

**Curriculum Vitae**  
**J. David Holcomb**

**Current Position:**

Professor of History and Political Science  
Director, Honors Program  
Coordinator, London Studies Program  
University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

**Contact Information:**

UMHB  
Department of History and Political Science  
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900 College St.  
Belton, TX 76513  
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**Education:**

Ph.D. Baylor University 1997  
M.A. Baylor University 1992  
A.B. William Jewell College 1990

**Professional Experience:**

- University of Mary Hardin-Baylor:
  - 2012-present Professor of History and Political Science
  - 2009-present Director, Honors Program
  - 2006-present Coordinator, London Studies Program
  - 2009-2010 Director of Special Academic Programs
  - 2007-2010 Associate Director, UMHB Center for Religious Liberty
  - 2007-2012 Associate Professor of History and Political Science
  - 2002-2007 Assistant Professor of History and Political Science
- Baylor University Press
  - 2001-2002 Director
  - 2000-2001 Acting Director
  - 1999-2000 Acquisitions Editor
- Baylor University
  - 1997-1998;  
1999-2002 Lecturer in the Baylor Interdisciplinary Core, Department of Political Science, and Institute of Church-State Studies
- Dallas Baptist University
  - 1998-1999 Assistant Professor of History and Political Science, Coordinator of the Political Science major.
- McLennan Community College
  - 1997-2000 Adjunct Instructor in History and Government,

### **Professional Service:**

2022-Present: Program Chair, The Association for the Scientific Study of Religion

2018-2023: Book Review Editor, *Baptist History and Heritage*

### **Publications:**

#### Book:

*Guardian of the Wall: Leo Pfeffer and the Religion Clauses of the First Amendment* (Lanham, Md.: Lexington Books, 2020).

#### Book Chapters:

“John Clifford (1836-1923): British Baptist Leader and Social Justice Activist” in *More Witnesses to the Baptist Heritage* (Macon, Ga.: Mercer University Press, 2021).

“Isaac Backus” in *Witnesses to the Baptist Heritage* (Macon, Ga.: Mercer University Press, 2016).

“Religion and Higher Education” in *Church-State Issues in America Today*, Ann Duncan and Stephen Jones, eds. (Westview, Conn: Praeger, 2007).

#### Journal Articles:

“Baptists and the Johnson Amendment.” *Baptist History and Heritage* (Spring 2019).

\*Winner of the Norman W. Cox Award for the best article published in *BHH* during 2019.

“Baptists, Anti-Catholicism, and Religious Liberty.” *Journal of Baptist Theology and Ministry* (Fall 2011).

“The Dangerous Al Smith: Texas Baptists' Fears Concerning the Election of Al Smith,” *Journal of Texas Baptist History* (2010-11).

“Religion in Public Life: The ‘Pfefferian Inversion’ Reconsidered,” *Journal of Law and Religion*. 25 (2009-10): 57-95.

“A Millstone Hanged About His Neck?: George W. Truett, Anti-Catholicism, and Baptist Conceptions of Religious Liberty,” *Baptist History and Heritage* (Spring 2008).

“Financing Faith and Learning: Assessing the Constitutional Implications of Integrating Faith and Learning at the Church-Related College.” *Journal of Church and State* (Autumn 2006).

“Texas Baptists and Church-State Issues in the 1960s: The Debate over Aid to Church-Related Colleges and Universities,” *Journal of Texas Baptist History* (2002).

Essays, Editorials, and Reviews:

Review of *The Garden and The Wilderness: Church and State in America to 1789*, by David Dean Bowlby (Lanham, Md.: Lexington Books, 2012) *Law and Politics Book Review* (February 2013).

“Religious Freedom in Nigeria: The Problem of Religious Strife in Africa’s Largest Nation,” UMHB Center for Religious Liberty (May 2009).

