

**Maxwell J. Lykins**  
**CV**  
July 2024

Department of Government and Legal Studies  
Bowdoin College

612-803-1993  
[m.lykins@bowdoin.edu](mailto:m.lykins@bowdoin.edu)  
maxlykins.com

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**EDUCATION**

2022            Ph.D., Political Science, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

2015            B.A., Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison

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**Academic Appointments**

Summer 2024-        Visiting Assistant Professor Science, Department of Government and Legal Studies, Bowdoin College

2022-2024            Postdoctoral Fellow, Program on Constitutionalism and Democracy, University of Virginia

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**Fields of Research Interest**

- Ancient Political Thought
- Republicanism and the Republican Tradition
- Politics and Rhetoric
- Politics and Literature

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**Research**

**Monographs**

In Preparation:        *Regime Agnosticism: Tacitus on the Nature of Republics and the Growth of Savagery*

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

- 2023 Servile Stories and Contested Histories: Empire, Memory, and Criticism in Livy's *Ab Urbe Condita* (*Polis: The Journal for Greek and Roman Political Thought*; available at <https://doi.org/10.1163/20512996-12340409>)
- 2022 Dostoyevsky and the Defense of Compassion (*Political Research Quarterly*; available at <https://doi.org/10.1177/10659129211046579>)

## Other Publications

- 2024 Review of Jeffrey Rosen, *The Pursuit of Happiness: How Classical Writers on Virtue Inspired the Lives of the Founders and Defined America* (forthcoming in *American Political Thought*)
- 2023 Review of Roosevelt Montás, *Rescuing Socrates: How the Great Books Changed My Life and Why They Matter for a New Generation*. (*Michigan Journal of Law and Society*; available at <https://mlawandsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Max-Lykins-Review-of-Rescuing-Socrates-How-the-Great-Books-Changed-My-Life-and-Why-They-Matter-for-a-New-Generation.pdf>).

## Working Papers

- Under Review “Tacitus’s Republicanism of Virtue”
- In Preparation “‘Words Do Not Bestow Valor’: Populism in Sallust’s *Bellum Catilinae* and *Bellum Iugurthinum*”

## Awards and Fellowships

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- 2024 Summer Institute Fellow – Jack Miller Center
- 2023 Commendation for Undergraduate Career Mentorship – University of Virginia Career Center
- 2022 Publication Accelerator Grant – Institute for Humane Studies
- 2022 Best Associate Editor (Ph.D. Student) – Michigan Journal of Law and Society
- 2022 Rackham One-Term Fellowship – Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies
- 2022 Spring Fellowship – Institute for Humane Studies
- 2021 Fall Fellowship – Institute for Humane Studies
- 2020 Fall Fellowship – Institute for Humane Studies
- 2019 Fall Fellowship – Institute for Humane Studies
- 2018 Fall Fellowship – Institute for Humane Studies
- 2018 Summer Collaboration Research Grant – University of Michigan Department of Political Science
- 2018 Best Translation (Graduate Student) – University of Michigan, Contexts for Classics Translation Contest (Ovid, *Heroides* 5.7-38)

## Invited Talks and Conference Presentations

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### Invited Talks

- 2024 Hampden-Sydney College, March 21, 2024. “Virtue and Republican Citizenship.”
- 2022 Franklin Fellows, Emory University. November 4, 2022. “Tacitus’s Philosophy of History.”

