

# William L. Bell

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

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**Assistant Professor of Philosophy**, Northwest Missouri State University (beginning Fall 2026)

## EDUCATION

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**Ph.D.**, Philosophy, Washington University in St. Louis, 2024

**M.A.**, Philosophy, University of Missouri–St. Louis, 2016

**M.Div.**, Research Ministry Concentration, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, 2013

**B.A.**, Biblical Studies (minors in Philosophy and Biblical Languages), Southwest Baptist University, 2009

## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION AND COMPETENCE

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**Areas of Specialization:** Political Philosophy; Applied Ethics; Normative Ethics

**Areas of Competence:** Well-being; Bioethics; Philosophy of Religion

## PUBLICATIONS

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\* = *invited contribution*

(2026) “Defensive Desert.” *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 52(2): 105–115.

(2026) with Graham Renz. “In Defense of Natural Religion.” *Religious Studies* 62(1): 107–120.

\*(2025) with Christopher Heath Wellman. “Natural Duty Accounts of Political Obligation.” In George Klosko (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Political Obligation*.

\*(2024) with Christopher Heath Wellman. “The Rights Forfeiture Theory of Punishment.” In Jesper Ryberg (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Punishment Theory and Philosophy* (Oxford: Oxford University Press): 113–126.

(2024) “Prison Violence as Punishment.” *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 27(4): 541–553.

(2024) “Rights Reclamation.” *Philosophical Studies* 181: 835–858.

(2024) with Graham Renz. “Why There is No Obligation to Love God.” *Religious Studies* 60: 77–88.

(2020) “God Hidden from God: On Theodicy, Dereliction, and Human Suffering.” *The International Journal for Philosophy of Religion* 88(1): 41–55.

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

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“Punishment, Forgiveness, and Pardon” with Graham Renz (Under Review)

“The Standing to Punish” (Under Review)

## PRESENTATIONS AND COMMENTS (SELECTED)

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“Punishment, Forgiveness, and Pardon.” Rutgers Analytic Theology Conference, June 2025.

“Punishment, Forgiveness, and Pardon.” Toronto Philosophy of Religion Conference, December 2024.

Comments on Irene Bosco's "Standingless Blame and Unfitting Blame." American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting, February 2024.

"Prison Violence as Punishment." Indiana Philosophical Association Fall Meeting, December 2023.

Comments on Chad Flander's "Compelling Interests and Compelled Speech." WUSTL Workshop in Politics, Ethics, and Society, October 2023.

"Substituting Forfeitures." American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, April 2023.

"Defensive Injuries and the Prorating of Punishment." WUSTL Workshop in Politics, Ethics, and Society, October 2022.

Comments on Cristian Pérez Muñoz's "Should People Experiencing Homelessness be Forced to Stay in Shelters?" WUSTL Workshop in Politics, Ethics, and Society, April 2022.

Comments on Alexandra Romanyshyn's "A Disability-Informed Account of Identity: Relationships, Racism, and Constructing Identities with Care." American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting, February 2022.

"Rights Reclamation." Indiana Philosophical Association Fall Meeting, November 2021.

"Rights Reclamation." UMSL Works in Progress Colloquium, March 2021.

Comments on Gregory Yanke's "The Resurrection of Satisficing?: Returning the Zombie to the Grave." American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting, February 2020.

"Psychology and the Eleatic Principle: A Critique of Adams's Fragmentary Virtues." Central States Philosophy Association Annual Meeting, October 2019.

"Loneliness as Social Disattunement." American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, April 2019.

"Loneliness as Social Disattunement." Tennessee Philosophical Association Annual Conference, Vanderbilt University, October 2017.

"Loneliness as Social Disattunement." 11th Annual Northern Graduate Philosophy Conference, Northern Illinois University, October 2017.

"God Hidden from God." Ohio Philosophical Association Annual Meeting, Ohio Northern University, April 2017.

