Christian Culak

Department of Humanities
Northwest Vista College
Email: cculak@alamo.edu
Site: https://philpeople.org/profiles/christian-culak

Positions

Faculty Instructor, Department of Humanities, Northwest Vista College || 2026-*present*

Lecturer, Department of Philosophy and Classics, University of Texas at San Antonio || 2026

Adjunct Faculty, Department of History, Philosophy, and Geography, Texas A&M University-San Antonio || 2025-2026

Adjunct Faculty, Department of Behavioral Sciences, Palo Alto College || 2025

Instructor of Record, Department of Philosophy, University of Missouri || 2021-2025

Teaching Assistant, Department of Philosophy, University of Missouri || 2019-2021

Adjunct Faculty, Southwest School of Art || 2019, 2021

Education

Ph.D. Philosophy, University of Missouri, 2025
M.A. Philosophy, University of Missouri, 2021
M.A. Philosophy, University of Texas at San Antonio, 2019
B.A. Philosophy, University of Texas at San Antonio, 2017
A.A. General Studies, Victoria College, 2017

Areas of Specialization

Virtue Ethics

Areas of Competence

Ethics (AI, meta-, virtue, medical, animal, environmental)
Logic (formal, informal)
Introduction to Philosophy (metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, logic)
History of Philosophy (early modern)

Publications

Culak, C. “The Suberogatory as Bad Character”, *Philosophia* 53, 583-593 (2025). https://doi.org/10.1007/s11406-025-00868-z

Dissertation Abstract

Some people are characteristically compassionate, others not. If so, is this a virtue some possess and others lack? I think so. I show this by defending a conception of compassion as a virtue and demarcating its limits. My project consists of: finding the best conception of compassion as a virtue; delineating the circumstances and extent to which being a compassionate person requires that one's compassion extends to people outside of one's narrow circle, animals, and even the environment; investigating the limits of compassion's moral justificatory power, its sensitivity, the degree to which it relies on anthropomorphization, and action.

Awards and Honors

Blog of the APA interview, Work/Life Balance series, 2026 (https://blog.apaonline.org/2026/03/27/apa-member-interview-christian-culak/)

Honoree for MU vs. Georgia Professor Appreciation Volleyball Game, 2023

Nominated for the MU College of Arts and Science "Outstanding PhD Nominees", 2023

Finalist for the Charlotte Newcombe Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship in Religion and Ethics, 2023

1st place: UTSA Department of Philosophy Graduate Student Essay Prize Competition, 2019

3rd place: Graduate research paper competition at the UTSA Spring 2019 College of Liberal and Fine Arts Conference, 2019

Admission to the Academy of Undergraduate Research Associates (University of Texas at San Antonio; honorary association), 2017

Presentations

"The Suberogatory as Bad Character". Department of Philosophy, University of Missouri, February 2025.

"Conceiving Compassion and Being Compassionate". Inaugural Mizzou Philosophy Club Meeting, University of Missouri, April 2024.

Conference Talks

"Epistemically Useful and Metaphysically Adequate Pluralist Accounts of Essentialism". ISHPSSB Biennial Meeting 2021, Zoom, July 2021.

"Dream Beliefs". Spring 2019 College of Liberal and Fine Arts Conference, University of Texas at San Antonio, March 2019.

"Communicating with Koko the Gorilla". Spring 2017 College of Liberal and Fine Arts Conference, University of Texas at San Antonio, March 2017.

Teaching Certifications

Teaching Neurodiverse Students (EdX: TEFL Org), 2026
Mental Health First Aid Certification (National Council for Mental Wellbeing), 2025
Teaching and Learning in the Era of AI Certification (EdX: AlaskaX), 2025
Equity and Inclusion in Education Certification (EdX: SDGAcademy), 2024
Teaching and Learning in the Diverse Classroom Certification (EdX: Cornell U.), 2023
Online Teaching Certification (University of Missouri), 2021

Teaching Courses

Creating an Inclusive and Supporting Learning Environment (ACUE), Fall 2025

Teaching Workshops

At Texas A&M University-San Antonio

Mental Health First Aid Training: September 26, 2025

At the University of Missouri

Increasing Student Engagement: February 5, 2025
Towards a Process-Based Pedagogy: January 31, 2025
Introduction to Game-Based Learning: September 6, 2024
Disability Accommodations and You!: August 21, 2024
Interpreting Student Feedback Data to Improve Teaching: January 29, 2024
GenAI Tools: ChatGPT, Bing Chat, Google Bard: January 25, 2024
Inclusive Syllabus and Course Design: November 09, 2023
Teaching in the Age of ChatGPT: September 19, 2023
Student Engagement Workshop: September 18, 2023
Dimensions of Inclusive Teaching: September 18, 2023

Teaching Experience (*taught online)

At Northwest Vista College

Introduction to Philosophy: F2026, SP2027
Introduction to Logic: F2026, SP2027

At the University of Texas at San Antonio

Introductory Logic: SS2026 (UT San Antonio Institute for Law and Public Affairs)
Critical Thinking: SP2026
Early Modern Philosophy: SP2026

At Texas A&M University-San Antonio

Introduction to Philosophy: SP2026, *F2025 (one class in-person, one online)

At Palo Alto College

Introduction to Ethics: F2025

At the University of Missouri

Logic and Reasoning for Everyday Life: SP2025, SP2024, F2021
Introduction to Philosophy: SP2025, SP2023, SP2022, F2021, *SP2021, *F2020, F2019
Introduction to Ethics: F2024, *SS2024, F2022
Introductory Bioethics: F2023
Medical Ethics: *S2020 (first half in-person, second half online)

At Southwest School of Art

Introduction to Philosophy: *SP2021, SP2019

Guest Lectures (University of Texas at San Antonio)

Introduction to Linguistics: March 2, 2018
Instructor: Michael Rushforth

Philosophy of Death: November 6, 2017
Instructor: Oak Deberg

Professional Memberships

American Philosophical Association (member since 2023)

Professional Development

Northwest Vista College

ACD Employee Development Day (10/31/26)

ACD New Faculty Institute (9/11/26; 10/9/26)

Service

Northwest Vista College

Faculty Advisor, *NVC Underground Metal Club*: F2026-*present*

Guide/Supplier, *NVC Wildcat Welcome Days*: F2026

University of Missouri

Mentor, *Minorities and Philosophy* chapter at the University of Missouri: SP2025, F2024

Informal mentor for international graduate students in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Missouri: F2023, F2022, F2021

Announcer, 2017 Brackenridge Symposium, University of Texas at San Antonio: F2017

References

Robert Johnson – Department of Philosophy, University of Missouri
Email: johnsonrn@missouri.edu

Paul Weirich – Department of Philosophy (Emeritus), University of Missouri
Email: weirichp@missouri.edu

Marta Heckel – Department of Philosophy, University of Missouri
Email: heckelma@missouri.edu

Last updated: October 31st, 2026