

Curriculum Vita
Michael F. Patton, Jr.

Philosophy Program
University of Montevallo
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Current Position: Professor of Philosophy

Education

Ph. D. December '90, Syracuse University (Philosophy)
"Nihilism, Thought and Personhood," Peter van Inwagen, Director
M.A. '89, Syracuse University (Philosophy)
B. A. '83, Vanderbilt University (Philosophy)

Areas of Specialization

Analytic Metaphysics, Ontology, Early Modern Philosophy

Areas of Competence

Modern Philosophy History of Philosophy Logic Ethics

Professional Experience

2007- Professor of Philosophy, University of Montevallo
2002-2007 Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Montevallo
1996-2002 Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Montevallo
1995-1996 Acting Dean (Division of Arts and Sciences), Felician College
1993-1996 Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Felician College
1992-1993 Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Hawaii at Hilo
1990-1992 Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Tulsa
1986-1990 Graduate Teaching (Full Responsibility)
1985 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Syracuse University

Languages

French (Reading Knowledge), Latin (Reading Knowledge)

Current Projects

I am completing a draft of a book tentatively titled *The Life Raft Debate*. The book is under contract with Simon and Schuster.

I am currently researching an original monograph tentatively entitled *Hume and the End of Design*.

Publications

Books

The Cartoon Introduction to Philosophy (with Kevin Cannon, illustrator)
Hill and Wang (a division of Farrar, Straus and Giroux) 2015.

Articles and Book Chapters

Euthanasia and the Plasticity of Intrinsic Value in *Inherent and Instrumental Values: Excursions in Value Inquiry*, Ed. John M. Abbarino. University Press of America, 2014.

It Don't Come Easy v. Taking It Easy: Two Radically Different Reflections on Utilitarianism and the Blues (with E. M. Dadlez) in *The Beautiful, the Sublime, and the Grotesque: The Subjective Turn in Aesthetics from the Enlightenment to the Present*, Ed. Michael Matthis. Cambridge Scholars Press, 2010.

Freedom Isn't Free, But Freem Is (with Samantha Webb) in *Stephen Colbert and Philosophy*, Ed. Aaron Allen Schiller. Chicago: Open Court Press, 2009.

Oz Never Did Give Nothing to the Tin Man in *The Wizard of Oz and Philosophy*, Ed. Randall Auxier and Phil Seng. Chicago: Open Court Press, 2008.

Whatever You Say, Boss or The Thunder Road Said in *Springsteen and Philosophy*, Ed. Randall Auxier. Chicago: Open Court Press, 2008.

The Dinner Band on the Cruise Ship of Theseus in *Pink Floyd and Philosophy: Careful with that Axiom, Eugene*, Ed. George Reisch. Chicago: Open Court Press, 2007.

Pious Hindsight: South Park's Hybrid Vigor in *South Park and Philosophy*, Ed. Richard Hanley. Chicago: Open Court Press, 2007.

Hume and the End of Design

1650-1850: Ideas, Aesthetics, and Inquiries in the Early Modern Era,
Volume 12, 2006.

Game Preserve Ethics—The Case for Hunting the Poor
(as told to Michael Patton by Harrett Gardin)
Southwest Philosophical Review, 21:2 (Winter 2005)

Can Bad Men Make Good Brains Do Bad Things? anthologized in *What If... Collected Thought Experiments in Philosophy* by Peg Tittle (Longman, 2004)

Os Homens Maus Poderão Levar Cérebros Bons a Fazer Coisas Más?
Trólei: Revista de Filosofia Moral et Política, 1. (2003) (In translation)

Personal Identity, Autonomy and Advance Directives
Southwest Philosophical Review, 18:2 (Winter 2002)

Probabilities and Temporal Parts
Acta Analytica, 17:28 (Winter 2002)

The Officeholder view of Personal Identity
The Personalist Forum, 15:2 (Fall 1999).

