

Curriculum Vitae
Brooks A. Sommerville

Education

Ph.D. in Philosophy, January 2014, University of Toronto
Supervisor: Rachel Barney; Readers: Jennifer Whiting, Philip Clark
Internal Examiner: Brad Inwood
External Examiner: Raphael Woolf
Dissertation Title: 'Plato, the Hedonist?'

MSc. in the History of Philosophy, September 2002, University of Edinburgh; First Class Hons
Supervisor: Peter Kail
Dissertation Title: 'Hume's Fork and the Analytic/Synthetic Distinction'

BA in Humanities, September 2001, Carleton University; Hons

Employment

2024-present: Visiting Assistant Professor, United States Military Academy at West Point
2023: Visiting Faculty Fellow, University of Florida
2018-2022: Assistant Professor Without Review, University of British Columbia
2018: Lecturer, University of Pennsylvania
2016-2018: Visiting Assistant Professor, Haverford College
2012-2016: Visiting Assistant Professor, Colgate University
2010-2011: Faculty Lecturer, McGill University
2007-2008; 2012-2014 (Summer Sessions): Primary Instructor, University of Toronto

Area of Specialization: Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy

Areas of Competence: Early Modern Philosophy, Environmental Ethics, Philosophy of Death

Publications

"A Kantian Case against Sensitivity Readers", in *Public Affairs Quarterly* 39.1 (2025): 43-65.

Review of Hallvard Fossheim, Vigdis Songe-Møller, and Knut Ågotnes, *Philosophy as Drama: Plato's Thinking Through Dialogue* (New York: Bloomsbury, 2019), for *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, published August 2020.

"Attitudinal Pleasure in Plato's *Philebus*", in *Phronesis* 64.3 (2019): 247-276.

"Sophistry and the Promethean Crafts in Plato's *Protagoras*", in *Classical Quarterly* 69.1 (2019): 126-146.

"Pleasure and the Divided Soul in Plato's *Republic* Book IX", in *Classical Quarterly* 69.1 (2019): 147-166.

"The Image of the Jars in Plato's *Gorgias*", in *Ancient Philosophy* 34.2 (2014): 235-254.

"Force and Vivacity in Hume", in *Philosophical Writings* 22 (2003): 39-54.

Works Submitted

A paper on Plato's *Republic* (title removed for anonymity; in revision)

Works in Progress

"Protagoras' Theory of Punishment"

"Poetic Interpretation in Plato's *Protagoras*"

Presentations, Commentaries, and Podcasts

Interview with Clay Greene, "English Poetry and Literary Criticism with Clay Greene," *Who Needs Western Civ?* podcast, May 6, 2024

Conversation with Clay Greene and Allen Porter, "Plato, Democracy, and Political Science," *Who Needs Western Civ?* podcast, December 18, 2023

Interview with Clay Greene, "Understanding the Ancients," *Who Needs Western Civ?* podcast, November 6, 2023

"A Protagorean Theory of Human Nature?" University of Cape Town (remotely), August 2023

"What Are the Features of an Ethical Decision?" Memorial University of Newfoundland (remotely), May 2020

"How to Get Refuted in Five Easy Steps," Central College, February 2020

Comments on "Protagoreanism in the *Protagoras*" by Eric Brown, 12th Annual West Coast Plato Workshop, San Diego State University, May 2019

Comments on "Socrates and Eudaimonia in the *Euthydemus* and *Meno*" by Iakovos Vasiliou, 18th Annual Meeting of the Ancient Philosophy Society, Emory University, April 2018

"Sophistry and the Promethean Crafts in Plato's *Protagoras*," Virtue, Skill, and Practical Reason, University of Cape Town, August 2017

Comments on "Till Death Do Me Part" by Karl Ekendahl, International Association for the Philosophy of Death & Dying, Syracuse University, May 2016

"*Akrasia* in Plato's *Protagoras*", Department of Philosophy, Haverford College, April 2016

