

Troy Polidori

Wingate University
Department of Religion and Philosophy
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Research Interests

Areas of Specialization: Normative Ethics, Value Theory, Social and Political Philosophy
Areas of Competence: Applied Ethics, Philosophy of Mind, Analytic/Continental Divide, Post-Kantian Philosophy

Appointments

2025 - present Visiting Assistant Professor, Philosophy
Wingate University

Education

2019 – 2025 PhD, Philosophy
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Dissertation Committee:
 Jon Garthoff (chair)
 Adam Cureton
 Kristina Gehrman
 Dawn Coleman
Dissertation title: *A Sacred Outrage: On Tragedy and Morality*
Summary: I provide an account of tragedy as a phenomenon in practical life broadly construed. Tragedy does not fundamentally consist in the irresolvable conflict of values (moral or otherwise), but in the inhospitality of the world to what matters. I argue that this account reorients our understanding of the tragic aspect of moral dilemmas in a way that makes sense of how moral obligations can hold in tragic circumstances. It also illuminates the characteristic phenomenology associated with the experience of tragedy.

2017 - 2019 MA, Philosophy
California State University, Los Angeles

2008 - 2009 MTh, Theology and Religious Studies
University of Aberdeen

2004 – 2008 BA, Biblical Studies
The Master's College

Teaching

University of Tennessee

- 2022-2025 Graduate Teaching Associate (Primary Instructor)
Contemporary Moral Problems
- 2021-2022 Graduate Teaching Assistant
Professional Responsibility (Ryan Windeknecht)
- 2021 Graduate Teaching Associate (Primary Instructor)
Intro to Philosophy
- 2019-2020 Graduate Teaching Assistant
Intro to Philosophy (Kristina Gehrman)
Contemporary Moral Problems (Adam Cureton)

Antelope Valley College

- 2016-2018 Instructor
Intro to Philosophy
World Religions
Philosophy of Religion

College of the Canyons

- 2013-2018 Instructor
Intro to Philosophy
Critical Reasoning

Papers

- “Tragedy and Moral Theory” (in preparation)
- “Tragedy as an Independent Real-World Phenomenon,” *The Interdisciplinary Journal of Human and Social Studies* Vol. 2.3 (2023), 15-25.
- “Persistent Beliefs,” *Philosophy in Practice* Vol. 12 (2018), 1-15.

Presentations

- “The Beauty of Tragedy”
Delivered at the Ereignis Aesth/Ethics: Hospitality in Art and Society Conference (2025)
- “The Beauty of Tragedy”
Delivered at the UTK Epistemology/Ethics Writing Group (2025)
- “The Variations of Moral Tragedy”
Delivered at the UTK Epistemology/Ethics Writing Group (2024)
- “The Domains of Tragedy”

Delivered at the UTK Epistemology/Ethics Writing Group (2024)

“Tragedy as an Independent Real-World Phenomenon”

Delivered at the Tennessee Philosophical Association Conference (2023)

Delivered at the UTK Epistemology/Ethics Writing Group (2023)

Commentary on Brian Ribeiro, “A Sorites Paradox for Personal Identity”

Delivered at the annual Tennessee Philosophical Association Conference (2023)

Book Reviews

Review of *Ricoeur on Time and Narrative: An Introduction to Temps Et Recit*, by William C. Dowling (University of Notre Dame Press '11), *The Heythrop Journal* 56.6 (2015), 1071-1072.

Review of *Philosophical Hermeneutics Reinterpreted: Dialogues with Existentialism, Pragmatism, Critical Theory and Postmodernism*, by Paul Fairfield (Continuum '11), *The Heythrop Journal* 55.4 (2014), 745-746.

Review of *After the Postsecular and the Postmodern: New Essays in Continental Philosophy of Religion*, ed. by A. Smith & D. Whistler (Cambridge Scholars Pr. '10), *The Heythrop Journal* 54.2 (2013), 338-339.

Review of *A Genealogy of Marion's Philosophy of Religion: Apparent Darkness*, by Tamsin Jones (Indiana UP '11), *The Heythrop Journal* 54.2 (2013), 335-336.

Awards

2024-25 Yates Dissertation Fellowship
University of Tennessee

2024 Prados Summer Dissertation Fellowship
University of Tennessee

2024 Richard Aquila Essay Prize for “Tragedy as an Independent Real-World Phenomenon”
University of Tennessee

2023 John Hardwig Teaching Prize
University of Tennessee

2021 Richard Aquila Essay Prize Runner-Up for “Three Formulations of the Highest Good”
University of Tennessee

2019-2023 Graduate Excellence Fellowship
University of Tennessee

2019 J. Wallace and Katie Dean Graduate Fellowship
University of Tennessee

2018 Alfred B. Glathe Award & Scholarship

Service

- 2024 Judge
NCFCA Speech & Debate Tournament
- 2022 PGSA President, Conference Organizer
UTK Philosophy Graduate Student Association
- 2020-2023 Conference Committee Member
UTK Philosophy Graduate Student Association
- 2020-2025 Judge
Tennessee High School Ethics Bowl

Graduate Coursework***University of Tennessee***

- The Nature and Value of Thought* (Jon Garthoff, audited)
Marx (Richard Eldridge, audited)
Meaning and Morality (Jon Garthoff)
Naming and Necessity (Jon Garthoff)
Environmental Ethics (John Nolt)
Epistemic Dimensions of Agency (EJ Coffman)
The History of the Idea of Nature (Kristina Gehrman)
Obligation, Judgment, and Character (Jon Garthoff)
Kant (Richard Edlrdige)
Hegel (Richard Edlrdige)
Quine, Chomsky, Davidson (Richard Edlrdige, audited)
The Nature and Value of Consciousness (Jon Garthoff)

California State University, Los Angeles

- Existentialism* (Michael Shim)
Philosophy of Mind: The Quality of Thought (David Pitt)
Metaphysics: Intimacy, Gender, and Personhood (Talia Bettcher)
Ethics (Richard Dean)
Metaphysics (David Pitt)
Advanced Philosophical Writing, Journal Editing and Production (Michael Shim)
Bioethics (Richard Dean)
Philosophy of Mind (David Pitt)
Symbolic Logic (Mark Balaguer)
Philosophy of Language (David Pitt)
Kant's Ethics (Richard Dean)

References

University of Tennessee

Dr. Jonathan Garthoff, Director of Graduate Studies, Philosophy (garthoff@utk.edu)

Dr. Kristina Gehrman, Faculty, Philosophy (kgehrma1@utk.edu)

Dr. Richard Eldridge, Emeritus, Philosophy (reldrid8@utk.edu)

California State University, Los Angeles

Dr. David Pitt, Department Chair, Philosophy (dpitt@calstatela.edu)

Dr. Richard Dean, Faculty, Philosophy (rdean@calstatela.edu)