

presents

Books and Ideas

Courage as a Democratic Ideal

Courage is an elusive but exciting virtue, one that forces us to rethink our democratic commitments and our conceptions of political agency. In reflecting on these all-important issues, four distinguished scholars find an ideal starting-point in the democracies of classical Athens and revolutionary America, two societies that offer us fertile conceptual and imaginative resources as we strive to think anew about courage, democracy, and their many interrelations. A conversation on the occasion of the forthcoming publication by Ryan Balot, *Courage in the Democratic Polis: Ideology and Critique in Classical Athens* (Oxford University Press, 2014).



Photo: Karyn Gorra

Ryan Balot,
University of Toronto



Nancy Sherman,
Georgetown University



Admiral James Stavridis,
Tufts University



Paul Woodruff,
University of Texas at Austin

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