

JOHN W. COMPTON

Chapman University · Department of Political Science
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Academic Appointments

Chapman University — Professor, Political Science (2023–)
Chapman University — Associate Professor, Political Science (2016–2022)
Chapman University — Assistant Professor, Political Science (2011–2015)
Loyola Marymount University — Visiting Assistant Professor (2010–2011)

Education

University of California, Los Angeles — Ph.D., Political Science (2011)
Syracuse University — M.A., International Relations (2001)
William Jewell College — B.A., Political Science (2000)

Publications

Books

The End of Empathy: Why White Protestants Stopped Loving Their Neighbors. Oxford University Press, 2020.

- Hubert Morken Book Prize (Honorable Mention)
- Reviews: *Kirkus*, *Political Psychology*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Archives de Sciences Sociales des Religions*, *Religion Watch*, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Lutheran Quarterly*

The Cambridge Companion to the United States Constitution. Cambridge University Press, 2018. (co-edited with Karen Orren)

The Evangelical Origins of the Living Constitution. Harvard University Press, 2014.

- William Nelson Cromwell Book Prize
- *Choice*, Editors' Pick in Political Science
- Reviews: *Harvard Law Review*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *American Historical Review*, *Journal of American History*, *Law & Social Inquiry*, *Law & History Review*, *Review of Politics*, *American Political Thought*, *Politics and Religion*, *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, *Forbes.com*, *Balkinization*, *Law and Politics Book Review*, *First Things*, *Books and Culture*

Peer-Reviewed Articles

“Where Do Policy Demanders Come From? Protestants and Party Formation in the Antebellum Period.” Forthcoming, *Political Science Quarterly*.

“Does Deference to Religious Authority Predict Support for Political Violence?” *Politics and Religion* 19, no. 1 (2026).

“Manufacturing a Protestant Consensus: Religion and Regime Entrenchment in the Eisenhower Era.” *Studies in American Political Development* 37, no. 2 (2023).

“Why the Covenant Worked: On the Institutional Foundations of the American Civil Religion.” *Religions* 10, no. 6 (2019).

Easing the Shoe Where It Pinches: The *Lottery Case* and the Demise of Dual Federalism.” *Journal of Supreme Court History* 40, no. 2 (2015).

“Political Theory in Institutional Context: The Case of Patriot Royalism.” (with Karen Orren) *American Political Thought* 3, no. 1 (2014).

“The Emancipation of the American Mind: J.S. Mill on the Civil War.” *Review of Politics* 70, no. 3 (2008).

Law Review Publications

“The Cradle of the Countermajoritarian Difficulty.” *Constitutional Commentary* 35, no. 1 (2020).

“Evangelical Reform and the Paradoxical Origins of the Right to Privacy.” *Maryland Law Review* 75, no. 1 (2015).

“What Is Originalism Good For?” *Tulsa Law Review* 50, no. 2 (2015).

Book Chapters

“Civil Liberties and the Dual Legacy of the Founding.” In Karen Orren and John W. Compton, eds., *The Cambridge Companion to the U.S. Constitution* (Cambridge University Press, 2018)

“Jimmy Carter.” In Lori Cox Han, ed., *Hatred of America’s Presidents: Personal Attacks on the White House from Washington to Trump* (ABC-CLIO, 2018).

“Equal Citizenship and Religious Liberty: An Irresolvable Tension?” (with Gordon Babst) In Ann E. Cudd and Win-chiat Lee, eds., *The Philosophical Foundations of Law and Justice, Vol. VI: Immigration and Citizenship* (Springer, 2016)

“American Political Development.” In Michael T. Gibbons, ed., *The Encyclopedia of Political Thought* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2014).

Book Reviews

Review of Brendan J.J. Payne, *Gin, Jesus, & Jim Crow*. ***Journal of American History*** 110, no. 3 (2023).

Review of Matthew Bowman, *Christian: The Politics of a Word in America*. Review exchange forthcoming in ***Political Psychology*** 43, no. 4 (2022).

