

**Nicholas T. Pruitt**  
**History Department**  
**Eastern Nazarene College**  
**23 E. Elm Ave.**  
**Quincy, MA 02170**  
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## **Curriculum Vitae**

**Research Interests:** My historical area of focus is United States religion and culture. My current work considers mainline Protestant responses to immigration and ethnic groups in America between 1924 and 1965.

### **Education:**

PhD, History, Baylor University, 2017

Dissertation: "Open Hearts, Closed Doors: Native Protestants, Pluralism, and 'the Foreigner' in America, 1924-1965"

Advisor: Barry G. Hankins

MA, Church-State Studies, Baylor University, 2009

Thesis: "Neo-evangelical Realism: Reflections on the Sociopolitical Thought of Carl F. H. Henry."

Advisor: Barry G. Hankins

BA with Honors, History, Summa Cum Laude, Wayland Baptist University, 2007

Thesis: "Kloaks of Kotton: The 1920s Klan Movement on the High Plains of West Texas."

Advisor: Kevin Sweeney

### **Exam Fields:**

United States, 1877-Present

Religion in the United States

20<sup>th</sup> Century World

### **Teaching Experience:**

#### **Positions**

**Visiting Assistant Professor**, Eastern Nazarene College, Quincy, Massachusetts, 2017-1019

**Chair, Humanities Program**, 2018-2019

**Visiting Instructor**, Eastern Nazarene College, 2016-2017

**Teacher of Record**, Baylor University, Waco, Texas, Spring 2015

**Guest Lecturer**, Baylor University, Fall 2011, Fall 2013

**History Adjunct**, Wayland Baptist University, 2009-2011, periodically between 2012-2016

Plainview, Texas (main campus)

Virtual Campus (online)

Clovis, New Mexico (external campus)

Kijabe, Kenya (external campus)

**Courses taught****Survey:**

United States History to 1877  
 United States History since 1877  
 American Experience  
 World Civilization to 1500  
 World Civilization since 1500 (online)  
 Colonial and Revolutionary America  
 Forging of a New Nation  
 History of the US: 1865-1919  
 History of the US: 1920-Present  
 American Political Institutions  
 World Political Geography

**Upper-level:**

Immigration in American History  
 Religion and American Culture  
 History of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century World (online)  
 History of International Relations: 1945-Present  
 Critical Readings in History (Historiography)  
 History of the Civil Rights Movement (directed study)  
 Public History (1 credit; independent study)  
 Senior History Thesis

**Publications:**

“Baptists” (with Frank J. Smith), “Cantwell v. Connecticut,” “Wall of Separation.” In *Encyclopedia of Religion and Politics in America*, edited by Frank J. Smith. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2016.

“Locating the Sacred and Secular: Organized Religion and the ‘Holiness of Life’ in Eudora Welty’s Novels.” *Southern Quarterly* 52 (Winter 2015): 47-68.

“Broadening the Scope: The High Plains Klan of the 1920s.” *West Texas Historical Association Year Book* 82 (October 2006): 156-69.

**Forthcoming Publications:**

Currently working on a book proposal for a project that will examine the life of James Baldwin within the context of twentieth-century U.S. religious history.

*Open Hearts, Closed Doors: Native Protestants, Pluralism, and ‘the Foreigner’ in America* (manuscript; currently reaching out to publishers).

Editor and Contributor, *Slavery, Civil War, and Freedom: Texas Baptists in the Civil War Era* (under contract with Louisiana State University Press).

Coauthor with T. Laine Scales, “‘We want to help you to help us’: Southern Baptist and National Baptist Women and Race Relations during the 1930s and 1940s,” in *Disruptions: Intersectional Approaches to Reframing Baptist Identity and Experience* (volume of essays to be submitted to University of Tennessee Press).

**Book Reviews:**

*Just Immigration: American Policy in Christian Perspective*, by Mark R. Amstutz, *Journal of Church & State* 60 (Spring 2018): 343-345.

*American Christian Support for Israel: Standing with the Chosen People, 1948-1975*, by Eric R. Crouse, *Fides et Historia* 48 (Winter-Spring 2016): 204-206.

*From Bible Belt to Sunbelt: Plain-Folk Religion, Grassroots Politics, and the Rise of Evangelical Conservatism*, by Darren Dochuk, *Journal of Religious History* 38 (December 2014): 618-619.

*American Evangelical Protestantism and European Immigrants, 1800-1924*, by William J. Phalen, *Journal of Church & State* 55 (Autumn 2013): 816-818.