### Conference Presentations

- 2024 “‘Words Do Not Bestow Valor’: Populism in Sallust’s *Bellum Catilinae* and *Bellum Jugurthinum*,” Midwestern Political Science Association Annual Meeting
- 2024 Chair and discussant for “Liberalism and Foundings” panel, Midwestern Political Science Association Annual Meeting
- 2023 “Will Institutions Save Us? The Growth of Savagery and the Limits of neo-Roman Liberty,” Association for Political Theory Annual Meeting
- 2023 “A Blessed Age? Tacitus, Trajan, and Writing History under the Optimus Princeps,” Midwestern Political Science Association Annual Meeting
- 2022 “Regime Agnosticism and the Limits of Neo-Roman Liberty” (poster presentation), American Political Science Association Annual Meeting
- 2022 Discussant, “Political Projects in Greek Thought” panel, Midwestern Political Science Annual Meeting
- 2022 “Vicious Environments: Threats to Republicanism from a Regime Agnostic View,” Midwestern Political Science Annual Meeting
- 2022 Discussant, “Plato and Friendship” panel, Midwestern Political Science Annual Meeting
- 2021 Chair and discussant, “Classical Considerations” panel, Midwestern Political Science Annual Meeting
- 2021 “Trivial Events and Tedious History: The Pillars of Stoic History,” Midwestern Political Science Annual Meeting
- 2021 “Trivial Events and Tedious History: The Pillars of Stoic History,” Institute for Humane Studies Graduate Student Conference
- 2020 Institute for Humane Studies, “2020 Retrospective,” colloquia participant
- 2020 Midwestern Political Science Association Annual Meeting
- 2020 Discussant, “Tyranny, Technology, and Character in Ancient Political Thought” Panel, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting
- 2020 Tacitus and the Schools of Ancient Philosophy (accepted; no presentation due to COVID-19), Midwestern Political Science Association Annual Meeting
- 2019 “Dostoyevsky and the Defense of Compassion,” Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting
- 2019 “A Non-Partisan Tacitus? The *Dialogus de Oratoribus* and Regime Agnosticism,” Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting
- 2019 “A Non-Partisan Tacitus? The *Dialogus de Oratoribus* and Regime Agnosticism,” Midwestern Political Science Association Annual Meeting
- 2019 “Dostoyevsky and the Defense of Compassion,” Midwestern Political Science Association Annual Meeting
- 2018 “Why Dostoyevsky?” (Later re-titled “Dostoyevsky and the Defense of Compassion”), Michigan Political Science Association Annual Meeting

## Teaching

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### Bowdoin College

- 2024 (F) Fundamental Questions: Exercises in Political Theory  
(Introductory Seminar)
- 2024 (F) Classical Political Philosophy

### University of Virginia

- 2024 (S) American Political Economy
- 2023 (F) Roman Political Philosophy
- 2023 (S) The American Political Tradition
- 2022 (F) The American Political Tradition

### University of Michigan

- 2021 (F) Political Science 101 (Administrative Assistant, or Lead Graduate Student Instructor)
- 2020 (F) Political Science 409: 20<sup>th</sup> c. Political Thought (Graduate Student Instructor)
- 2020 (W) Political Science 101 (Administrative Assistant, or Lead Graduate Student Instructor)
- 2019 (F) Political Science 101 (Administrative Assistant, or Lead Graduate Student Instructor)
- 2019 (W) Political Science 402: Liberalism and Its Critics (Graduate Student Instructor)
- 2018 (F) Political Science 101 (Administrative Assistant, or Lead Graduate Student Instructor)
- 2018 (W) Political Science 101 (Administrative Assistant, or Lead Graduate Student Instructor)
- 2017 (F) Political Science 101 (Graduate Student Instructor)

### **Other Research**

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- 2021            Research Assistant for Mika LaVaque-Manty, assisting on project assessing the impact of virtual classes during COVID-19
- 2017            Research assistant for Arlene Saxonhouse, assisting with research and manuscript preparation

### **Service**

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- 2022-           Reviewer: *American Journal of Political Science, Review of Politics*
- 2024            Reading Group Coordinator, Blue Ridge Center
- 2023-2024      Undergraduate Book Society Co-Coordinator, Program on Constitutionalism and Democracy
- 2021-2022      Associate Editor, *Michigan Journal of Law and Society*

### **Memberships**

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American Political Science Association  
Midwestern Political Science Association  
Association for Political Theory

### **Languages**

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Latin

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