

## Christian Culak

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Department of Philosophy  
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### Positions

Faculty Instructor, Department of Humanities and Government, 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

1<sup>st</sup> place: UTSA Department of Philosophy Graduate Student Essay Prize Competition, 2019

3<sup>rd</sup> 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  
Introduction to Logic: F2026

### **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)

### **Service**

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](mailto:johnsonrn@missouri.edu)

Paul Weirich – Department of Philosophy (Emeritus), University of Missouri

Email: [weirichp@missouri.edu](mailto:weirichp@missouri.edu)

Marta Heckel – Department of Philosophy, University of Missouri  
Email: [heckelma@missouri.edu](mailto:heckelma@missouri.edu)

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