

Curriculum Vitae
JOHN MCATEER

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EDUCATION

A.B.D., Philosophy, University of California, Riverside, (Ph.D. expected March 2010)

Dissertation: *Moral Beauty and Moral Taste From Shaftesbury to Hume* (Advisor: Andrews Reath) See dissertation abstract below. A sample chapter of my dissertation (along with other writing samples) is available on my website at www.filmphilosopher.com.

M.A., Philosophy, University of California, Riverside, 2005

M.A., Philosophy of Religion and Ethics, Biola University, *cum laude*, 2002

B.A., Communication (Radio-TV-Film emphasis), Biola University, *cum laude*, 1998

HONORS

Dean's Fellowship Award, *University of California, Riverside Grad. Division*, 2002-03

Dean's List, *Biola University*, Fall 1994 and Spring 1998

Academic Merit Scholarship, *Biola University*, 1994-1998

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Philosophical Association

American Society of Aesthetics

Society for the Philosophical Study of the Contemporary Visual Arts

Society of Christian Philosophers

The Hume Society

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

The Intersection(s) of Aesthetics and Ethics

Philosophy of Art (especially Philosophy of Film and Film Theory)

Philosophy of Religion

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

History of Modern Philosophy (17th through 20th Centuries, Analytic and Continental)

Moral Philosophy (Including Ethical Theory and History of Ethics)

Applied Ethics (Including Business, Media, Sexual, Environmental, and Bio-ethics)

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Saint Leo University Adjunct Faculty (Center for Online Learning) Fall 2009 to Present

Quest for Wisdom [Intro to Philosophy] Fall 2009 and Spring 2010

Azusa Pacific Univ. Assistant Prof. of Theology and Philosophy Fall 2007 to Spr 08

Contemporary Philosophy [19th & 20th C.] Spring 2008 and Summer 2008
Readings: Modern Phil. [17th & 18th C.] Fall 2007
Readings: Schopenhauer/Wagner/Nietzsche Spring 2008
Ethics Fall 2007
Introduction to Philosophy Spring 2007, Fall 2007, and Spring 2008
Honors Introduction to Philosophy Fall 2007
Intro to Philosophy through Film Summer 2007 and Summer 2008

Univ. of Redlands Adjunct Professor of Philosophy Fall 05 to Spring 08

17th and 18th Century Philosophy Spring 2006
Aesthetics Spring 2008
Introduction to Philosophy Fall 2005, Fall 2006, and Spring 2007

UC Riverside Associate in Philosophy (Adjunct) Winter 05 to Sum 07

Contemporary Moral Issues Summer 2005 and Summer 2006
Ethics and The Meaning of Life Fall 2005 and Winter 2006
Honors Ethics and the Meaning of Life Fall 2005
Philosophy of God Winter 2005 and Summer 2007

Biola University Lecturer (Adjunct) Fall 2005 to Fall 07

Philosophy Department

Aesthetics Fall 2006 and Fall 2007
Introduction to Philosophy Fall 2005, Spring 2006, and Spring 2007

Mass Communication Department

Adv. Stud. in Criticism: Phil. of Film Fall 2005
Adv. Stud. in Criticism: Phil. of Horror Fall 2007
Practical/Ethical Issues in Comm. Careers Fall 2007

Ashford University Online Instructor Spring 07 to Sum 08

Phil. of Human Conduct [Ethics] Spring 2007 and Summer 2008
Comparative Religion Summer 2007
Judeo-Christian Thought Fall 2007

East L.A. College Adjunct Instructor Summer 2004

Logic in Practice [Critical Thinking] Summer 2004

UC Riverside Teaching Assistant Spring 03 to Spr 06

Early Modern Philosophy [17th & 18th C.] Dr. Paul Hoffman Fall 2004
Evil Dr. Eric Schwitzgebel Winter 2006
Contemporary Moral Issues Dr. William Bracken Spring 2004
Business Ethics Jacob Affolter Winter 2004
Philosophy Through Film Dr. Howard Wettstein Spring 2003
Honors Philosophy Through Film Dr. Howard Wettstein Spring 2005
Intro to Philosophy Dr. Howard Wettstein Fall 2003
Intro to Philosophy Dr. David Glidden Spring 05 and 06

PUBLICATIONS

Review of *Compassionate Eating as Care of Creation* by Matthew C. Halteman in *Between the Species: An Online Journal for the Study of Philosophy and Animals*, Issue IX (August 2009): http://cla.calpoly.edu/bts/issue_09/09mcateer.htm

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Earl of Shaftesbury” entry for *The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*

Preparing 17th Century philosopher Ralph Cudworth’s unpublished manuscripts on moral philosophy and the metaphysics of free will for publication on the internet (in cooperation with Stephen Darwall and Richard Dees)

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Forthcoming: “‘The Gifts of God for the People of God’: Milbank’s Response to Derrida and The Gift as Communion in *Babette’s Feast*”, *Wesleyan Philosophical Society*, 2010 Annual meeting

“‘Maybe Goodness is Just Make-Believe’: Optimism, Self-Deception, and Kurosawa’s *Rashomon*”, *Society for the Philosophic Study of the Contemporary Visual Arts Group* Session at 2009 Eastern Division meeting of the American Philosophical Association.

