

# David Dockery

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## Biography

David D. Dockery is a media and rhetorical scholar studying the value-structuring narratives implicit in pop culture. His specialty is in the mythic criticism of video games and also studies value structures in the spheres of religion and history.

## Degrees

**Ph.D. Communication** Texas A&M University (2025)

Dissertation: *Mythic Games: Narrative Design for Exercising the Moral Imagination*

Committee: Nathan Crick (chair), George Villanueva, Anna Wolfe, Joshua DiCaglio

**M.A. Communication** Wake Forest University (2021)

**B.Sc. Communication** Tennessee Tech University (2018)

## Positions

Graduate Student Instructor Texas A&M University (2022- Ongoing)

Teaching Assistant Wake Forest University (2019 - 2021)

## Teaching

- Argumentation & Debate (2023 & 2024)
- Rhetorical Criticism (Fall 2023)
- Communication for the Technical Professions (Summer 2023)

- Public Speaking (2021-2024)

## **Honors and Awards**

Top Student Paper in the National Communication Association Game Studies Division, 2023

Top Student Paper in the Religious Communication Association, 2024

## **Research**

### ***Book Reviews***

Dockery, D. (2025). Just Words, but not mere words. *Journal of Christian Teaching Practice*. In progress.

### ***Journal Articles***

Dockery, D. (2024). Mythic Placemaking in Game Design: Analyzing Place in Digital Games. *Journal of Gaming and Virtual Worlds*. (Under review)

### ***Chapters in an Edited Volume***

Dockery, D. & M. Coelho. (2021). Migration Voting in the 2020 Presidential Ad Campaigns. In A. Loudon (Ed.), *Biden VS Trump: How Political Advertisements Shaped the 2020 Presidential Race*. Wake Forest University Press.

C., Madeline & D. Dockery. (2021). Religious Communication in the 2020 Presidential Race. In A. Loudon (Ed.), *Biden VS Trump: How Political Advertisements Shaped the 2020 Presidential Race*, edited by Allan Loudon. Wake Forest University Press.

Dockery, D. (2025). In the Grim Darkness of the Far Future, There is Still Heroism. In S. Harrower & C. Porter (Eds.), *The Grim Darkness of Religion and Theology in Warhammer 40,000*. Lexington Books.

### ***Conference Presentations***

Dockery, D. (November, 2020). *Discourse and the Divine: A Rhetorical Definition of Religion*. *Religious Communication Association Conference*. Virtual.

Dockery, D. (2021, November). *The Language of Despotism: The Ottoman Empire and American Revolutionary Rhetoric*. *NCA 107th Annual Convention*. Seattle, WA.

Dockery, D. (2022, November). *Gouverneur Morris and The Religious Constitution of American Public Discourse: The Case of the French Revolution*. *Religious Communication Association 2022*. New Orleans: Religious Communication Association.

Dockery, D. (2023, November). *Semiotic Placemaking in Game Design: A Synthesis of Barthes and De Certeau*. *National Communication Association*. National Harbor Maryland: National Communication Association Game Studies Division.

Dockery, D. (2023, June). *Hideo Kojima: Propheying Connection in a Digital Age*. *GoNe Digital*. Online: Global Network for Digital Theology.

Dockery, D. (2024, Spring). *Lest We Forget: Battlefield 1 and World War 1's Public Memory*. *14th Annual Texas A&M History Conference*. College Station, TX: Texas A&M History Graduate Student Organization.

Dockery, D. (2023, November). *Unbelievers: A Grounded Theory Analysis of Miracle Skepticism*. *Religious Communication Association*. National Harbor, MD: Religious Communication Association.

Dockery, D. (2024, Spring). *Holy Ground: The 2023 Asbury Revival and the Rhetoric of Sacred Space*. *Christian Faculty Network*. College Station, TX: Christian Faculty Network.

Dockery, D. (2024, November). *As Above, So Below: A Rhetorical Theory of Sacrality*. *Religious Communication Association*. New Orleans, LA: Religious Communication Organization.

Dockery, D. (2024, November). *Video Games Are Art: A Hermeneutic Understanding*. *National Communication Association*. New Orleans, LA: Game Studies Division of NCA.

### ***Invited Lectures***

Dockery, D. (2024, March). *What is rhetoric? An introduction*. Murray State University.

### **Coursework**

- COMM 645 – Rhetoric & Textual Methods
- HIST 631—Reading Seminar in U.S. History
- COMM 681—Professional Seminar
- COMM 601—Foundations of Communication Inquiry

- COMM 685—Directed Studies in the Rhetoric of Kenneth Burke
- COMM 658—Seminar in Communication Culture
- COMM 615—Interpretive Methods in Communication
- COMM 655—Contemporary Theory of Rhetoric
- PHIL 620—Contemporary Philosophy
- PHIL 616—Modern Philosophy
- PHI 672—Philosophy of Religion
- PHI 661—Topics: Virtue and Character
- COMM 685—Directed Studies in Classical Rhetoric
- COMM 626—Communication Law & Policy
- COMM 620—Communication Theory
- COMM 689—Special Topics: Media, Space, Place, and Culture
- COM 630—Communication and Conflict
- COM 640—Public Discourse I
- COM 642—Political Communication
- COM 719—Theory and Research Design in Communication Science
- COM 758—Rhetorical Theory
- COM 759—Rhetorical Criticism
- COM 780—Rhetoric and the Pursuit of Perfection
- COM 781—Readings and Research in Speech Communication (Hermeneutics)

## **Internal/ External Service**

- Gaming Analysis Facilitator, Texas A&M University (Spring 2024 - Ongoing)
- Reviewer for National Communication Association's Game Studies Division (Spring 2023 - Ongoing)
- Reviewer for the American Society of the History of Rhetoric NCA Division (Spring 2021 - Spring 2023)
- Reviewer for the Religious Communication Association (Fall 2020 - Ongoing)

## **Professional Memberships**

- Religious Communication Association, November 2019, November 2021 (2019 - Ongoing)
- American Society for the History of Rhetoric, February 2021, February 2022 (2021 - 2022)
- National Communication Association, October 2021, Ongoing (2021 - Ongoing)