

Josh Berkenpas, Ph.D.

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Josh Berkenpas is a Professor of Political Science who joined Minnesota State University and the Mankato community in 2016. He teaches and writes in the areas of American Politics and Political Theory. He served in the U.S. Army and was deployed to Iraq in 2005-2006. He is a father to a ten-year-old and a seven-year-old who are students in a local public school.

Academic Appointments

Minnesota State University, Mankato. Professor of Political Science. 2026-
Minnesota State University, Mankato. Associate Professor of Political Science. 2021-2026.
Minnesota State University, Mankato. Assistant Professor of Political Science. 2016-2021.
Aquinas College. Visiting Professor of Political Science. Spring 2015. Grand Rapids, MI.
Western Michigan University. Adjunct Instructor of Political Science. 2013-2016. Kalamazoo, MI.

Education

April 2016	Ph.D. in Political Science. Western Michigan University. Kalamazoo, MI. Dissertation Title: "The Behavioral Revolution in Contemporary Political Science: Narrative, Identity, and Practice."
June 2010	Workshop. Institute for Qualitative and Mixed-Methods Research (IQMR), Syracuse University, NY.
April 2009	M.A. in Political Science. Western Michigan University. Kalamazoo, MI.
April 2002	B.A. Calvin College. Grand Rapids, MI. Political Science and Spanish.

Publications

2022	"White Supremacy, Racism, and War: The American Mythological Nexus." <i>Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal</i> . Vol. 105, No.3, pp. 347-368.
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- 2022 "Food Systems in the U.S.: Power, Justice, Democracy." *Social Change*. Vol. 53, No. 4, pp. 518-531.
- 2022 "The Behavioral and Post-Behavioral Critique as Critical Political Science." *Encyclopedia of Critical Political Science*. Clyde Barrow, Ed. Edward Elgar.
- 2016 "The Behavioral Revolution? A Genealogy of a Concept." *European Political Science*. Vol. 15, No. 2, pp. 233-250.
- 2016 "When War is Peace: Peacebuilding in an Era of Warfare." *The Hilltop Review*. Vol. 8, No. 2, pp. 14-27.

Invited Talks

- May 2026 Faculty Panel on "Democracy in Crisis." Panel sponsored by the Department of Government, Minnesota State University, Mankato.
- November 2025 Talk on "Civil Advocacy in Minnesota" for MSU Maverick Professional Development.
- February 2019 Organized and Moderated a Faculty Forum on "The Fate of Liberal Democracy," Department of Government, Minnesota State University, Mankato.
- September 2018 Constitution Day Panel on "The Freedom of Speech." Panel sponsored by the Office of Student Engagement.
- March 2018 "Trump vs. Fake News." Panel sponsored by the Society of Professional Journalists, Minnesota State University, Mankato.
- October 2016 "American Democracy and the 2016 Election." Panel sponsored by the Department of Government, Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Select Administrative Work

- Aug. 2026- College of Humanities and Social Sciences Representative for the University Budget Committee.
- Summer 2025 Member of "Trades in Every Classroom" Summer Cohort. Minnesota State Energy Center of Excellence.
- 2025 Member of University Artificial Intelligence Task Force.

2016-	Pre-Law Adviser.
Dec. 2025	Work to bring a law school to MSU, Mankato with Vice President Travis Thul.
Dec. 2025	Work on an interdisciplinary Pre-Law Program with Dean Olsen and Pre-Law. Director Wade Davis. Update Pre-Law Website and LSAT Testing.
2023-	Learning Community Coordinator for HSS. Create yearly “Exploring Helping Careers” Learning Community.
2024-2026	College Representative for the Faculty Affairs Advisory Committee.
2023-2026	College Representative for the Faculty Affairs Planning Committee.
2023-	Department Representative for the Program Committee.
2023-	Department Representative for the Rules Committee.
2022-	Community Representative for the Blue Earth County Human Services Advisory Committee.
2022-	Community Representative for the Mankato Area Public Schools (MAPS) Community Education Committee.
2022-2026	Instructor for The First Year Experience (FYEX 100).

Professional Memberships

2016 – Present	Member, Midwest Political Science Association.
2016 – Present	Member, Association for Political Theory.
2020 – Present	Member, American Political Science Association.
2017 – Present	Reviewer, <i>Journal of Politics</i> .

Military Service

2003-2007	U.S. Army Calvary Scout. Reached the rank of Sergeant (E5). Deployed to Iraq for 18 months (2005-2006).
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University Teaching Experience

Courses Taught at Minnesota State University, Mankato

U.S. Government (POL 111)
 Thinking About Politics (POL 103 W, online)
 Understanding the U.S. Constitution (POL 104, online)
 Ancient and Medieval Political Philosophy (POL 311)
 Modern Political Philosophy (POL 313)
 State and Local Government (POL 371)
 Political Mythology and U.S. (POL 410)
 Political Theory and the State (POL 410)

Early U.S. Political Thought (POL 414)
Recent U.S. Political Thought (POL 415)
Food Politics in the U.S. (POL 420)
Women and Politics (POL 424)
Media and Politics (POL 470, online)
Interest Group Politics (POL 470, online)
Legislative Process (POL 473)