“Animal Pain and the Community of All Creatures: Variations on a Theme in C.S. Lewis”, 2008 Conference on *C.S. Lewis, the Inklings, and the Call to Christian Community* at Azusa Pacific University

“Finding a Path out of the Darkness: Faith and Fear in *Batman Begins*”, 2007 Conference on *Faith, Film, and Philosophy* at Gonzaga University

“Comments on ‘Kant, God and Community’ by Michael Feola”, 2006 Pacific Region *Society of Christian Philosophers* Conference

Panelist [watched, analyzed, and discussed the film in front of a live audience], “Kurosawa’s *Yojimbo* and the East’s Mythic Struggle Against Western Capitalism”, *11th Annual City of Angels Film Festival*, Fall 2004

“The Moral Dimension of Film Criticism: A Survey of Recent Philosophical Thought on Art and Morality”, Fireside Chat Lecture Series, *Los Angeles Film Studies Center*, Summer 2001, and Fifth Annual Biola Media Conference, *Biola University*, Spring 2001.

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

Title: *Moral Beauty and Moral Taste From Shaftesbury to Hume*

Committee: Andrews Reath (Chair), David Glidden, and Paul Hoffman

My dissertation is a historical study which attempts to recover the classical synthesis of aesthetics and ethics as expressed in the concepts of moral beauty and moral taste. I begin by observing how the ancients saw goodness and beauty as one concept such that moral goodness was conceived as an intrinsically attractive ideal. Next I show how, at the start of the modern era, Thomas Hobbes and John Locke shifted the basis of moral motivation from internal attractiveness to the external constraints of law, thus eliminating moral beauty from their accounts. I then trace the emergence of the modern moral taste view in the Cambridge Platonists (viz., Benjamin Whichcote, Henry More, and Ralph Cudworth) and the Third Earl of Shaftesbury and argue that Francis Hutcheson's moral sense theory diverged from this tradition in important ways. Here I draw a distinction within early modern sentimentalist views between moral taste theories (which build motivation into moral judgment) and moral sense theories (which do not). Finally I show that David Hume followed Shaftesbury's moral taste theory more closely than he followed Hutcheson's moral sense theory. I conclude that Hume's account is superior to Hutcheson's insofar as the analogy with aesthetic taste emphasizes the importance of tradition, community, and intersubjective conversation whereas the analogy with sense perception appeals only to an ahistorical essentialism. Moreover Hume's account is superior to Shaftesbury's insofar as Hume's version of the moral taste doctrine is based on a naturalized account of moral beauty which does not rely on natural teleology and is therefore more accessible to us today than ancient Greek accounts.

REFERENCES

Andrews Reath

Professor of Philosophy
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Paul Hoffman

Professor of Philosophy
University of California, Riverside
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David Glidden

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University of California, Riverside
david.glidden@ucr.edu

Teri Merrick

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Azusa Pacific University
901 E. Alostia Ave.
Azusa, CA 91702-7000
(626) 815-6000, ext. 5614
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Doug Geivett

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Biola University
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La Mirada, CA 90639
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GRADUATE COURSES IN PHILOSOPHY