**Presentations:****National:**

“Offering Friendliness to the Foreigner: Baptist Women, American Culture, and Home Missions to Immigrants, 1924-1965,” International Conference on Baptist Studies, Baylor University, Waco, Texas, July 2018

“Receive or Restrict: Native Protestants, Pluralism, and Immigration Legislation in Interwar America,” American Society of Church History, Washington, D.C., January 2018

“‘Almighty God, Without Respect of Person’: Thomas Cranmer, Gender, and Religious Change during the English Reformation,” The Bible and the Reformation, Baylor Symposium on Faith and Culture, Baylor University, Waco, Texas, October 2017

“Fostering Pluralism: Native Protestants and the ‘Foreigner’ in America during the Interwar Period,” Conference on Faith and History, Regent University, Virginia Beach, Virginia, October 2016

“The Huddled Masses the War Produced: Protestants, Immigrants, and Refugees in Postwar America,” Biennial Conference on the History of Religion, Boston College, Boston, Massachusetts, April 2016

“Working towards Baptist Interracial Fellowship: The Friendships Southern Baptist Women Cultivated and the Limits They Faced in Improving Race Relations during the 1930s and 1940s,” Baptist History & Heritage Society, Nashville, Tennessee, April 2015

“The Irony of Eschatology: Pentecostal Interpretations of Global Events during the Interwar Years,” Conference on Faith and History, Pepperdine University, Malibu, California, September 2014

“Strangers in Zion: Mexican Immigrants and Southern Baptists in Texas, 1940-1964,” Phi Alpha Theta Biennial Convention, Albuquerque, New Mexico, January 2014

“‘Lord, I Know Not Many People in the Delta Love Thee’: Reticence toward Organized Religion in *Delta Wedding*,” International Conference of the Eudora Welty Society, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, April 2013

“A Founding Father and a Bunch of Baptists: The Relationship between James Madison and Virginia Baptists, 1776-1802,” Conference on Faith and History, Gordon College, Wenham, Massachusetts, October 2012

“A Baptist Evangelical: The Theological Development and Legacy of Carl F. H. Henry,” Baptist History & Heritage Society, Raleigh, North Carolina, June 2012

“Evangelical Synthesis: Carl F.H. Henry and John R.W. Stott on Church and State,” Henry Institute’s Symposium on Religion and Politics, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan, April 2009

**Regional:**

“Paving the Way for Pluralism: Mainline Protestant Responses to Immigration during the Twentieth Century,” Congregational Library and Archives, Boston, Massachusetts, April 2018

“Coming to Terms with Pluralism: Protestant Home Missions to Immigrants and Ethnic Americans, 1950-1965,” Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion, Atlanta, Georgia, March 2016

“‘A Great Crisis is Upon Us’: Baylor University and Secession, 1857-1861,” Slavery, Civil War & Freedom at Baylor University & Independence, Texas, Baylor University, Waco, Texas, March 2013

“Open Hearts, Closed Doors: Protestants and Immigration, 1917-1924,” Texas A&M University History Conference, College Station, Texas, February 2013

“A Circumspect Imperialist: William E. Gladstone and the British Empire, 1868-1894,” Texas A&M University History Conference, College Station, Texas, February 2012

“The 1920s Klan Movement in West Texas.” Public Lecture, Hale County Historical Commission, September 2009

“Action / Reaction: West Texas' Showdown Between the Klan and Its Opposition,” West Texas Historical Association Conference, Abilene, Texas, April 2007

“Broadening the Scope: The High Plains Klan of the 1920’s,” West Texas Historical Association Conference, Lubbock, Texas, April 2006

### **Blog Posts:**

“Protestants and Immigration, Past and Present,” *Anxious Bench, Patheos*, February 15, 2018.

“The Fence: Mainline Protestants and Immigration Sixty Years Ago,” *Religion in American History*, August 7, 2017.

### **Academic work:**

2017-2018: Directing Senior History Theses, Eastern Nazarene College

Student Advisor, Eastern Nazarene College

Faculty Sponsor for Phi Alpha Theta, Eastern Nazarene College

Faculty Sponsor for History Club, Eastern Nazarene College

Instructional and Professional Development Committee, Eastern Nazarene College

Common Core Committee, Eastern Nazarene College

Facilitated two directed studies for total of six students: Civil Rights Movement, World Political Geography, Fall Semester

Examiner, Senior History Comps, Eastern Nazarene College, April

2016-2017: Instructor, Critical Writing and Speaking Labs, Eastern Nazarene College, Fall Semester

