

*Curriculum Vitae*  
**John (“Sam”) Houston**  
*Florida State University*

Department of Religion  
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### ***Education***

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- Ph.D., Religion, Florida State University, Aug 2011–present  
Field: Religion, Ethics, and Philosophy  
Exams: Muslim Ethics; Christian Ethics; Method and Theory in Comparative Religious Ethics; and Political Theory
- M.A., Philosophy, Boston College, 2008, *summa cum laude*
- M.Div., Princeton Theological Seminary, 2005, *magna cum laude*
- B.A., History, Baylor University, 2000

### ***Areas of Specialization***

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- Muslim ethics
- Sufism
- Islamic activism
- Christian ethics
- Comparative religious ethics
- Religion and political thought

### ***Publications***

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#### **Essays (Peer Reviewed)**

- “Sufism and Islamist Activism in Morocco: An Examination of the Tradition of ‘Commanding Right and Forbidding Wrong’ in the Thought of ‘Abd al-Salam Yassine.” *Middle Eastern Studies*, forthcoming (2017).
- “Sherman A. Jackson and the Possibility of a ‘Blackamerican Muslim’ Prophetic Pragmatism.” *Journal of Africana Religions* 1/4 (2013), 488–512.
- “Does Islam Require a Secular State?: Abdullahi An-Na‘im’s *Islam and the Secular State: Negotiating the Future of Shari‘a*.” *Philosophy and Social Criticism* 37/5 (June 2011), 621–25.

#### **Essays (Non-peer Reviewed)**

- “ISIS, Poetry, and the Romance of *Jihād*; or How Reading *The New Yorker* Can Save Religious Studies from the Rhetoric of Authenticity.” *Marginalia Review of Books Blog*, June 16, 2015.
- “Idols or Artifacts? An Exercise in Self-Reflexivity When Pondering ISIS’s Destruction of Mosul’s Antiquities.” *Religious Studies News*, American Academy of Religion, March 2015.

### Book Reviews

- “Review of Garden, Kenneth, *The First Islamic Reviver: Abū Hāmid al-Ghazālī and His Revival of the Religious Sciences*.” H-Mideast-Medieval, H-Net Reviews. August, 2015.

### Encyclopedia Entries

- “Ibn Taymiyya.” *Islam: A Worldwide Encyclopedia*, ed., Cenap Çakmak. Santa Barbara: ABC–CLIO, forthcoming (2016).
- “Joseph Schacht.” *Islam: A Worldwide Encyclopedia*, ed., Cenap Çakmak. Santa Barbara: ABC–CLIO, forthcoming (2016).

### Presentations

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- “Al-Ghazālī, Public Virtue, and the Duty to ‘Command Right and Forbid Wrong.’” Revisiting Al-Ghazali: Reason and Revelation. Zaytuna College. Berkeley, CA. March 5, 2016.
- “‘Soldiers of God’: *Tarbīya*, Virtue, and Islamist Activism.” Islamic Mysticism Group. *American Academy of Religion*, National Meeting. Atlanta, GA. November 22, 2015.
- “*Jihād* and Social Activism in Moroccan Islam.” *International Studies Association*, National Meeting. New Orleans, LA. February 18, 2015.
- “The Tradition of ‘Commanding Right and Forbidding Wrong’ in the Islamist Discourse of ‘Salafī Sufī’ ‘Abd al-Salam Yassine.” *Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics*. Chicago, IL. January 11, 2015.
- “The Ideology of Experience and the Limits of Theology: William James, Sherman Jackson, and the Problem of Black Suffering.” Pragmatism and Empiricism in American Religious Thought Group. *American Academy of Religion*, National Meeting. San Diego, CA. November 22, 2014.
- “A Short History of Modern Islamic Revivalism.” Invited Lecture, Faith Presbyterian Church. Tallahassee, FL. October 29, 2014.
- “The ‘Metaphysical Monster’ and Islamic Theology: William James, Sherman Jackson, and the Problem of Black Suffering.” Islam Group. *American Academy of Religion*, Southeast Regional Meeting. Atlanta, GA. March 8, 2014.
- “Islam: An Introduction.” Invited Lecture, Faith Presbyterian Church. Tallahassee, FL. January 26, 2014.
- “Christian-Muslim Relations in 2013.” Invited Lecture, Faith Presbyterian Church. Tallahassee, FL. September 25, 2013.