“The Pew Survey on Religious Affiliation in the United States: A Commentary on Religious Freedom and Diversity,” UMHB Center for Religious Liberty (May 2008); reprinted as “Diversity Still Fuels Religious Liberty” in the *Baptist Standard* (6 June 2008).

Review of *Uneasy in Babylon: Southern Baptist Conservatives and American Culture*, by Barry Hankins (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2002) *Baptist History and Heritage* (Spring 2006).

“Baptists and the Separation of Church and State,” *Baptist Briefs* (2004).

Review of Edwin Gaustad’s *Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land: A History of Church and State in the United States* Edwin S. Gaustad (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003) *Baptist History and Heritage* (Spring 2004).

Articles on “Leo Pfeffer,” “American Baptist Churches, U.S.A.,” “*Roemer v. Maryland Public Works Board*,” and “*Lemon v. Kurtzman*” in the *Encyclopedia of American Religion and Politics* Paul A. Djupe and Laura R. Olson, eds. (Facts on File, 2003).

Review of *The Myth of Christian America: What You Need to Know About the Separation of Church and State* Mark Weldon Whitten (Macon, Ga.: Smyth&Helwys, 1999) *Journal of Church and State* (Autumn 2000).

Review of *Everson Revisited: Religion, Education, and Law at the Crossroads*, Jo Renée Formicola and Hubert Morken, eds. (Lanham, Md.: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, 1997) *Journal of Church and State* (Spring 1999).

“Religion and the Democratic Party.” 1500 word article in the *Encyclopedia of Religion in American Politics*. (Phoenix, AZ: Oryx Press, 1998).

“Church-State Lessons from a Jewish Lawyer.” *Report from the Capital* 52 (25 March 1997): 4.

Review of *To Build a Wall: American Jews and the Separation of Church and State*. Gregg Ivers (University of Virginia Press, 1995) *Journal of Church and State* (Autumn 1996).

Review of *The Myth of Separation: What is the Correct Relationship Between Church and State?* David Barton (WallBuilders Press, 1992) *The Theological Educator* (Fall 1996).

Review of *School Prayer: The Courts, Congress, and the First Amendment.* Robert S. Alley (Prometheus Press, 1994) *Journal of Church and State* (Spring 1995).

Review of *Religion and Public Education: Common Sense and the Law.* Albert J. Menendez and Edd Doerr (Centerline Press, 1991) *Journal of Church and State* (Spring 1993).

Review of *Under Fire: An American Story.* Oliver L. North with William Novak (Zondervan Press, 1991) *Baptists Today* (9 January 1993).

Review of *Piety and Politics: Evangelicals and Fundamentalists Confront the World.* Richard J. Neuhaus and Michael Cromartie, eds. (Ethics and Public Policy Center, 1987) *The Theological Educator* (Fall 1991).

#### **Endowed Lectures:**

“Up Against the Wall: Church, State, and the United States Supreme Court.” The Sam B. Hall, Jr. Lecture, East Texas Baptist University, Marshall, Texas, 22 February 2010.

#### **Conference Presentations:**

“Baptists, Tax Exemption, and the Johnson Amendment.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Baptist History and Heritage Society, Augusta, Georgia, June 2, 2017.

“Religion and the 2016 Presidential Election.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Scientific Study of Religion, Southwest Region, Dallas, TX, March 11, 2017.

“Corporate Free Exercise: An Analysis of *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc.*” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Scientific Study of Religion, Southwest Region, Dallas, TX, March 2015.”

“How Free to Discriminate? Church-Related Institutions and the Status of the "Ministerial Exemption" from Federal Anti-Discrimination Laws.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Scientific Study of Religion, Southwest Region, Dallas, TX, March 2012.

“Church, State, and the Robert’s Court.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southwest Commission on Religious Studies, Dallas, TX, March 2011.

“The Dangerous Al Smith: Texas Baptists' Fears Concerning the Election of Al Smith.” Paper presented at the Texas State Historical Association annual meeting, Dallas, Texas, March, 2010.

