

Michael Pope

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Education

- 2014 Ph.D., University of Chicago, New Testament and Early Christian Literature (joint program in Classics and Early Christian Literature), Humanities Division (Dissertation Committee: Hans-Josef Klauck, Shadi Bartsch-Zimmer, Elizabeth Asmis)
- 2011 M.A., University of Chicago, New Testament and Early Christian Literature, Humanities Division
- 2007 M.A., Brigham Young University, Classics and Comparative Literature
- 2005 B.A., Brigham Young University, Classics

Research Interests

Epic poetry

Latin epigram

Gender and sexuality in antiquity

Early Christian literature (Greek and Roman literary contexts)

Gospel of Luke

Employment History and Teaching Experience

- 2020– Associate Professor, Classical Studies, Comparative Arts and Letters Department at Brigham Young University
- 2014–2020 Assistant Professor, Classical Studies, Comparative Arts and Letters Department at Brigham Young University

2013–2014 Instructor, Classical Studies, Comparative Arts and Letters Department at Brigham Young University

Books

2023 *Lucretius and the End of Masculinity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

- Nominated by editors at Cambridge UP for the 2025 CAMWS First Book Award
- *BMCR* Review: <https://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2024/2024.01.15/>

Articles

- 2025 “Profaning Mars as *Devictus* in *De Rerum Natura*.” *Philologus*. Forthcoming.
- 2024 “Invoking Prometheus in *De Rerum Natura*.” *Classical Journal*. Forthcoming.
- 2024 “Filling in Some Gaps: Misunderstood Jokes in Priapea 12.15 and Catullus 25.5.” *Classical Philology*. Forthcoming.
- 2024 “What Exactly Did Mary “Conceive” in Her Womb?” *Journal of Interdisciplinary Biblical Studies* 5: 42–53.
- 2024 “The Strange Significance of the name Carpocrates in Early Christian Polemic.” Co-authored with Grant Adamson. *Journal of Biblical Literature* 142: 717–33.
- 2023 “The Strange Absence of *Hort-* in Lucretius.” *Classical Quarterly* 73: 926–28.
- 2023 “Honey and the Indecency of Epicurus’ *aurea dicta* (*DRN* 3.12).” *Philologus* 167: 214–35.
- 2023 “Spermatic and Uterine Dimensions in Mark and Luke’s Parable of the Sower.” *New Testament Studies* 69: 414–21.
- 2022 “A Brief Note on *Religio* and the Ending of *De Rerum Natura*.” *Philologus* 166: 150–55.
- 2022 “Revisiting *baratre* in *DRN* 3.955.” *Classical Journal* 117: 476–85.
- 2021 “Extraction and Emission Language in Luke 8:45.” *Novum Testamentum* 63: 198–206.
- 2020 “Bodies Piled High: Lucretius, Lucan, and the Un/Natural Costs of Civil War.” *Classical Philology* 115: 209–26.

- 2019 “Emotions, Pre-emotions, and Jesus’ Comportment in Luke 22:39–42.” *Novum Testamentum* 62: 25–43.
- 2019 “Luke’s Seminal Annunciation: An Embryological Reading of Mary’s Conception.” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 138: 793–809.
- 2019 “Embryology, Female *Semina*, and Male Vincibility in *De Rerum Natura*.” *Classical Quarterly* 69: 229–45.
- 2018 “Seminal Verse: Atomic Orality and Aurality in *De Rerum Natura*.” *Eugesta* 8: 108–30.
- 2018 “A Note on Gabriel’s Entrance and Biblical Violence in Luke’s Annunciation Narrative.” *Journal of Biblical Literature* 137: 701–10.
- 2018 “Ocular Penetration, Grammatical Objectivity, and an Indecent Proposal in *De Rerum Natura*.” *Classical Philology* 113: 206–212.
- 2017 “The Downward Motion of Jesus’ Sweat and the Authenticity Question of Luke 22:43–44.” *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 79: 261–81.
- 2016 “Sweating with Blood and Civil Conflict in *De Rerum Natura*.” *Classical Journal* 112: 41–55.

Current Projects

- 2024 A new verse translation of Lucretius’ *De Rerum Natura*. Proposal under review at the University of Chicago Press.
- 2024 “Anticipating Astyanax in Iliad Book 6.”

Book Reviews

- 2024 *The Crisis of Masculinity in the Age of Augustus*. Melanie Racette-Campbell. *BMCR*.
- 2023 *Lucretius and the Language of Nature*. Barnaby Taylor. *Classical Review*.
- 2017 *One True Life: The Stoics and Early Christians as Rival Traditions*. C. Kavin Rowe. *Journal of Theological Studies* 67: 773–775.
- 2015 “A Closer Look: Luke 22:43–44 and Questions of Interpretation.” *Studies in the Bible and Antiquity* 6: 127–133.