Multicultural Education and the Future of Democracy (with Keith Burkum),
Proceedings of the 1995 Annual Conference of the Institute for the Study of
Postsecondary Pedagogy at SUNY New Paltz (Topic: American Pragmatism,
John Dewey, and Teaching and Learning in a Multicultural Society)

Teaching Graduate Students to Teach--An Approach
Teaching Philosophy, 15:3, September 1992.

Full-Time Objections to Part-Time Objects
Philosophical Papers, Volume XX, Number 1, December 1991.

Can Bad Men Make Good Brains Do Bad Things?
Proceedings and Addresses of the American Philosophical Association, 61.3,
1988

Reviews (invited)

Review of Donskis, Leonidas's *The End of Ideology and Utopia? Moral
Imagination and Cultural Criticism in the Twentieth Century*.
Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies, XIV, 189-90, 2002.

Review of *Metaphysics: Classic and Contemporary Readings*
Teaching Philosophy, 15:2, June 1992.

Invited Lectures

***Private Language and Private Meaning: The Social Construction of the Meaning
of Life***

American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting, New Orleans,
Louisiana, February 20–23, 2013

Panel Discussion following the Birmingham Premiere of Food, Inc.

Sponsored by Greater Birmingham Community Food Partners, September 6, 2009.

Innovations to Sustainable Education

AAC&U Annual Meeting, Seattle, Washington, January 21-24, 2009.

Integrating Sustainability into the Curriculum

COPAC Annual Conference, Southern Oregon University, June 20-22, 2008.

Sustainable Gardening 101 (with Edwin Marty of Jones Valley Urban Farms)
Birmingham Botanical Gardens, October 16, 2007.

Patriotism, Free Speech and Academia

New Horizons, University of Alabama at Birmingham, March 22, 2005.

Issues Concerning the Lives of Women in Egypt

AAUW Presentation, University of Montevallo Chapter, November 15, 2001.

Persons as Offices

Southern Methodist University, November 2, 2001.

There is Nothing Big Enough to See

Keynote Address

Southwest Conference for Undergraduate Philosophers at University of Central Oklahoma, February 17, 2001.

Why I am Not a Theist

Sigma Iota Rho Presentation, November 6, 2001.

Probability and Metaphysics

Georgetown University Students' Speaker Series, November 12, 2000.

Killing you for your own good: The case for active euthanasia

Georgetown University Students' Speaker Series, October 22, 1999.

The Failure of Temporal Parts Theory

Philosophy Faculty Colloquium, Texas Tech University on September 24, 1999.

I Do Not Exist

Philosophy Club Colloquium, Texas Tech University, September 23, 1999.

The Officeholder View of Personal Identity

University of Mississippi's Philosophy Forum, September 10, 1998.

Why we don't exist

Phi Sigma Tau Philosophy Honors Society Initiation Ceremony, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, December 12 1997.

Why should we study Philosophical Ethics?

The Webb School's Curriculum Development Day, Bell Buckle, TN, February 1, 1997.

Conference Presentations

Hume and the Beginnings of Evolutionary Theory

South Central Society for 18th Century Studies, February 16-19, 2011.

The Sustainability Banquet: A Course in Ecology, Ethics and Personal Choice

Sixth International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability, January 5-9, 2010, Cuenca, Equador.

It Don't Come Easy—Towards a Utilitarian Account of Aesthetics

Presidential Address, Alabama Philosophical Society, October 21-22, 2005.

Teaching New Dogs Some Old Tricks: Hume Account of Animal Reasoning

South Central Society for 18th Century Studies, February 23-26, 2005.

Hume v. ID, or, Night of the Living Dead Explanations

Mid-South Philosophy Conference, February 18-19, 2005.

Game Preserve Ethics, the Case for Hunting the Poor

Southwest Philosophy Conference, November 12-14, 2004

Hume On Irreducible Complexity

South Central Society for 18th Century Studies, February 26-29, 2004.

Game Preserve Ethics—The Case for Hunting the Poor (as Harrett Gardin)

Mid-South Philosophy Conference, February 20-21, 2004.

