

Jason D. Gray
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Areas of Specialization

Philosophy of Action (At the intersection of the metaphysics of free will and moral responsibility), Philosophy of Addiction, Metaphysics of Death

Areas of Competence

Ethics (normative and applied), Bioethics, Philosophy of Law, Critical Thinking, Symbolic Logic, Social and Political Philosophy, Metaphysics (broadly construed), Philosophy of Religion

Education

University of California, Riverside: Ph.D., Philosophy, June 2013.
Georgia State University: M.A., Philosophy, August 2005.
University of Alabama: B.A., Major: Philosophy, August 2002.
University of Alabama: B.A., Major: History; Minor: Philosophy and Biology, May 1997.

Dissertation

Philosophy, Phenomenology, and Neuroscience: The Groundwork for an Interdisciplinary Approach to a Comprehensive Understanding of Addiction

Academic Employment

Honors Lecturer in Philosophy:

Auburn University at Montgomery 08/16- Present

Visiting Assistant Professor:

University of Alabama, Birmingham 08/14-05/16

Graduate Research Assistant:

University of California, Riverside 07/12-06/13
Science, Philosophy, and Theology of Immortality Project
(Funded by the John Templeton Foundation)

Teaching Assistant:

University of California, Riverside 09/06-12/07*; 09/09-06/12

Graduate Student Fellow:

University of California, Riverside 09/05-06/06

Graduate Teaching Assistant (Course Instructor):

Georgia State University 08/03-05/05

Lecture Assistant:
Georgia State University

08/02-05/03

* (I took a leave of absence in December 2007.)

Courses Designed and Taught

Auburn University at Montgomery

PHIL 2000: *Reasoning and Critical Thinking*

Fall '16 (2 sections)

Fall '17

Fall '23 (online)

PHIL 2010: *Introduction to Philosophy*

Spring '17

Fall '17

Spring '18, Fall '18

Spring '19, Fall '19

Spring '20

Fall '21, Fall '22

Spring '23

Fall '23

Spring '24

PHIL 2100: *Applied Ethics*

Fall '16 (2 sections)

Spring '17 (3 sections)

Fall '17 (2 sections)

Spring '18 (3 sections),

Fall '18 (2 sections)

Fall '19 (2 sections)

Spring '20 (2 sections)

Fall '20, online (2 sections)

Fall, '21 online, Spring '22 online

Fall '22 (2 sections)

Fall '23 (2 sections)

Fall '23 (2 sections)

Spring '24 (medical ethics focus)

PHIL 2030 *Logic*

Spring '21 (2 sections)

Fall '21 (2 sections)

Spring '22 (2 sections)

Spring '23 (2 sections)

Fall '24 (2 sections, one online)

PHIL 4150: *Issues in Bioethics*

Spring '18 (Directed Studies)

HNRS 4257: *The Problem of Other People*

Fall '18

Fall '19

PHIL 4200/6200: *Philosophy of Religion*

Spring '19

Fall '22

PHIL 4110/6110: *God and Morality*

Spring '20

PHIL 4972/6972 (special topics): Philosophy of Addiction Spring '21
 PHIL 6100: *Contemporary Problems in Free Will* Summer '17 (Directed Studies)
 PHIL 6900 (Individual Study): Death, Value, and Meaning Spring '24

University of Alabama, Birmingham

PHL 315: *Theories of Good and Evil* Spring '15
 PHL 116: *Bioethics* Fall '14, Spring '15 (2 sections)
 Fall '15 (3 sections),
 Spring '16 (3 sections)
 PHL 120: *Practical Reasoning* Fall '14, Spring '15
 PHL 220: *Social and Political Philosophy* Fall '14, Spring '16

Georgia State University

PHIL 1010: *Critical Thinking* 08/03-05/05 (3 sections per semester)

Courses as a Teaching Assistant

University of California, Riverside

Evil Spring '12, Winter '11, Fall '07
Introduction to Philosophy Winter '12, Spring '10
Contemporary Moral Issues Fall '11, Spring '07
Reason, Belief, and Truth Spring '11
Ethics and the Meaning of Life Winter '10, Fall '06
Law and Society Fall '10, Fall '09

Courses as a Grader and other Teaching Activity

Huntington Learning Center

SAT/ACT Test Prep Tutor/Instructor 11/08-09/09

Georgia State University

Great Questions of Philosophy Fall '02
Philosophy of Mind Spring '03

Publications (Peer Reviewed)