Review of Hilde Løvdal Stephens, *Family Matters: James Dobson and Focus on the Family's Crusade for the Christian Home*. ***Journal of American History*** 107, no. 4 (2021).

"Movin' On Up – And Out?" Review of L. Benjamin Rolsky, *The Rise and Fall of the Religious Left*. ***Los Angeles Review of Books***, November 22, 2020.

Review of Steven K. Green, *The Third Disestablishment: Church, State, and American Culture, 1940-1975*. ***Journal of Church and State*** 61, no. 4 (2019).

"Sex Ed for Christians," Review of R. Marie Griffith, *Moral Combat: How Sex Divided American Christians & Fractured American Politics* and Adam Laats, *Fundamentalist U: Keeping the Faith in American Higher Education*, ***Los Angeles Review of Books***, April 23, 2018.

"Now It Looks Like Camelot," Review of Russell L. Riley, ed., *Inside the Clinton White House: An Oral History*. ***Los Angeles Review of Books***, December 12, 2016.

Review of Benjamin T. Lynerd, *Republican Theology: The Civil Religion of American Evangelicals*. ***Politics and Religion*** 9, no. 2 (2016).

Review of Tracy L. Cook, *First Amendment Religious Liberties: Supreme Court Decisions and Public Opinion, 1947-2013*. ***Journal of Church and State*** 58, no. 2 (2016).

Review of Jonathan J. Den Hartog, *Patriotism and Piety: Federalist Politics and Religious Struggle in the New American Nation*. ***Journal of American History*** 102, no. 3 (2015).

Review of Eric Nelson, *Patriot Royalism: Monarchy and the American Founding*. ***American Political Thought*** 4, no. 2 (2015).

Review of John E. Finn, *Peopling the Constitution*. ***Perspectives on Politics*** 13, no. 2 (2015).

Review of Bruce Ledewitz, *Church, State and the Crisis in American Secularism*. ***Law and Politics Book Review*** 22, no. 4 (2012).

Review of Timothy J. Power and Nicole C. Rae, eds., *Exporting Congress? The Influence of the U.S. Congress on World Legislatures*. ***International Studies Review*** 9, no. 1 (2007).

University Service

Department Chair, Political Science (June 2019 – July 2025)

Wilkinson College Nominations Committee (August 2024-)

National High School Ethics Bowl Regional Competition Organizing Committee (2023-)

Faculty Grievance Board (June 2022 – May 2026)

Faculty Search Committees, Department of Political Science (2019, 2022, 2023, 2024)

Chapman University Pre-Law Advisor (2011 – 2018)

Faculty Advisor, Chapman University Pre-Law Society (2011 – 2018)

Faculty Advisor, Kappa Alpha Pi Pre-Law Fraternity (2011 – 2018)

Faculty Senate, Wilkinson College Representative (2012 – 2014)

Professional Service

Executive Committee Member, American Political Science Association (APSA) Religion and Politics Section (2025–)

Committee Member, Hubert Morken Award, 2026 (APSA, Religion and Politics Section)

Committee Member, Best APSA Paper Award, 2024 (APSA, American Political Thought Section)

Committee Member, Ted Jelen Best Article in Politics and Religion Award, 2020 (APSA, Religion and Politics Section)

Committee Member, Aaron Wildavsky Best Dissertation Award, 2014 (APSA, Religion and Politics Section)

Manuscript Reviewer: *American Political Science Review*, *Journal of Politics*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Politics and Religion*, *American Politics Research*, *American Political Thought*, *Review of Politics*, *Journal of Church and State*, *Religions*

Courses Taught

American Political Thought

Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Liberties

Constitutional Law: Institutions and Governance

Evolution of the American Party System

Foundations of Political Theory

Introduction to American Politics

Senior Seminar in American Politics
The U.S. Supreme Court
The U.S. Congress
The Warren Court and the Rights Revolution

Related Professional Experience

U.S. Congressman Dennis Moore (D-KS). Legislative Assistant (2001-2004)