Perceptions and Dimensionality: Hume's Metaphysics of Externality

South Central Society for 18th Century Studies, March 6-9, 2003.

(Almost) All Medical Practice and Research is Immoral

Mid-South Philosophy Conference, February 21-22, 2003.

(Almost) All Medical Research and Practice is Immoral

Alabama Philosophical Society, Annual Meeting, October 24-25, 2003.

Killing You for Your Own Good—The Case for Active Euthanasia

Southwest Philosophical Society, November 3, 2001.

Autonomy and Advance Directives

Midsouth Philosophy Conference, February 23-15, 2001.

Personal Identity, Autonomy and Advance Directives

Alabama Philosophical Society, Annual Meeting, October 27-28, 2000.

Euthanasia and Occurrent Desires

Mid-South Philosophy Conference, March 4-7, 1999.

The Officeholder View Of Personal Identity

10th Annual Conference on Persons

St. John's University (Santa Fe), August 8-10, 1999.

Strict Personal Identity and Its Discontents

Mid-South Philosophy Conference, March 4-7, 1999.

Can an Object Survive the Loss of a Part?

Alabama Philosophical Society Annual Meeting, November 6-7, 1998.

Personal Identity, Autonomy and Advance Directives

20th World Congress of Philosophy, August 10-16, 1998.

Everest and Egomania: Krakauer's Indictment of Mountaineering

15th Annual Sports Literature Conference, July 26th, 1998, University of Montevallo, Montevallo, AL.

Comments on "*Mathematical Fictionalism in Context*"

Mid-South Philosophy Conference, February 28-March 1, 1997.

Paradoxes of Diachronic Identity

Tennessee Philosophical Association Meeting, November 1997.

Who are Philosophers that CEOs Should be Mindful of Them?

25th Conference on Value Inquiry, April 18, 1997.

A Problem for Temporal Parts Theory

Mid-South Philosophy Conference, February 28-March 1, 1997.

Probabilities and Temporal Parts

New Jersey Philosophical Association, November 18, 1996.

Euthanasia and the Plasticity of Intrinsic Values

24th Conference on Value Inquiry, April 19, 1996.

Contingent Validity: Divine Omnipotence and the Laws of Logic

New Jersey Philosophical Association, November 18, 1995.

Humanist in a Box: A Course in Artificial Intelligence for Arts and Sciences Majors with Marc LaBella

Computers on Campus National Conference, November 12-15, 1995.

Multicultural Education and the Future of Democracy with Keith Burkum

Institute for the Study of Postsecondary Pedagogy's Fifth Annual Conference:

American Pragmatism, John Dewey, and Teaching and Learning in a Multicultural Society, November 12-15, 1995.

Truth and Consequences: A Utilitarian Evaluation of Truth

23rd Conference on Value Inquiry, April 7, 1995.

Comments on "*Freedom and Constraint*," APA Pacific Division Meeting, 1993.

Other Conference Participation

I attended the University of Mississippi Symposium on Psychoneural Reduction, February 26-28th, 1999.

Participant, AAC&U Conference: Liberal Education: *Confronting Questions of Quality*, January 28-30, 1999, San Francisco, CA.

Conference on Technology and Teaching at Auburn

Participant, AAC&U Conference: *The Politics of Curriculum Change*, November 4-5 1994, Washington, DC

Participant, NSF Workshop on Professional and Ethical Issues in Computing, June 1994. Deborah G. Johnson, Director

Participant, NEH Summer Institute on Naturalism, Lincoln, NE, Summer 1993. Robert Audi, Director.

Related Activities

I am the Editor of the *Southwest Philosophy Review*.

I am the immediate past president of the Alabama Philosophical Society 2005-2006

I am a reviewer for *The Journal of Value Inquiry*.

I am a paid text reviewer for Pearson Longman Press, Prentice Hall Publishing Company and McGraw Hill.