"Pleasure and Happiness in *Republic IX*", Workshop in Ancient Philosophy, Colgate University, May 2014

"Aristotle on Unqualified *Akrasia* and the Pleasures of Touch", Workshop on Aristotle's Ethics, University of Toronto, March 2011

"Plato on Pleasure", Philosophy Colloquium, University of Victoria, February 2010

“Kant on the Unauthorized Publication of Books”, 53rd Annual Congress of the Canadian Philosophical Association, Carleton University, May 2009

Comments on “Editing the Book of the Soul” by Karel Thein, *Time and Consciousness in Philebus* and Related Texts, University of Toronto, March 2009

“What’s So Funny About Being Overcome By Pleasure?: *Protagoras* 352a-358d”, 31st Texas Workshop in Ancient Philosophy, Texas A & M, April 2008

Comments on “What Kind of Mistake Does the Akratic Make?” by Paula Gottlieb, *Aristotle on Knowledge and Akrasia*, University of Toronto, May 2006

“Fear of Sin in Thomas Aquinas”, Graduate Symposium: Religion and the Forbidden, Centre for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto, April 2005

Languages: English, French (fluent), Greek and German (reading knowledge)

Awards

Colgate University Torch Medal, 2015

Ontario Graduate Scholarship, 2006

Canadian Graduate Scholarship, from 2005 for three years (\$35,000 p/a)

Overseas Research Student Award, UK, 2003 (declined)

Senate Medal for Academic Achievement, Carleton University, 2001

Lester Bowles Pearson Scholarship, Carleton University, 2000

Francis C. C. Lynch Scholarship, Carleton University, 1999

Teaching Experience:

At the University of Florida

IDH2930 (Un)Common Read: The Philosophy of David Hume, Fall 2023

PHH 3610: Happiness & Well-Being, Spring 2023

At the University of British Columbia

PHIL 315: Philosophy in the 18th Century, Winter 2022

PHIL 311: The Philosophy of Aristotle, Winter 2019; Winter 2020; Winter 2021; Winter 2022

PHIL 335: Power & Oppression, Fall 2021

PHIL 310: The Philosophy of Plato, Fall 2018; Fall 2019; Fall 2020; Fall 2021

PHIL 212/CLST 212: Aristotle & After, Winter 2019; Winter 2021

PHIL 102: Introduction to Philosophy, Winter 2020

PHIL 235: Contemporary Moral Issues, Fall 2019; Fall 2020

PHIL 491 (Seminar for Philosophy Majors): Life & Death, Fall 2018

At the University of Pennsylvania

PHIL 003: Ancient Philosophy, Spring 2018

At Haverford College:

PHIL 102: Modern Theories of Consciousness, Fall 2016; Spring 2017; Fall 2017; Spring 2018
PHIL 212: Aristotle, Spring 2018
PHIL 118: Life & Death, Fall 2017
PHIL 222: Early Modern British Philosophy, Spring 2017
PHIL 210: Plato's *Protagoras*, Fall 2016
PHIL 311: Hedonism, Fall 2016

Extracurricular Teaching:

PHIL 399: Senior Thesis Seminar, Second Faculty Reader, Spring 2018

At Colgate University

PHIL 111A: Ethics, Spring 2013; Fall 2013; Spring 2015; Fall 2015; Spring 2016
PHIL 202AX: Environmental Ethics, Fall 2014; Spring 2016
PHIL 301A: Ancient Philosophy, Fall 2012; Spring 2013; Fall 2014; Spring 2015
PHIL 348A: Life & Death, Spring 2015
PHIL 101A: Introduction to Philosophy, Fall 2012; Spring 2013; Fall 2013; Spring 2014
PHIL 418A: Seminar in Ethics: Life & Death, Spring 2014

Extracurricular Teaching:

- Reader for successful honors thesis defense: Myles Coen, "Queer Supervenience: A Criticism of Non-reductive Moral Naturalism", May 2016
- Supervised successful honors thesis: Hannah Putnam, "Test Cases in Personal Identity", Spring 2015
- Reader for successful honors thesis defense: Charlotte Goodman, "Stoic Emotions and Contemporary Cognitive Accounts", Spring 2014