1. "Dueling Interveners: A Challenge to Frankfurt's Conception of Free Will and Acting Freely," *Thought: A Journal of Philosophy*, March 2012, Vol. 1, No. 1: pp. 56-61.
2. "Scheffler's "Afterlife Conjecture" is Not That Compelling: How His "Doomsday" and "Infertility" Scenarios Might Robustly Preserve Value and Meaning." *Philosophia*, June 2017, 45(2), pp. 637-646
3. "Pleasure in Others' Misfortune: Three Distinct Types of Schadenfreude Found in

Ancient, Modern, and Contemporary Philosophy.” *The Journal of Value Inquiry*, February 2021, 55(1), pp. 175-188

Journals for Which I Have Refereed

Neuroethics

Philosophia

The Journal of Value Inquiry

Completed Papers (undergoing revisions)

In Progress

“Frankfurt-Style Cases and Flickers of Freedom: Understanding How ‘Mere’ Cambridge Changes Help to Resolve the Tension.”

Presentations

Refereed Papers:

1. “Reducing the Energy Transfer Theory of Causation to the Counterfactual Theory”
Georgia State University Graduate Student Conference, Atlanta, GA, 03/05
2. “The “Afterlife Conjecture” and Malleability in Meaningful Projects: A Critique of Samuel Scheffler’s “Doomsday” and “Infertility” Scenarios”
2015 Alabama Philosophical Society conference, Pensacola, FL, 10/15
3. “How to Slander (and Otherwise Wrong) the Living After Their Death: An Argument for the Perpetual Moral Standing of the Living.”
2018 Alabama Philosophical Society conference, Pensacola, FL, 9/18
4. “Disordered Emotional Attachment and Addiction”
2020 Association of Professional and Practical Ethics, Atlanta, GA, 2/20

Invited Talks/Presentations:

1. “Buddhism and the Concept of Evil”
Invited talk given at Rock Valley College, Rockford, IL, 05/14
2. “The Many Faces of Schadenfreude”
Invited presentation given to the UAB Philosophy Club, Birmingham, AL, 04/15
3. “Moving Toward the AI Singularity: Will Our Computers Decide to Kill Us?”
Presentation given as part of the University of Alabama, Birmingham *Big Ideas* public lecture series, 11/15

4. "Pascal's Wager: Rational Justification for Believing in God?"
Teaching demonstration given at the University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL, 07/16

5. "The Afterlife Beliefs of Several Eastern and Western Religious Traditions."
Talk given as part of the Auburn University Montgomery "AUM Connected" lecture series, 2/18

6. "Do You Really want to Live Forever? Boredom, Identity, and the Desirability of Physical Immortality."
Talk given as part of the Auburn University Montgomery "AUM Connected" lecture series, 4/18

Invited Commentator:

1. 2016 APA Pacific Division: "Does Death Restriction-Harm Us?" by Eric Yang, San Francisco, CA, 03/16

University, College, Department, and Community Service

UAB

1. Served as a judge for UAB Ethics Bowl team practices (team advanced to national finals)
2. Acted as interim UAB Philosophy Club faculty sponsor/supervisor during the absence of the appointed faculty sponsor (multiple occasions)
3. Was the advisor of record for 3 undergraduate philosophy majors at UAB (majors were allowed to pick their own advisors)

AUM

1. Member of the Department of English and Philosophy Strategic Planning Committee (2019-20)
2. Philosophy Coordinator/ Coordinator of Philosophy Course Offerings
3. I have served as a peer reviewer (spring 2017, '18, '19, and '21) for the course design and teaching effectiveness of online Applied Ethics sections taught by adjunct colleagues at Auburn University at Montgomery
4. Taught, pro bono, a graduate level directed studies course (Summer 2017)
5. Selected to serve on the State of Alabama S.T.A.R.S course curriculum committee (4 year term to expire 2021)
6. Assist the AUM Quiz Bowl team and the faculty sponsor with weekly practice (2018-19 school year)

7. AUM Connected Speaker (2 talks given in the spring of 2018)
8. Appointed as Coordinator of Philosophy Classes, Department of English and Philosophy (2019)
9. Search/hiring committee member, Spring 2021, for the position of Philosophy Lecturer
10. Became a member of the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Council (reviewing budgets associated with internal grant requests)
11. Served on the Philosophy Curriculum Committee (ad hoc: to determine how to present more diverse ideas in philosophy classes, and how to measure effectiveness, work ongoing)
12. Chair of the Philosophy Courses Committee (ad hoc: eliminated courses which AUM no longer intends to offer, discussed and decided on the inclusion of certain new courses)
13. Served on the Department of English and Philosophy undergraduate scholarship committee (2023)
14. Served on the 2024 Durr Scholarship Committee (university wide) for outstanding freshman essay. (Theme: Someone who showed great courage in pursuing a moral goal.)
15. Served on the Department of English and Philosophy awards committee (2024).