I am a member of the American Philosophical Association, the Southwest Philosophy Society and the Alabama Philosophical Society.

I am a member of Phi Kappa Phi.

I am Faculty Advisor for the Philosophy Club, the College Bowl Team and the Astronomy Club (with Michael Sterner).

Papers Under Review

"What Cartesian arguments could not show"

"Can an object survive the loss of a part--A defense of ontological nihilism"

"Van Inwagen on life and lives"

"Causation, Perceptions, and Externality: Hume's Metaphysic of Objects"

Honors and Awards

Syracuse University Teaching Fellow--1989-1990, 1990-1991

Outstanding University Teaching Assistant Award 1989-1990
Syracuse University Graduate Scholarship--1985 through 1990
Teaching Coordinator for Philosophy 187--1988-1990
Philosophy Department Summer Fellowship--1986, 1989

Letters of reference available upon request.

Courses Taught

1996-present *University of Montevallo*

HNRS 307 The First Atomic Bomb (1 credit)

HNRS 309 Aristotelian Plays and Politics (3 credit)

HNRS 307 Animal Rights (1 credit)

HNRS 309 Philosophy of the Cosmos (3 credit) (with Michael Sterner)

HNRS 307 Honors Astronomy (1 credit) (with Michael Sterner)

HNRS 309 Honors Astronomy (3 credit) (with Michael Sterner)

HNRS 308 Scientific Revolutions (1 credit) (with Robert Barone)

LS 301 Ancient Culture (with Tom Woods)

LS 302 Medieval Culture (with Tom Woods)

LS 303 Early Modern Culture (with Tom Woods)

LS 304 Late Modern Culture (with Tom Woods)

PHIL 110 Introduction to Philosophy

PHIL 111 Honors Introduction to Philosophy

PHIL 180 Critical Reasoning

PHIL 220 Ethics

PHIL 221 Honors Ethics

PHIL 230 Science, Technology and Value

Medical Ethics

The Sustainability Banquet

PHIL 250 Symbolic Logic

PHIL 280 Ancient and Medieval Philosophy

PHIL 290 Modern Philosophy

PHIL 300 Special Topics (3 credit)

Feminist Philosophy

Wittgenstein

Philosophy of the Cosmos

Philosophy of Science

Nietzsche

Creationism, Evolution and Rationality

Philosophy of Dissent

Hume

Corporations and Culpability

Corporations, Consumption and the Environment

Various independent studies

PHIL 330 Philosophy of Science

PHIL 350 Existentialism

PHIL 360 Philosophical Analysis

PHIL 370 Epistemology
PHIL 380 Metaphysics

1993-1996 ***Felician College***

PH 100 Critical Reasoning
PH 101 Introduction to Philosophy
PH 200 Foundations of the Philosophy of Education
PH 201 Symbolic Logic
PH 202 Logic and Computing
PH 205 Business Ethics
PH 207 Modern Philosophy
PH 209 Contemporary Existentialism
PH 301 General Ethics
PH 302 Metaphysics
CO 330 Invitation to Philosophize--Our Search for Wholeness
CO 330 Honors Invitation to Philosophize--Our Search for Wholeness
ID 350 Teleology, Evolution and Human Community

1992-1993 ***University of Hawaii at Hilo***

PH 100 Introduction to Western Philosophy
PH 200 Reasoning
PH 210 Belief, Truth and Knowledge
PH 300 Metaphysics

1990-1992 ***University of Tulsa***

First Seminar 33 Philosophy and Human Nature
PH 1003 Socrates to Sartre
PH 1063 Ethics & the Problems of Society
PH 1653 Reasoning
PH 3973 Free Will

1985-1990 ***Syracuse University***

PH 187 Theories of Knowledge and Reality (Taught and Administered all TAs)
PH 197 Philosophy of Human Nature

Letters of Reference available from:

Mark Lance
Alastair Norcross
Russel Weibe
Larry Hardin
Beate Schiwiek
Sam Webb
Michael Sterner