Awards and Nominations

- 2024 Nominated and elected to become a full member of The Society for New Testament Studies (SNTS), an international society comprised of leading scholars in the field.
- 2023 Recognized by BYU Student-Athlete Association for being a teacher who is “dedicated, inspiring, knowledgeable, and caring.”
- 2022 Nominated by students for the annual BYU Inspiring Learning Award.

Invited Lectures and Public Scholarly Activities

- 2024 “Roamin’ Masculinity.” Podcast interview about my book *Lucretius and the End of Masculinity* on Blair Hodges’ Family Proclamation Podcast.
- 2022 “Lucretius, Epicurus, and Ethical Humility.” Books and Bridges Discussion Group. Zoom meeting. May 18.
- 2022 Guest Lecture for Prof. Jesse Weiner’s course “Lucretius and his Legacy” at Hamilton College. Zoom meeting. April 20.
- 2021 “Lucretius and the End of Masculinity.” Rhetoric and Poetics Workshop. Classics Department, University of Chicago. November 18.
- 2018 “Sacrificing Mary.” Ohio University, public lecture on gender, embryology, and the bible. October 31.
- 2018 Invited to Present and Lead Roundtable Discussion on Gender and the Bible for the WGSS (Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies) Group at Ohio University. October 31.

Conference Presentations and Conference Presiding

- 2023 Invited response to Timothy Brookins *Ancient Rhetoric and the Style of Paul’s Letters*. Section: Rhetoric and Early Christianity section. November 18.
- 2023 Invited response to *The Bible and the Latter-day Saint Tradition* and *Ancient Christians: An Introduction for Latter-day Saints*. November 19.
- 2023 Presiding. Ancient Philosophy Session. CAMWS. Provo.
- 2022 “Luke the Physician? Reconsidering Christian and LDS Tradition through Ancient Gynecology.” Section: Latter-day Saints and the Bible. Society of Biblical Literature. Denver. November 21.

- 2018 Presiding. Section: LDS Reception of Sexual Violence in the Bible. Denver. As a steering committee member, I also devised the topic for this section and with my fellow committee members called for papers and selected the most promising for presentation. November 17.
- 2016 “Luke’s Permeable Virgin: Reading Mary through Epicurean Theories of Atomic Penetration.” Section: Gender, Sexuality, and the Bible. Society of Biblical Literature. San Antonio. November 20.
- 2016 “The Cockcrow in Greco-Roman Context.” Section: Latter-day Saints and the Bible. Society of Biblical Literature. San Antonio. November 22.
- 2015 “Opportunistic Stoicism: Philo’s *Quod omnis probus liber sit* and Cicero’s *Tusculan Disputations* Book 2.” Section: Philo of Alexandria, Historical and Intellectual Traditions in Philo. Society of Biblical Literature. Atlanta. November 23.
- 2014 “Blood, Sweat, and Smears: Bodies Portentous, Bodies Politic.” Section: Greco-Roman Religions. Society of Biblical Literature. San Diego. November 22, 2014.
- 2014 “Antiochus Epiphanes, Gladiators, and Fatal Contests in 4 Maccabees.” Utah Classical Association Annual Meeting. Salt Lake City. October 4.

Recent Courses Taught

Greek 490R/690R: Homer

Greek 311: New Testament Greek

Latin 301: Classical Latin Poetry (Vergil)

Latin 431/620R: Latin Poets (Lucretius, Vergil)

Classical Civilization 307: Roman History

Classics 490R/690R: Seminar on Hellenistic Philosophy

Doctoral Dissertation Committee Member

- 2023– Ryan Masato Baldwin. “Epicurean Dissolution in Lucan’s *Bellum Civile*.” UNC Chapel Hill. Committee Chair: James O’Hara.

Recent MA Theses Directed

- 2024 Tessa Haney. Female slaves and torture in the Odyssey.

- 2024 Caleb C. Deppermann. “The Materiality of the Soul in Plutarch’s *Moralia*.”
- 2022 Joseph Dean Murphy. “How Lucretius Uses Epic.”
- 2019 Ryan Masato Baldwin. “The Creation of a Christian Identity in a Christianized Empire: Eulalia, Agnes, and Gender-Bending in Prudentius’ *Peristephanon Liber III and XIV*.”
- 2017 Nathaniel Brent Pribil. “Virtue Conquered by Fortune: Cato in Lucan’s *Pharsalia*.”
- 2015 Michael R. Trotter. “Reevaluating the New Testament Text of Didymus the Blind: An Examination of the New Testament References in P. BYU 1.”