“Religion in Public Life: The ‘Pfefferian Inversion’ Reconsidered.” Paper presented at the Third Annual Baylor Symposium on Faith and Culture: “Secularization and Revival: The Fate of Religion in Modern Intellectual History.” Waco, Texas, 19 October 2009.

“George W. Truett, Anti-Catholicism and Religious Liberty.” Paper presented at the Pruitt Memorial Symposium: “Religion, Politics, and Society: The Baptist Contribution,” Baylor University, Waco, Texas, 2 October 2009.

“A Millstone Hanged About His Neck?: George W. Truett, Anti-Catholicism, and Baptist Conceptions of Religious Liberty.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Baptist History and Heritage Society, Atlanta, GA, May 2008.

“Church, State, and the Church-Related College: Assessing the Constitutional Implications of Integrating Faith and Learning.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southwestern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA, March 2005.

“Texas Baptists and Church-State Issues in the 1960s: The Debate over Aid to Church-Related Colleges and Universities.” Paper presented at the Texas State Historical Association annual meeting, El Paso, Texas, March 2003.

“Religion in Public Life: A Pfefferian Perspective.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Scientific Study of Religion, Southwest Region, Dallas, TX, March 4, 2000.

“No Aid: Leo Pfeffer and the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southwest Political Science Association, Corpus Christi, Texas, March 1998.

“Defining the First Freedom: Leo Pfeffer and the Unitary Guarantee.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Southwest Region, Dallas, Texas, March 1997.

**Other Presentations:**

“Vocaré in Action: How We Help Students find Their Callings.” Panel Discussion sponsored by the UMHB Center for Effectiveness in Learning and Teaching, September 29, 2022.

“Why Study Politics?” My Best Lecture Series, UMHB College of Humanities and Social Sciences, 3 March 2022.

“Christian Faith and Politics: Rules for Christian Engagement with Politics,” UMHB Christian Studies Forum, 23 September 2016.

“A Faculty Member’s Perspective on Student Scholarship and Research,” UMHB Scholar’s Day Luncheon, 21 April 2010.

“Cultivating Global Citizenship,” UMHB Center for Effective Learning and Teaching, 2 March 2009.

“The 2008 Presidential Election.” Election forum with Dr. Janet Adamski sponsored by the UMHB Pi Gamma Mu chapter. 1 October 2008.

“Religion and the U.S. Supreme Court,” Conversations on Christ and Culture Series, Trinity Baptist Church, Harker Heights, Texas, February 2008.

“Religion and the Robert’s Court,” UMHB Minister’s Forum, Fall 2007.

“The First Freedom,” Constitution Day Address, UMHB Chapel, 15 September 2006.

“Religion and the U.S. Supreme Court,” UMHB Faculty Assembly, (April 2006).

“The 2004 Elections,” Presentation to UMHB Pi Gamma Mu Honor Society, 28 September 2004.

“Is America a Christian Nation?” Friday Symposium, Dallas Baptist University (April 1999).

**Professional Memberships:**

American Political Science Association

American Historical Association

National Collegiate Honors Council

Association for the Scientific Study of Religion (Southwest Region)

**Courses Taught:**

History

American History I & II

Western Civilization I & II

World Civilizations since 1500

History of Christianity

History of Western Political Thought I & II

Renaissance and Reformation

Colonial and Revolutionary America

History of Church and State in the United States

Emergence of Modern America

History of the American Presidency

Political Science

State and Local Government

American Government

American Constitutional Development  
 State and Federal Government I & II  
 Constitutional Law I & II  
 Law and Religion in the United States  
 Political Theory I & II  
 The American Executive  
 Religion and Politics in the United States  
 American Political Thought

### Honors

Freshman Seminars: Christianity and Politics; Vocation and Calling  
 Honors Seminars: Religion and Science; Religion, Race and Culture in America

