

# ***Michael D. Baggs, PhD.***

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## ***Political Science Lecturer***

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### ***Education***

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#### ***Doctorate of Philosophy***

Political Science, 2015-2020

*University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS.*

Dissertation: "If It Bleeds, It Leads: Accessing the Impact of Media Coverage of Human Rights Violations on Future Terrorism."

Advisor: Dr. Mariya Y. Omelichiva

Majors: International Relations and American Politics

Minor: Comparative Politics

#### ***Master of Arts***

Political Science, December 2013

*Midwestern State University, Wichita Falls, TX.*

Thesis: "The Fox and the Lion: Terrorist Mobilization and the Effects of Militarizing the Conflict."

Advisor: Dr. Steve Garrison

#### ***Master of Arts***

History, May 2012

*Midwestern State University, Wichita Falls, TX.*

Thesis: "Won by the Spear: Philip II of Macedonia and the Influences That Shaped His Army."

Advisor: Dr. James R. King

#### ***Bachelor of Arts***

English and History, May 2010

*Midwestern State University, Wichita Falls, TX*

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## *Teaching Experience*

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### *Fall 2024 to Present*

***Instructor:*** Three Rivers College, Poplar Bluff, MO.

*American Government I* (on-line and in-person): Introductory course to the American political system with a brief survey of the political dynamics of the state of Missouri. This course examines the role of democracy in government; the historical influences on the federal and state constitutions; the structure of these constitutions; the impact of federalism; and how elections, political parties, public opinion, the media, and interest groups influence the political environment, the institutions of American government including the three branches of government at the federal and state level; government and the economy, social and foreign policy; and civil liberties and rights.

### *Spring 2020 to Present*

***Lecturer:*** Midwestern State University, Wichita Falls, TX.

*American and Texas Government I* (on-line and in-person): Introductory course to the American political system with a brief survey of the political dynamics of the state of Texas. This course examines the role of democracy in government; the historical influences on the federal and state constitutions; the structure of these constitutions; the impact of federalism; and how elections, political parties, public opinion, the media, and interest groups influence the political environment.

*American and Texas Government II* (on-line and in-person): This course introduces students to the political system of the United States and the state of Texas. In this course we study the institutions of American government including the three branches of government at the federal and state level; government and the economy, social and foreign policy; and civil liberties and rights.

### *Fall 2018 to Fall 2019*

***Instructor:*** Highland Community College, Highland, KS

American History to 1865 and American History since 1865, Western Civilization I and II, U.S. Federal Government, and State and Local Government.

***Fall 2015 to Spring 2018***

***Graduate Teaching Assistant:*** University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS.

Introduction to Political Theory, Methods of Inquiry, Introduction to International Politics

***Fall 2014 to Spring 2015***

***Adjunct Professor:*** Midwestern State University, and Vernon College, Wichita Falls, TX.

American Government I, American Government II, Federal Government, Texas Government, American History to 1865, and American History Since 1865.

***Fall 2010 to Fall 2013***

***Graduate Teaching Assistant:*** Midwestern State University, Wichita Falls, TX.

American Government I, American History to 1865, and American History Since 1865.

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## ***Research Interests, Publications, & Presentations***

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The causes of terrorism (both domestic and foreign); effectiveness of counterterrorism policies; influence of militarized counterterrorism policies on terrorist targeting and tactics; cause and effect relationship between terrorism and counterterrorism policies; influence of terrorist activity before elections on electorates propensity to vote for extreme parties; influence of state violations of human rights on terrorist activity; the influence of media

frames of human rights violations on terrorism; and the influence of online hate speech on terrorism activity.

### *Publications*

Joslyn, Mark R., Donald P. Haider-Markel, Michael Baggs and Andrew Bilbo. 2017.

"Emerging Political Identities? Gun Ownership and Voting in Presidential Elections." *Social Science Quarterly* 98(2): 382-396.

### *Selected Works in Progress*

*If It Bleeds, It Leads: Accessing the Impact of Media Coverage of Human Rights Violations on Future Terrorism:* Previous studies of terrorism have addressed the impact of human rights abuses on future terrorist activity and the role of mass media has played shaping public perceptions of terrorism and terrorist activity, yet little research has examined the relationship between the media's publicity of human rights abuses that occurred due to a state's counterterrorism policy and future terrorist attacks. This article seeks to close this gap. Focusing on the media's publicity of the U.S.'s usage of torture, extraordinary rendition, extra-judicial killings (drone strikes) and indefinite detention of suspected terrorists during its post-9/11 "War on Terror", it aims to answer the following question: What impact does media coverage of human rights abuses that occur due to a state's counterterrorism policies and how they frame them in published articles have on the propensity for future terrorist activity?

*Stochastic Terrorism, Hate Speech, and a Theoretical Examination of Terrorism:* I have recently begun exploring domestic terrorism in America, specifically the relationship between online hate speech and subsequent terrorist activity (or hate crimes). The goal is to examine whether the correlation between online hate speech and terrorism or hate crimes is spurious or statistically significant. In effect, I want to fully explore the concept of stochastic terrorism and test its validity statistically with a large-scale dataset. I have identified the need for a meta-analysis of current quantitative domestic terrorism research to identify gaps of knowledge within the field along with an in-depth review of all data gathering entities, their methods, and the utilized typologies. Another interest of mine is to

write a theoretical examination on the political uses of terror. Modern research has focused solely on terrorism perpetrated by non-state actors, but the historical record makes abundantly clear that governments and other actors often make use of terrorism to achieve their goals. The organizational theme of this work will be centered on the relevant precepts of Sun Tzu's *The Art of War* with historical examples to fully examine the phenomenon from all angles.

*Ares and Ananke: War and Necessity in the Army of Philip II of Macedonia:*

A reexamination of the influences upon the Macedonian art of war during the reign of Philip II. This is a completed condensed version of my master's thesis in history.

### *Papers Presented*

“A Delicate Balance: Security and Human Rights,” Southern Political Science Association 2018 Conference, New Orleans, LA. January 5th.

“The Nexus Between Terrorism and Human Rights,” Great Plains Political Science Association 20th Annual Meeting, Maryville, MO, October 2017.

“Analyzing the Role of Fear in *The Prince*, *Leviathan*, and *The New Science*,” Phi Alpha Theta Northeast Texas Region Conference, Wichita Falls, TX., April, 2012.

“Richard I: The Knight Who Became King,” Phi Alpha Theta Oklahoma Association of Professional Historians Conference, Lawton, OK., March, 2011.

### *Fellowships and Awards*

Walter Thompson Scholarship in Political Science Summer 2017

### *Honors/Affiliations*

Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society, 2010 – Present  
Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society, 2008 – Present  
American Political Science Association, 2017-Present  
Southern Political Science Association, 2017-Present