- “The Contours of Conscience: Mawdūdī, Freedom of Conscience, and Comparative Religious Ethics.” Islam Group. *American Academy of Religion*, Southeast Regional Meeting. Greenville, SC. March 16, 2013.
- “Islam and Human Rights.” Invited Lecture, The Paideia School. Atlanta, GA. March 15, 2013.
- “The Contours of Conscience: Mawdūdī, Freedom of Conscience, and Comparative Religious Ethics.” *Florida State University Graduate Symposium*. Tallahassee, FL. February 24, 2013.
- “Sherman A. Jackson and the Possibility of a ‘Blackamerican Muslim’ Prophetic Pragmatism.” Comparative Religious Ethics Group. *American Academy of Religion*, National Meeting. Chicago, IL. November 18, 2012.
- “The Role of Ibn Taymiyya’s Legal Thought in His Views on Rebellion.” Islam Group. *American Academy of Religion*, Southeast Regional Meeting. Atlanta, GA. March 3, 2012.
- “Citizenship as Promise: Augustine and Chastened Cosmopolitanism.” *Florida State University Graduate Symposium*. Tallahassee, FL. February 18, 2012.
- “John Locke and Justice as Right Order: Subversion or Continuation?” *Northeastern Political Science Association Annual Conference*. Boston, MA. November 15, 2008.
- “Contingency Versus Stability: Religion and Rawlsian Public Reason.” *Pluralism, Politics, and God?* McGill University, Montreal, QC. September 14, 2007.

### ***Teaching Experience***

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- **Instructor, Florida State University; August 2011–Present**  
Instructor of Record:
    - ❖ *REL 3170 Religious Ethics and Moral Problems*
    - ❖ *REL 3363 Islamic Traditions I: The Formative Period*
    - ❖ *REL 3367 Islamic Traditions II: Islam in the Modern World*
  - **Adjunct Faculty, Zayed University, Abu Dhabi, UAE; October 2009–June 2011**
    - ❖ *COL 150 Emerging Civilizations*
    - ❖ *COL 140 English Composition I*
  - **Senior Instructor, Cambridge College, Cambridge, MA; June 2007–May 2009**
    - ❖ *REL 300 Religion, Justice, and Globalization*
    - ❖ *CTH 225 Foundations of Critical Thinking*
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### ***Awards/Fellowships***

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- Florida State University Dissertation Research Grant, 2015–2016
- Florida State University Fellows Society, 2014–2015
- U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship, Arabic (Morocco), 2013
- Lucius Moody Bristol Graduate Fellow, Florida State University, 2011–2013
- Florida State University Department of Religion Travel Grant: Fall 2012, Spring 2012, Spring 2013, Spring 2014, Spring 2015, Fall 2015
- Florida State University Congress of Graduate Students Travel Grant: Fall 2012, Spring 2012, Spring 2013, Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Fall 2015, Spring 2016

### ***Professional Associations***

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- American Academy of Religion
- Society for the Study of Muslim Ethics
- International Studies Association

### ***Service/Related Activities***

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- Editorial Assistant, *Journal of Religious Ethics*, 2013–2016
- Representative, Department of Religion Graduate Student Advisory Committee, 2013–2014
- Student Advisory Panel, Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life, Boston College, 2007–2008
- General Editor, *Princeton Theological Review*, Princeton Theological Seminary, 2004–2005

### ***Languages***

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- Arabic (High Intermediate)
- French (Successfully Completed *French for Graduate Reading Knowledge*, Florida State University, Summer 2012)
- German (Successfully Completed *German II Reading for Scholarly Purposes*, Princeton University, Summer 2003)

***References***

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- *John Kelsay*, Richard L. Rubenstein Professor of Religion; Bristol Distinguished Research Professor, Florida State University  
**Phone:** 850.645.8828  
**Email:** jkelsay@fsu.edu
- *Sumner B. Twiss*, Distinguished Professor of Human Rights, Ethics, and Religion, Florida State University  
**Phone:** 850.644.1020  
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- *Adam Gaiser*, Associate Professor of Religion, Florida State University  
**Phone:** 850.644.1020  
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