"Expressivism as Quasi-defeasible Internalism." Kentucky Philosophical Association Annual Meeting, Eastern Kentucky University, March 2017.

Comments on Joshua Anderson's "An Investigation of Community." Kentucky Philosophical Association Annual Meeting, Eastern Kentucky University, March 2017.

"God Hidden from God." Evangelical Philosophical Society Midwest Regional Meeting, Wheaton College, March 2017.

"Expressivism as Quasi-defeasible Internalism." American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting, March 2017.

Comments on Nick Cosgrove's "Situationism and Fragmentary Virtues: Why Adams's Account Falls to Pieces." UMSL Gateway Graduate Conference, March 2015.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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*As Primary Instructor*

**The University of Health Sciences and Pharmacy in St. Louis**

Ethics

**Maryville University**

Introduction to Philosophy (3×)

Introduction to Ethics (3×)

**Washington University in St. Louis**

Biomedical Ethics (5×)

Present Moral Problems (4×)

Business Ethics (3×)

Happiness and the Meaning of Life

Philosophy of Law (2×)

**Jefferson Community College**

Introduction to Philosophy

Ethics

**Ashford University**

Introduction to Ethics

Informal Logic

**University of Missouri–St. Louis**

Present Moral Problems

Philosophy of Love

Happiness and the Meaning of Life

**Trinity International University**

Introduction to Philosophy

*As Teaching Assistant*

**Washington University in St. Louis**

Present Moral Problems

Biomedical Ethics

Social and Political Philosophy

Great Philosophers

**University of Missouri–St. Louis**

Asian Philosophy

Introduction to Philosophy

Introduction to Moral Theory

Bioethics

Philosophy of Love

**Trinity International University**

Introduction to Philosophy

History of Western Thought II

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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Session Chair, American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting, 2026

Session Chair, American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting, 2024  
Session Chair, American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting, 2022  
Graduate Peer Mentor, Washington University in St. Louis, 2020–2022  
Organizer, 11th UMSL Gateway Graduate Conference, 2016  
Session Chair, 11th UMSL Gateway Graduate Conference, 2016  
Vice President, Philosopher’s Forum, University of Missouri–St. Louis, 2015–2016  
Coordinator Assistant, UMSL Secondary Education Philosophical Outreach Program, 2015–2016

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

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Graduate Paper Prize, Indiana Philosophical Association, 2023 (best paper by a graduate student; \$100)  
Helen Stenner Memorial Essay Prize, Washington University in St. Louis, 2022 (best graduate student essay; \$1,000)  
Helen Stenner Memorial Essay Prize, Washington University in St. Louis, 2021 (best graduate student essay; \$1,000)  
Outstanding Graduate Student Award, University of Missouri–St. Louis, 2015  
Full Tuition Remission, University of Missouri–St. Louis, 2014–2016  
Carl F. H. Henry Scholarship, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, 2010–2013  
Golden Gate Leadership Award (for outstanding scholarship), Southwest Baptist University, 2009  
Presidential Excellence Scholarship, Southwest Baptist University, 2005–2009

## **REFERENCES**

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**Kit Wellman**, Professor of Philosophy, Washington University in St. Louis. [kwellman@wustl.edu](mailto:kwellman@wustl.edu)  
**Julia Driver**, Professor of Philosophy, University of Texas at Austin. [julia.driver@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:julia.driver@austin.utexas.edu)  
**Anne Margaret Baxley**, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Washington University in St. Louis. [abaxley@wustl.edu](mailto:abaxley@wustl.edu)  
**Lori Watson**, Professor of Philosophy, Washington University in St. Louis. [plwatson@wustl.edu](mailto:plwatson@wustl.edu)  
**Anne Baril** (Teaching Reference), Lecturer in Philosophy, Washington University in St. Louis. [anne.m.baril@wustl.edu](mailto:anne.m.baril@wustl.edu)