Common Core Committee, Eastern Nazarene College

Facilitated a directed study: Immigration in American History, Spring Semester

Examiner, Senior History Comps, Eastern Nazarene College, April

2014-2016: Assistant Book Review Editor, *Journal of Church and State*

2011-2014: Graduate Assistantship in History, Baylor University

Graduate Assistant to: Barry Hankins (2011-12), James SoRelle (2012-13), Philip Jenkins (2013-14)

2007-2009: Graduate Assistantship, Texas Collection, Baylor University

**Grants, Awards, and Funding:**

- 2018: Eastern Nazarene College, Instructional and Professional Development Funding, Conference Presentation, January
- 2017: Eastern Nazarene College, Instructional and Professional Development Funding, Conference Presentation, October
- 2015: Nominated for Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, Baylor University  
Baylor University Graduate School Travel Award, Doctoral Research  
Baylor University History Department Travel Funding, Doctoral Research
- 2015: Florence Ellen Bell Scholar Award, United Methodist Archives and History Center, Madison, New Jersey
- 2014: Lynn E. May, Jr., Study Grant, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee
- 2011-2016: Baylor University Graduate School Fellowship
- 2011-2017: Baptist College & University Scholar, Baylor University
- 2009, 2012-2016: Baylor University Graduate School Travel Award, Professional Meetings  
Baylor University History Department Travel Funding, Professional Meetings  
Baylor University English Department Travel Funding, Professional Meeting
- 2006: Student Essay Award, West Texas Historical Association

**Additional Work and Involvement:**

- 2018: US AP Exam Reader, Tampa, Florida, June  
Volunteer Judge, National History Day, Foxborough, Massachusetts, March
- 2017: Made arrangements for a guest lecture, December  
US AP Exam Reader, Tampa, Florida, June  
Accompanied a group of honors students to lectures in Cambridge and Boston, Massachusetts, Eastern Nazarene College, February, September
- 2016: Chaired two sessions, one undergraduate and one professional, at Conference on Faith and History, October  
Accompanied a group of history students to a conference, Eastern Nazarene College, October  
Accompanied a group of honor students to a lecture in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Eastern Nazarene College, October  
Helped with New Student Move-in Day, Eastern Nazarene College, August  
US AP Exam Reader, Louisville, Kentucky, June

- 2015: US AP Exam Reader, Louisville, Kentucky, June  
 Docent on early Baylor University history, Board of Regents event, February
- 2014: US AP Exam Reader, Louisville, Kentucky, June  
 Graduate Representative, Baylor LMS taskforce
- 2013-2015: Organized departmental History Colloquiums
- 2013: US AP Exam Reader, Louisville, Kentucky, June
- 2012: Volunteer judge, Heart of Texas History Fair, Baylor University, February
- 2010-2011: Volunteer, Writing Center, Wayland Baptist University
- 2009: Student Worker, Moody General Library, Baylor University, January-May  
 Volunteer Judge, Heart of Texas History Fair, Baylor University, February
- 2008: Volunteer Judge, Heart of Texas History Fair, Baylor University, February  
 Summer Research Assistant, for Dr. Estelle Owens, Wayland Baptist University  
 Reader, Texas Historical Marker Ceremony, Baylor University, October

**Language Requirement:** German

**Professional Associations:**

American Historical Association  
 American Society of Church History  
 Conference on Faith and History  
 Phi Alpha Theta

**References:**

- Dr. William McCoy, Associate Professor of History, Chair of the History Department, Eastern Nazarene College, [William.McCoy@enc.edu](mailto:William.McCoy@enc.edu), 617-847-5815
- Dr. Barry G. Hankins, Professor of History, Chair of the History Department, Baylor University, [Barry\\_Hankins@baylor.edu](mailto:Barry_Hankins@baylor.edu), 254-710-4667
- Dr. Beth Allison Barr, Associate Professor of History, Director of Graduate Studies, Baylor University, [Beth\\_Barr@baylor.edu](mailto:Beth_Barr@baylor.edu), 254-710-3512
- Dr. James M. SoRelle, Professor of History, Baylor University, [James\\_SoRelle@baylor.edu](mailto:James_SoRelle@baylor.edu), 254-710-4621
- Dr. Philip Jenkins, Distinguished Professor of History, Baylor University, [Philip\\_Jenkins@baylor.edu](mailto:Philip_Jenkins@baylor.edu), 254-710-7555
- Dr. Estelle Owens, Former Dean of the School of Behavioral and Social Sciences, Professor of History, Wayland Baptist University, [owensest@wbu.edu](mailto:owensest@wbu.edu), 806-291-1170