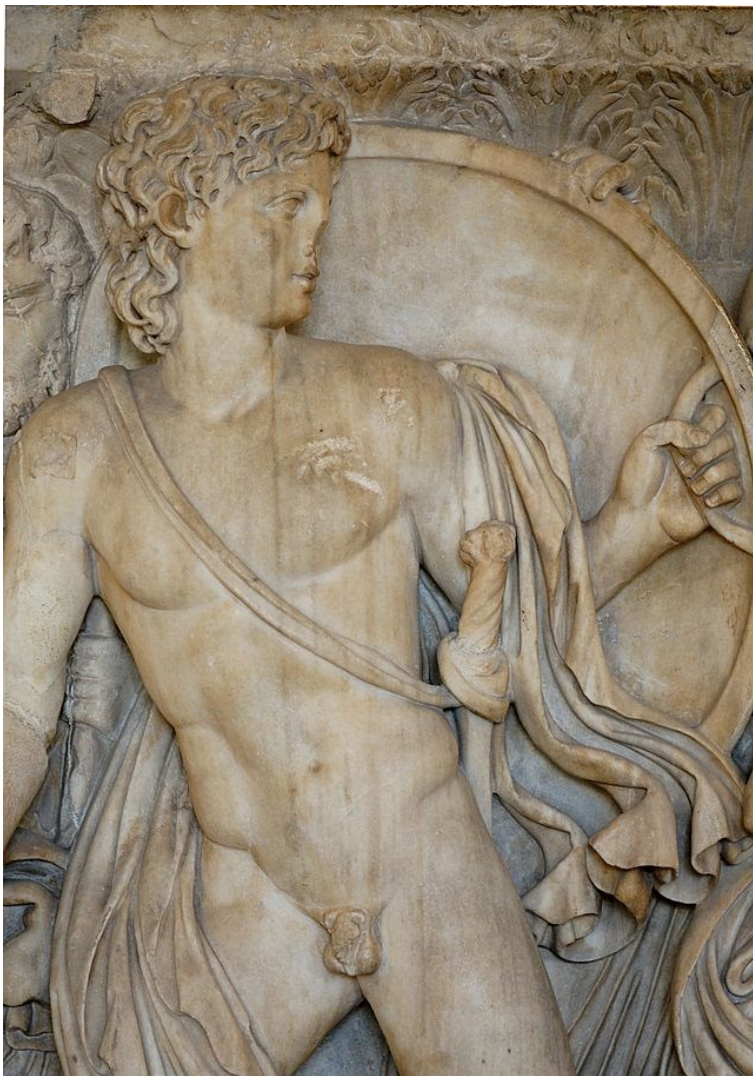


The Contest between Achilles and David: Homer, the Bible, and the Question of Human Excellence

Professor Peter J. Ahrensdorf
Davidson College



Peter J. Ahrensdorf is the *James Sprunt Professor of Political Science and Affiliated Professor of Classics* at Davidson College. He graduated *Summa Cum Laude* from Yale University (1980) and went on to obtain his Ph.D from the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago, where he wrote a dissertation on Socrates's defense of the philosophical life in Plato's *Phaedo* (1989). Professor Ahrensdorf has won a Fulbright Scholar Award and two National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowships. An acclaimed teacher, he received in 2013 the *Hunter-Hamilton Love of Teaching Award* at Davidson College.

Professor Ahrensdorf is the author of several outstanding books, including a comprehensive interpretation of Sophocles' Theban trilogy: *Greek Tragedy and Political Philosophy: Rationalism and Religion in Sophocles' Theban Plays* (Cambridge University Press, 2009). He is also the co-translator (with Thomas L. Pangle) of *Sophocles's Theban Plays*, with introductory essays and notes, published by Cornell University Press (2013). His *Justice Among Nations: On the Moral Basis of Power and Peace* (co-authored with Thomas L. Pangle) was named an "Outstanding Academic Title" by *Choice Magazine* in 1999. Finally, Professor Ahrensdorf's most recent monograph—*Homer on the Gods and Human Virtue: Creating the Foundations of Classical Civilization*—was published just last month by Cambridge University Press (2014). Professor Ahrensdorf is currently at work on two book projects, one on Euripides and Rationalism, and the other on Homer and the History of Political Thought.



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