

Matt DeStefano

Philosophy Professor

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Philosophy Professor with teaching experience across in-person, hybrid, and online formats, specializing in philosophy of mind, ethics, and religion. Passionate about inter-disciplinary approaches to classical philosophical questions. Develops engaging, research-informed courses that strengthen critical thinking and student engagement.

Employment history

AUG 2024 – PRESENT, ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR

Ottawa University, Surprise, Arizona

Courses Taught (in person and online):

- Basic Issues in Philosophy
- Ethics and Society
- Introduction to Sociology

2014 – 2025, GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT / ADJUNCT

University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

- Taught a wide variety of courses in many different modalities (in-person, hybrid, online).
- Sample courses: Philosophy and Neuroscience, Consciousness and Cognition, Philosophy of Religion
- Helped develop 'UA Online' courses for the philosophy department.

2012 – 2014, GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT

University of Missouri, St. Louis

- Served as both a teaching assistant and instructor of record for a variety of in-person courses.
- Sample courses: Business Ethics, Introduction to Philosophy, Political Philosophy

2010 – 2012, UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT

Sacramento State University

- Undergraduate Teaching Assistant for Matt McCormick's *Critical Thinking and Logic*
 - Undergraduate Teaching Assistant for *Recreation and the Good Life* multiple instructors
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Education

2014 – 2025, PHD (ABD)

University of Arizona

Note: Finished coursework, serving as adjunct but did not complete doctorate.

2012 – 2014, MA

University of Missouri, St. Louis

Thesis *The Reliability and Nature of Philosophical Intuitions*, advisors Berit Brogaard, Eric Wiland, Elizabeth Schechter.

2010 – 2012, BA

Sacramento State University

Philosophy of Science specialization.

Skills

Online Teaching (Experienced), Philosophy of Mind (Expert), Neuroscience (Experienced), Religion (Expert), Ethics (Expert), Metaphysics (Experienced), Political (Experienced)

Additional information

SAMPLE PAPERS / TALKS

- *Phenomenal Contrast Arguments and the Causal/Constitutive Distinction* (in progress, linked on site)
- (book review) *The Making of an Atheist*, *Philosophy Now* 115, (p 46)
- *Alteration in the color experience of grapheme-color synesthetes in response to grapheme contrast and brightness variance* with Rice K, Marlow K, and Brogaard B

- *God Started in 1983, Louis CK and Philosophy* (p 177-186)
- Commenting on Chad Marxen's *Empiricism and the Argument from Queerness* Coastal Ethics Conference online (Spring 2013)
- *Why is God Hiding? In Search of Evidence for a Perfect God.* UMSL Big Question Series, hosted by the Philosophers Forum (Fall 2012)
- *Peer Disagreement: The Philosopher Problem* California State University, Sacramento (Nov. 2012)

EXTENDED LIST OF COURSES TAUGHT

- Minds, Brains, Computers
- Medical Ethics
- Neuroethics
- Introduction to Philosophy
- Philosophy of Psychiatry
- Business Ethics
- Issues in Society
- Environmental Ethics
- Philosophy of Religion
- The Problem of Evil