

Columbus DeMarcus Pruitt

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EDUCATION

PhD in Political Science | Brown University | Expected 2026

Concentration: Political Theory, American Politics

Dissertation Title: *The Limits of Racial Liberalism:
Toni Morrison and Black Political Thought*

Committee Chair: Melvin Rogers, Edna and Richard Salomon Distinguished Professor of
Political Science

Bonnie Honig, Nancy Duke Lewis Professor of Modern Culture and Media, Modern
Culture and Media, Political Science

Juliet Hooker, Royce Family Professor of Teaching Excellence in Political Science

M.A. in Political Science | Brown University | 2020

Concentration: Political Theory, American Politics

M.A. in Gender and Race Studies | The University of Alabama | 2018

Concentration: Political Theory, Gender and Race Studies

B.A. in Political Science | The University of Alabama | 2014

Chair: Utz McKnight, Political Science

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Primary Instructor | Brown University | 2026 (Spring)

Primary Instructor | Bryant University | 2025 (Fall)

Primary Instructor | Brown University | 2023 – 2025 (Summer)

Teaching Assistant | Brown University | 2022 – 2025

Primary Instructor | University of Alabama | 2019 – 2023

Aid/Instructor | Crossing Points Program, University of Alabama | 2015 – 2016

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Toni Morrison MFA Writing Award, University of Alabama (2017-2018)

Pembroke Fellowship, Brown University (2023-2024)

University Graduate School Fellowship, Brown University (2022-2023)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Rawls and Shelby: Racial Justice” Brown Political Theory Workshop at Brown University
May 2022-Providence, RI

“Morrison’s Critique of Race and Democratic Belonging”: Reimagining Political
Foundations in Times of Crisis, Graduate Conference in Political Theory at University of
Chicago (April 2025) Chicago, IL

“Lived Experience and Democratic Renewal: Race, Gender, and Narrative” at the
American Political Science Association (APSA Sept 2025) Montréal, CA

*“A Morrisonian Lens on Justice: Rethinking Liberalism with Tommie Shelby and Black
Political Thought”* Harvard Political Theory Graduate Student Conference Harvard
University (October 2025) Boston, MA

“Toni Morrison’s Political Vision: Schmitt, Mouffe, and the Labor of Political Survival”, at
the Northeastern Political Science Association (NPSA November 2025) Philadelphia, PA

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

As Primary Instructor

Course: The Politics of Race and the Criminal Justice System (POLS 0820Y), Brown
University, Spring 2026

Course: Introduction to U.S. Politics (POLS 256), Bryant University, Fall 2025

Course: Principles of Sociology (SOC 251), Bryant University, Fall 2025

Course: Race, Justice, and American Democracy (CEPS 0987 S01), Brown University,
Summer 2025

Course: Race, Justice, and American Democracy (CEPS 0987 S01), Brown University, Summer 2024

Course: Intro to Women's Studies (CEPS 0999 01), Brown University, Summer 2024

Course: Race, Justice, and American Democracy (CEPS 0987 S01), Brown University, Summer 2023

Course: Intro to Women's Studies (CEPS 0999 01), Brown University, Summer 2023

Course: Race, Justice, and American Democracy (CEPS 0987 S01), Brown University, Summer 2022

Course: Intro to Women's Studies (CEPS 0999 S01), Brown University, Summer 2022

Course: The Economics of Racial (In)Justice (CEPS 0987 01), Brown University, Summer 2021

Course: Introduction to Women's Studies (WS 200-985/986), University of Alabama, Fall 2023

Course: Introduction to Women's Studies (202310-SS-WS-200-976/986, 202310-WS-200-986), University of Alabama, Spring 2023

Course: Introduction to Women's Studies (WS 200-956), University of Alabama, Fall 2022

Course: Introduction to Women's Studies (202240-SS.WS-200-956/957), University of Alabama, Fall 2022

Course: Introduction to Women's Studies (WS 200-924), University of Alabama, Spring 2022

Course: Introduction to Women's Studies (WS 200-954), University of Alabama, Fall 2021

Course: Introduction to Women's Studies (WS 200-918/938), University of Alabama, Fall 2021

Course: Introduction to Women's Studies (WS 200-912), University of Alabama, Spring 2021

Course: Introduction to African American Studies (AAST 201-901/921), University of Alabama, Spring 2020

Course: Introduction to African American Studies (AAST 201-907), University of Alabama, Spring 2020

Course: Introduction to African American Studies (AAST 201-903), University of Alabama (Online), Fall 2019

As Teaching Assistant

Course: U.S. Gender Politics (POLS 1360 S01), Brown University, Fall 2019

Course: U.S. Congress (POLS 1100 S02), Brown University, Spring 2020

Course: Topics in American Constitutional Law (POLS 1010) Fall 2020

Course: Introduction to Political Thought (POLS 0110), Brown University, Spring 2021

Course: Crime, Punishment, and Politics (POLS 1455 S01), Brown University, Fall 2021

Course: Introduction to Political Thought (POLS 0110), Brown University Spring 2022

Course: Nuclear Weapons (POLS 1225), Brown University, Spring 2024

Course: Campaigns and Elections (POLS 1120 S01), Brown University, Fall 2024

Course: U.S Congress (POLS 1100), Brown University, Spring 2025

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT & PUBLIC WRITING AND PRESENTATIONS

Future Public Service Leaders Academy | University of Alabama at Birmingham |
Program Coordinator & Lecturer | October 2025

Coordinated programming and delivered lectures for PSC 104: Introduction to Political Theory and the Department of African American Studies Lecture Series.

National Public Radio Justice Forum | Program Coordinator | Baltimore, MD &
Washington, D.C. | May 2015

Coordinated public programming and community engagement initiatives focused on contemporary social movements.

University of Alabama Race & Gender Department | Program Coordinator | Washington, D.C. | May 2015

Organized student voter engagement initiatives, civic education programming, logistics, and community outreach activities.

Alabama Democratic Conference & Alabama Education Association (AEA) | Program Coordinator, Fundraising & Community Outreach | 2014–2016

Coordinated voter outreach initiatives, fundraising efforts, coalition building, donor engagement, and public events throughout Alabama.

Hip-Hop Summit | University Programs, University of Alabama | Founder & Assistant Program Coordinator | 2010–2014

Conceived and helped develop an annual campus-wide event focused on hip-hop, culture, politics, and community engagement. Managed logistics, fundraising, speaker coordination, promotion, and event hosting.

Birmingham News

“Individual successes, even in Vestavia, belie the systemic racism present in today’s society,” July 11, 2015.
