes and Ibn Khaldun, Louisiana State University

Plato in Medieval Islamic Political Thought: An undergraduate course of my own design centered around Averroes' *Commentary on Plato's Republic*, University of Chicago, Spring 2014

Instructor. Social Sciences Core Course, Classics of Social and Political Thought (Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, and Machiavelli): University of Chicago, Fall 2012

Teaching Assistant. Social Sciences Core Course, Classics of Social and Political Thought, University of Chicago, Fall 2011- Spring 2012, Plato through Du Bois: taught two sessions each quarter

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS/ACTIVITIES

Member, American Political Science Association

Fellow, Jack Miller Center

Reviewed submissions for *APSR* (2013), *Review of Politics* (2017), *Perspectives on Politics* (2017) and *Interpretation* (2017)

LANGUAGES

English: native

French: fluent in reading, speaking, and writing

Hebrew: fluent in reading, speaking, and writing

Arabic: classical, Modern Standard Arabic, Egyptian colloquial: fluent in reading, some proficiency in speaking and writing

German: some proficiency in reading, speaking, and writing

Latin: classical and medieval, reading only

Greek: classical, reading only

Sanskrit: completed 4th year at University of Chicago, can read simpler texts