### Baylor Interdisciplinary Core

Social World I & II

### **University Service:**

Director, Honors Program (2008-present)  
 Coordinator, London Studies Program (2006-present)  
 Member, Meaningful Life Committee (2015-present)  
 President, UMHB Faculty Council (2022-23)  
 Director of Special Academic Programs (2009-2010)  
 Associate Director, UMHB Center for Religious Liberty (2007-2010)  
 Member, Associate Dean for Social Sciences Search Committee (2022-23)  
 Member, Dean of Humanities and Sciences Search Committee (2019-20)  
 Humanities Representative, Faculty Council (2015-2017)  
 Member, Promotion and Tenure Committee (2014-2016)  
 Member, Faculty Assembly Nominating Committee (2011-2014)  
 Member, Core Curriculum Committee (2007-2010)  
 Member, Graduate Education Task Force (2009)  
 Member, SACS 5<sup>th</sup> Year Interim Report Committee (2009-10)  
 Chair, Founding Dean of the College of Humanities Search Committee (2006)  
 Member, Professional Growth and Recognition Committee (2003-07)  
 Member, Honors Program Committee (2006-present)  
 Member, Ad Hoc Committee on the Center for Global Engagement (2011)  
 Member, College of Humanities Mission Statement Committee (2011-12)  
 Served on several departmental search committees  
 Created the American Studies major  
 Faculty Representative: Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Graduate Scholarship Program  
 UMHB Dubbing Ceremony Speaker (2009)  
 UMHB 2009 Welcome Week Seminar Speaker (“The 2008 Presidential Election”)  
 Freshman Faculty Advisor and Freshman Seminar Professor  
 Advisor, Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society

### **Honors and Recognitions:**

UMHB Faculty Award for Excellence in Scholarship (2009)  
 Norman W. Cox Award for the best article published in *Baptist History and Heritage* (2019).

### **Media Interviews:**

Quoted in article entitled “Edwards Easing into New Home: Lawmaker: District Change Won’t Hurt Work for Military,” *Waco Tribune-Herald* (11 December 2004): p. 11A.

Interviewed by KCEN-TV Channel 4 about Proposition 2 on the Texas constitutional amendment election. (November 2, 2005).

Quoted in article entitled “Gubernatorial Campaigns Skip Killeen,” *Killeen Daily Herald* (24 September 2006).

Served as the election night political analyst during the 6pm and 10pm broadcasts on KCEN-TV (November 7, 2006)

Quoted in article entitled “Clinton, McCain Top Fundraisers in Temple Area,” *Temple Daily Telegram* (29 February 2008). 1A

Quoted in article entitled “Clinton Campaign Tops Local Contributions,” *Temple Daily Telegram* (11 February 2008). 1A

Quoted in article entitled “How Bell County Voted: Obama Has the Numbers,” *Temple Daily Telegram* (5 March 2008). 1A

Quoted in article entitled “Iraq war rules VP debate,” *Temple Daily Telegram* (3 October 2008).

Quoted in article entitled “District 55 race is a hot one.” *Temple Daily Telegram* (2 November 2008), 1A

Interviewed by both KCEN-TV and KXXV-TV about the 2008 presidential election.

Served as the election night political analyst during the presidential election night broadcasts on KCEN-TV (November 4, 2008).

Quoted in article entitled “Costs affect classes abroad,” *Temple Daily Telegram* (11 December 2008).

Quoted in article entitled “Rigged Election? Not in Bell County Official Says,” *Killeen Daily Herald* (October 23, 2016).

**Community and Church Service:**

Deacon and Church Moderator, Meadow Oaks Baptist Church, Temple, TX  
Commissioner, Christian Life Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas  
(2008-14)

ESL Instructor, First Baptist Church of Temple, TX (2002-04)

Soccer Coach, Belton Christian Youth Center

Baseball Coach, Belton Youth Baseball Association