<i>Course</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Instructor</i>	<i>School</i>
<i>History of Philosophy</i>			
Plato	Fall 2002	David Glidden	UCR
Augustine and Aquinas on the Will	Winter 2003	Paul Hoffman	UCR
Directed Study: Montaigne & Pascal	Winter 2005	David Glidden	UCR
Descartes	Fall 2002	Paul Hoffman	UCR
Hume's Metaphysics	Spring 2004	Paul Hoffman	UCR
Reid's Philosophy of Action	Winter 2004	Paul Hoffman	UCR
Moral Theories of Hume and Kant	Winter 2004	Andrews Reath	UCR
History of Ethical Theory	Spring 2001	David Horner	Biola
Wittgenstein	Fall 2002	Howard Wettstein	UCR
<i>Moral Philosophy and Value Theory</i>			
Applied Ethical Issues	Fall 2001	Scott Rae	Biola
Ethical Eudaimonism	Fall 2001	David Horner	Biola
Robert Adams's Theistic Ethics	Spring 2003	John Martin Fischer	UCR
The Meaning of Life	Fall 2003	John Martin Fischer	UCR
Democracy	Winter 2003	Georgia Warnke	UCR
Directed Study: Free Will	Fall 2003	John Martin Fischer	UCR
Directed Study: Agency	Spring 2004	Gary Watson	UCR
Directed Study: Aesthetics	Winter 2000	Scott Rae	Biola
<i>Metaphysics and Epistemology</i>			
Metaphysics	Fall 1999	J.P. Moreland	Biola
Epistemology	Fall 1999	Garrett Deweese	Biola
Philosophy of Mind	Spring 2002	J.P. Moreland	Biola
Philosophy of Science	Fall 2000	Garrett Deweese	Biola
Philosophy of Religion	Spring 2000	Garrett Deweese	Biola
God and Time	Spring 2002	Garrett Deweese	Biola
Metaphysics of Consciousness	Spring 2002	J.P. Moreland	Biola
Skepticism and Internalism	Fall 2001	Douglas Geivett	Biola
The Basis of Skepticism	Spring 2003	Peter Graham	UCR
<i>Logic</i>			
Formal Logic	Winter 2003	Erich Reck	UCR
Metatheory of Formal Logic	Spring 2003	Erich Reck	UCR

DESCRIPTIONS OF COURSES TAUGHT

Introductory Courses

- Intro to Philosophy
 - Survey of ancient and modern philosophy from Socrates to Sartre
- Critical Thinking
- Philosophy Through Film

History Courses

- Early Modern Philosophy
 - 17th & 18th Century (Montaigne to Kant)
- Contemporary Philosophy
 - 19th & 20th Century (Hegel to Derrida, including discussions of analytic, continental, and American/pragmatist traditions)
- Schopenhauer, Wagner, and Nietzsche
 - Supervised independent study on theories of aesthetics and the meaning of life with particular reference to music, tragedy, and opera)

Ethics Courses

- Ethics
 - history of normative ethics and metaethics
- Philosophy of Human Conduct
 - normative ethics and free will / moral responsibility
- Ethics and The Meaning of Life
 - Aristotelian essentialism vs. existentialist and postmodern anti-essentialisms on the question of human flourishing (as portrayed in contemporary American cinema)
- Evil
 - *Moral psychology* of evil (including ancient Chinese theories of human nature, historical analyses of the holocaust and lynchings, and scientific studies of human and primate behavior; T.A. for Eric Schwitzgebel)
- Contemporary Moral Issues
 - I have taught or assisted three different versions of this course:
 - *Love, Sex, and Marriage* (covering Biblical, Natural Law, Libertarian, Feminist, and Queer theories of sexual relationships)
 - *Cinematic reflection* on abortion, the death penalty, and same sex marriage (using Martha Nussbaum's *Poetic Justice* as an explanation of how narrative artworks can engage in ethical reasoning)
 - *Rights, Race, Gender and Sexuality* (T.A. for William Bracken)
- Practical and Ethical Issues in Communication Careers
 - *Media ethics* (including discussions of race and gender representation, violence in pop culture, the ethics of marketing, globalization and the culture industry, etc.); also since this course was taught at a Christian college, it included discussion of *theological aesthetics* (the role of art and entertainment in religious life and thought) and the *theology of culture* (the relationship between religion and secular culture).

- Business Ethics
 - T.A. for Jacob Affolter

Aesthetics Courses

- Aesthetics
 - History of aesthetics and current debates in analytic aesthetics
- Advanced Studies in Criticism
 - I taught two versions of this course for the Mass Communication department at Biola University:
 - *Philosophy of Film* (a study of the analytic philosophy of film, AKA cognitivist film theory, covering topics such as the ontology of cinematic representations, film authorship, the role of emotion in film spectatorship, and the possibility of film as a medium for philosophizing)
 - *Philosophy of Horror* (an examination of the nature and appeal of horror from the perspectives of psychoanalytic, feminist, Marxist, and cognitivist film theories, as well as analytic philosophy and Christian theology).

Religion Courses

- Philosophy of God
 - I have taught two versions of this course (both at a public university):
 - *God and Value* (an examination of various historical and contemporary understandings of the concept of “God” and the implications the existence or nonexistence of each type of God would have for the nature of value in areas such as ethics and the meaning of life)
 - *Mysticism and Film* (an examination of the ways cinematic art might provide mystical experience of God, including discussions of philosophers such as Kant, Otto, Heidegger, and Buber and filmmakers such as Dreyer, Bresson, Bergman, Kieslowski, and Malick)
- Comparative Religion
- Judeo-Christian Thought

Sample syllabi are available on my website at www.filmphilosopher.com.