Citizenship Activities

- 2024– Comparative Studies MA program Coordinator.
- 2024– Full Voting Member of The Society of New Testament Studies (SNTS).
- 2023–2024 Search Committee Member (Rachael Givens Johnson).
- 2023 Chair of Assessment Retreat Committee to Revise and Improve Comparative Studies MA Program.
- 2022–2023 New Faculty Mentor for Luke Drake.
- 2022– Re-appointed to a new term as Steering Committee Member for the Latter-day Saints and the Bible Section of the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Conference.
- 2022 Comparative Studies Graduate Committee Member.
- 2022 Comparative Arts and Letters Unit Review Committee Member.
- 2022 Humanities College Assessment Retreat. Midway, UT. April 28-29.
- 2022 Organized and hosted with Nate Kramer a Guest Lecture from Einar Selvik (world renowned musician and founder of Wardruna). November 7.
- 2021–2022 Curriculum Redesign for Classical Civilization Major (updated major launched Fall Semester 2022).
- 2021–2022 Search Committee Member (Luke Drake).

- 2021 Adjunct Review Implementation within the CAL Sections
- 2019 Clark Lecture Committee Chair; organized visit and hosted Shadi Bartsch-Zimmer from the University of Chicago.
- 2019 Generated plan and assisted in hosting Christopher Polt (Boston College) and Ted Gellar-Goad (Wake Forest) to discuss inclusion efforts for LGBTQ students.
- 2019 Invited Participant in College of Humanities New Faculty Seminar Series. Topic: Pre-CFS Publishing and Scholarship. Invited by Corry Cropper, Associate Dean. February 14, 2019.
- 2014–2019 ANES affiliated faculty and service on the ANES Committee of the Whole (regularly teach Greek 311; mentor ANES students).
- 2017–2018 Search Committee Member (Charles Oughton).
- 2017–2018 Search Committee Member (Thomas Wayment).
- 2017 Invited Lecture on Greco-Roman Philosophy to American Fork High School Students in Marlayne Nye’s Philosophy Course. February 15.
- 2016–2017 Search Committee Member (Julie Allen).
- 2016–2018 ANES Steering Committee Member 2016-2018 (curriculum planning, guest speaker planning).
- 2015–2016 Search Committee Member (Elliott Wise).
- 2015 Invited Presentation on Sexuality in the Bible to the BYU New Testament Commentary Series Summer Seminar. July 2.
- 2015 Invited Lecture on Greco-Roman Philosophy to American Fork High School Students in Joe Atwood’s Philosophy Course. March 25.
- 2014–2015 Department Advanced Writing Course Design (now designated IHUM 311; scheduled to teach this course in 2021).
- 2014 Requested Internal Review of BYU New Testament Commentary Volume on Luke; requested by Alan Harker, BYU Associate Academic Vice President.

Fellowships

- 2007–2012 University of Chicago Fellowship, 2007-2012

2010 University of Chicago Writing Program Fellowship, 2010

Professional Training

2010 University of Chicago Writing Program Training (Little Red Schoolhouse)

Professional Service

2024 Invited to review book manuscript for The Society for New Testament Studies Novum Testamentum Supplements monograph series.

2024 Invited to review book manuscript for Eerdmans Press.

2023 Invited Review for Melanie Racette-Campbell's *The Crisis of Masculinity in the Age of Augustus* (Wisconsin) in *BMCR*.

2022 Anonymous reviewer for *Classical Philology* (University of Chicago Press) for an article on Lucretius and poetic genre.

2022 Invited Review for Barnaby Taylor's *Lucretius and the Language of Nature* (Oxford) in *Classical Review*.

2019 Anonymous reviewer for *Classical World* (Johns Hopkins University Press) for an article on Lucretius.

2018 Anonymous reviewer for a chapter in *Lucan's Imperial World: The Bellum Civile in its Contemporary Contexts* (Bloomsbury: 2020).

2017 Anonymous reviewer for *Classical Journal* for an article on Lucretius.

2017– Steering Committee Member for LDS and the Bible Unit of the Society of Biblical Literature.

2015 Anonymous reviewer for *BYU Studies* for an article on the Gospel of Mark.

2015–2018 Steering committee member, Late Antique Religious Studies research group at Brigham Young University.

2014–2015 Editorial Advisory Board Member for *Studies in the Bible and Antiquity* (Neal A. Maxwell Institute).