At McGill University

PHIL 345 Greek Political Theory, Spring 2010; Spring 2011
PHIL 452 Later Greek Philosophy, Spring 2011
PHIL 454 Ancient Moral Theory, Spring 2010

At the University of Toronto

PHL 210F: 17th & 18th Century Philosophy, Summer 2014
PHL 382: Death & Dying, Summer 2013
PHL 201: Introductory Philosophy, Summer 2013
PHL 200Y: Ancient Philosophy, Fall 2007; Fall 2008; Summer 2012

Teaching Assistant (all at the University of Toronto; asterisk indicates tutorial leader)

PHL 382: Death & Dying, Summer 2011
PHL 201: Introductory Philosophy, Summer 2010
*PHL A11: Introduction to Ethics, Spring 2009
PHL 202: Introduction to Ancient Philosophy, Spring 2009
PHL 243: Philosophy of Sexuality, Summer 2008
PHL 304: Aristotle, Summer 2007

Service

Co-Organizer, UBC Philosophy Department's 'Imagine Day,' 2019-2020
Philosophy Work-In-Progress Seminar Coordinator, University of British Columbia, 2018-2020
Faculty Advisor, Colgate Ethics Bowl Team 2012-2016 (2012 Northeast Regional Champions)
Co-Chair, University of Toronto Graduate Philosophy Conference 2008

Graduate Coursework (all for credit)

Plato's Moral Psychology, Rachel Barney
Kant's Philosophy of Right, Arthur Ripstein
Laws of Nature, Anjan Chakravartty
Hume, Donald Ainslie
Akrasia in Aristotle and Medieval Commentators, Jennifer Whiting & Martin Pickavé
Moral Responsibility, Sophia Moreau
Freedom of Expression, Wayne Sumner
Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*, Margaret Morrison
Universals and Particulars in Aristotle, Jennifer Whiting
Jewish Philosophy, Kenneth Green
Medieval Theories of the Emotions, Peter King
Topics in Ethics, Phil Clark

Greek Reading Courses:

Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* Book I, Brad Inwood; Plato's *Phaedo*, Brad Inwood

Research Assistantships:

2010, Rachel Barney (University of Toronto): Assisted in reviewing Greek passages for manuscript *Ring-Composition in Plato: the Case of Republic X*

References:

Research:

Rachel Barney
Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto
170 St. George St., Room 426, Toronto, ON M5R 2M8
(416) 978-8513
rachel.barney@utoronto.ca

Jennifer Whiting
Department of Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh
1028-G Cathedral of Learning, Pittsburgh, PA 15260
(412) 624-5783
whitingj@pitt.edu

Raphael Woolf
Department of Philosophy, King's College London
Strand, Room 712, London, UK WC2R 2LS
+44 (0)20 7848 7215
raphael.g.woolf@kcl.ac.uk

Teaching:

William Inboden (Director/Professor)
Hamilton Center, University of Florida
CSE E536, Gainesville FL 32611
(352) 273-3040
inbodenw@ufl.edu

Sylvia Berryman (Professor)
Department of Philosophy, University of British Columbia
1866 Main Mall, Buchanan E370
Vancouver, BC V6T1Z1 Canada
sylvia.berryman@ubc.ca

Edward Witherspoon (Department Chair)
Department of Philosophy, Colgate University
13 Oak Dr., Room 205, Hascall Hall, Hamilton, NY 13346
(315) 228-7794
ewitherspoon@colgate.edu

Joel Yurdin (Department Chair)
Department of Philosophy, Haverford College
370 Lancaster Ave., Hall 9C, Haverford, PA 19041
(610) 795-6486
jyurdin@haverford.edu

PLEASE SEND ALL REQUESTS FOR CONFIDENTIAL LETTERS TO:
brooks.sommerville@gmail.com