

# Phillip W. Schoenberg

Humanities Department  
Western New Mexico University  
Po Box 680 / 1000 West College Ave  
Silver City, NM 88062  
831.682.5605 • Phillip.Schoenberg@wnmu.edu

---

## *Areas of Specialization:*

Ralph Waldo Emerson & Transcendentalism; Modernity & Secularity, Existentialism, History of Philosophy

## *Areas of Competence:*

Environmental Philosophy; Ethics & Sustainability; Classical Greek Philosophy; English Composition; Logic

## *Education*

**PhD, Philosophy**, (with distinction), 2016, The University of New Mexico,  
Dissertation Title: *Transcendence and Transformation: Charles Taylor and the Promise of Inclusive Humanism in a Secular Age*  
Co-advisor: Russell B. Goodman  
Co-advisor: Iain Thomson  
**MA, Philosophy**, 2006, San José State University  
**BA, Philosophy**, 2004, San José State University

## *Academic Appointments:*

**Professor of Philosophy & English**, Western New Mexico University, May 2025 - present  
**Associate Professor of Philosophy & English**, Western New Mexico University, May 2021 – May 2025  
**Assistant Professor of Philosophy & English**, Western New Mexico University,  
May 2017- May 2021  
**Adjunct Lecturer**, The University of New Mexico, June 2011 – May 2017  
**Teaching Fellow**, The University of New Mexico, August 2007 -- May 2011  
**Adjunct Lecturer**, Central New Mexico Community College, August 2007 – 2017  
**Adjunct Lecturer**, San José State University, August 2006 – May 2007  
**Teaching Fellow**, San José State University, August 2004 -- May 2006

## *Administrative Appointments:*

**Department Chair, Humanities**, Western New Mexico University, August 2025-present  
**Director of Student Research & Professional Development**, Western New Mexico University, August  
2021 - June 2024  
**Director of the Millennium III Honors Program**, Western New Mexico University,  
August 2018 - May 2024

## *Courses Taught*

### **Western New Mexico University:**

*Graduate*  
*Medieval Philosophy*  
*Critical Thinking for Teachers*  
*American Philosophy*  
*Environmental Ethics*  
*Ancient Philosophy*

*Seminar: Wilderness in a Technological Age*  
*Seminar: Morality and Modernity: Charles Taylor*  
*Seminar: Plato and Platonism*  
*Modern Philosophy*  
*Philosophy of Communication*  
*Moral Theory*

*Philosophy as a Way of Life*  
*Directed Study: Pedagogy in Philosophy*

*Seminar: Charles Taylor's A Secular Age*  
*Directed Study: Educational Research in Philosophy*

**Upper Division**

*Wilderness in a Technological Age*  
*Environmental Ethics*  
*Recent Philosophy*  
*Modern Philosophy*  
*Ancient Philosophy*  
*History of Philosophy I: Thales to Plotinus*  
*Moral Theory*

*Directed Study: Philosophy of Religion*  
*Directed Study: Emerson and Hellenistic Philosophy*  
*Directed Study: Heidegger's Being and Time*  
*(Division I)*  
*Directed Study: Sustainability and the Future of*  
*Humanity*  
*Seminar on A Secular Age*

**Lower Division**

*Comparative World Religions*  
*Freshman Humanities Survey (Applied Liberal Arts)*  
*Freshman Humanities Survey (Honors)*  
*Introduction to Philosophy*  
*Introduction to Philosophy (Honors)*  
*English Composition & Rhetoric I*  
*English Composition & Rhetoric II*

*English Composition & Rhetoric II (Honors)*  
*Ethics & Sustainability*  
*Directed Study: Ethics of Aristotle*  
*Directed Study: Emerson as Philosopher*  
*Directed Study: Business Ethics*  
*Directed Study: Logic & Critical Reasoning*  
*Directed Study: Ethics of Hunting*

**The University of New Mexico:**

**Upper Division**

*Ethical Theory*  
*Religion and Literature*  
*Ralph Waldo Emerson (Senior Seminar)*

**Lower Division**

*Introduction to Philosophy*  
*Reasoning and Critical Thinking*

*Professional Ethics*  
*Greek Philosophy*

**Central New Mexico Community College:**

*Ethics in Society*  
*Introduction to Philosophy*  
*Environmental Ethics*

*Biomedical Ethics*  
*Critical Thinking*

**San José State University:**

*Business and Professional Ethics*  
*Introduction to Philosophy*  
*Logic & Critical Thinking*

*History of Modern Philosophy*  
*Moral Issues*

## **Research & Publication**

### **Books**

*Our Search for Meaning: A Humanistic Anthology for Applied Liberal Arts and Sciences*, Katherine Oubre and Phillip Schoenberg, Eds., Mimbres Press, Silver City, NM (2021).