Community Service

1. Member of Ethics Advisory Committee Baptist South Hospital (Montgomery, AL) (August 2018-August 2019)
2. Volunteer Judge for the National Christian Forensics and Communications Association NCFCA (2018 Regional Tournament)

Web Resources

The following are background research papers that I authored for the SPT Immortality Project website in my capacity as a research assistant. The project is funded by a 5 million dollar grant from the John Templeton Foundation for the study of the science, philosophy, and theology of immortality.

“Islamic Belief about the Afterlife”

<http://www.sptimmortalityproject.com/background/islamic-belief-about-the-afterlife/>

“Buddhist Views of the Afterlife”

<http://www.sptimmortalityproject.com/background/buddhist-views-of-the-afterlife/>

“Paths to the Afterlife in the Hindu Faith”

<http://www.sptimmortalityproject.com/background/paths-to-the-afterlife-in-the-hindu-faith/>

“Christianity and the Afterlife”

<http://www.sptimmortalityproject.com/background/christianity-and-the-afterlife/>

“The Cultural and Historical Development and Decline of Immortality in Judaism”

<http://www.sptimmortalityproject.com/background/the-cultural-and-historical-development-and-decline-of-immortality-in-judaism/>

“Three Questions for Comparing and Contrasting the Afterlife Beliefs of Six Prominent World Religions”

<http://www.sptimmortalityproject.com/background/three-questions-for-comparing-and-contrasting-the-afterlife-beliefs-of-six-prominent-world-religions/>

Annotated Bibliography (not credited on the website)

<http://www.sptimmortalityproject.com/bibliography/>

Honors/Awards

Dean’s Distinguished Fellow, University of California-Riverside, 2005-06

Invited commentator and instructor at the 2015 SPT Immortality Project Young Scholars Workshop held 05/23-5/27/15 at the University of California, Riverside. Honorarium Received.

Graduate Coursework

Georgia State University

Seminar: Metaphysics (S. Rieber, Fall ’02)

Heidegger’s *Being and Time* (H. Weberman, Fall ’02)

Philosophy of Law (A. Altman, Spring ’03)

Philosophy of Language (S. Rieber, Spring ’03)

Seminar: Epistemology (R. Almeder, Spring ’03)

Ancient Ethical Theories (T. O’Keefe, Spring ’04)

Ethics (Bell, Spring ’04)

Philosophy of Mind (S. Rieber, Spring ’04)

University of California, Riverside

Seminar: Ethics (A. Reath, Fall ’05)

Logic (E. Reck, Fall ’05)

Kant’s *Critique of Pure Reason* (P. Keller, Fall ’05)

Seminar: Philosophy of Religion (H. Wettstein/J. Fischer, Winter ’06)

*Philosophy of Mind (C. Siewert, Winter '06)
Seminar: Externalism about Mental Content (P. Graham/C. Siewert, Winter '06)
*20TH Century Analytic Philosophy (L. Wright, Spring '06)
Seminar: Modal Logic and Metaphysics (M. Nelson, Spring '06)
Seminar: Free Will and Moral Responsibility (J. Fischer, Spring '06)
*Seminar: Metaphysics (M. Nelson, Fall '06)
Seminar: Free Will and Luck (J. Fischer, Fall '06)
*Agency Workshop (G. Watson, Spring '07)
Intermediate Logic (E. Reck, Spring '07)
*Seminar: Value and Caring (A. Jaworska, Fall '09)
*Individual Coordinated Study: Weakness of Will (M. Nelson/P. Hoffman, Fall '09)
*Individual Coordinated Study: Philosophy of Addiction (P. Hoffman, Winter, '10)
*Senior Law Seminar (C. Cranor, Winter, '10)
*Individual Coordinated Study: The Legal Philosophy of Hart and Dworkin (C. Cranor, Spring, '10)
*Seminar: Impaired Agency, Caring and Responsibility (A. Jaworska, Spring '11)
(* = Taken on a pass/fail basis or audited)

Miscellanea

Passed the departmental examination in logic at Georgia State University (05/05, taken in lieu of the department's logic course)

Passed the General Examination at Georgia State University (04/04, taken in lieu of a third seminar)

Demonstrated reading proficiency in German (UCR departmental exam passed 06/11)

References

John Martin Fischer, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy: University of California, Riverside; Department of Philosophy; 1604 HMNSS Building; Riverside, CA 92521.
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Department of Philosophy; 1604 HMNSS Building; Riverside, CA 92521. 951-827-1517
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