### **Peer-reviewed Articles**

"Varieties of Humanism in a Secular Age: Charles Taylor's Pluralism and the Promise of Inclusive Humanism," *Annals of Philosophy / Roczniki Filozoficzne*, vol. LXIV, no. 4, (December, 2016): 169-199.

### **Book Reviews**

Review of Susanne Claxton, Patricia Glazebrook, eds., *Heidegger, Dasein and Gender: Thinking the Unthought. Environmental Values*, forthcoming 2026.

Review of Ulf Schulenberg, *Humanism, Anti-Authoritarianism, and Literary Aesthetics: Pragmatist Stories of Progress. William James Studies*, forthcoming 2026.

Review of Charles Taylor, *Cosmic Connections: Poetry in an Age of Disenchantment. Philosophy in Review*, forthcoming 2026.

Review of Susan L. Dunston, *Emerson and Environmental Ethics. Philosophy in Review*, 41, no. 2, (May 2021): 62-64.

Review of Susanne Claxton, *Heidegger's Gods: An Ecofeminist Perspective. Philosophy in Review*, 38, no. 2, (May 2018): 49-51.

Review of Douglas Hedley, *The Iconic Imagination. Philosophy In Review*, 37, no. 1, (February 2017): 14-16.

Review of Ryan Coyne, *Heidegger's Confessions: The Remains of Saint Augustine in Being and Time and Beyond. Augustinian Studies*, 47, no. 2, (September 2016): 243-246.

Review of Carl B. Sachs, *Intentionality and the Myths of the Given: Between Pragmatism and Phenomenology. Philosophy In Review*, 35, no. 6, (December 2015): 310-312.

### **Invited Blog Posts**

["Philosophy as a Way of Life Lives on in Denver,"](#) *Philosophy as a Way of Life*, University of Notre Dame, April 26, 2019.

### **Research in Education**

"Pilot Study of the Benefits of Philosophy for High School Students," IRB Approval Fall 2022; Completed May 2023.

## **Presentations**

### **Professional Philosophy Presentations**

"Philosophy as a Way of Life by Abandonment: Emersonian Reading as a Spiritual Exercise," Annual Conference of the Association of Core Texts and Courses, March 19-22, 2026, Phoenix, AZ.

"Humanism in the Anthropocene: A Role for the Liberal Arts in a New Epoch," Annual Conference of the Association for Core Texts and Courses, March 30th, 2023, Dallas, TX.

"Teaching Philosophy as a Way of Life," American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, Teaching Hub Panel Presentation, February 18th, 2020.

"Philosophy as a Way of Life: Philosophical Exercises," American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, [Poster Group Presentation](#), February 18, 2020.

"Bringing Plato to the People: The Philosophy as a Way of Life Approach." Annual Conference of the Association for Core Texts and Courses, April 13, 2019, Santa Fe, NM.

Teaching Core Texts: Plato's *Apology*, American Philosophical Association, Central Division, Teaching Hub, Panel Presentation, February 22, 2019.

"Life as a Core Text: Emerson's "American Scholar" and American Democracy." Annual Conference of the Association for Core Texts and Courses, March 29 – April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

"Rorty's Ironic Atheism: Towards a Neo-Pragmatic Philosophy of Religion." Annual Meeting on Pragmatism, November 9 – 13, 2009, Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Comments on "The Proto-Morality of Life: Primary Recognition in Axel Honneth's Reading of *Phenomenology of Spirit*" American Philosophical Association (APA) Pacific Division Meeting, March 31 – April 3, 2010, San Francisco, CA.

Comments on "Self-Awareness, Self-Understanding, and Self-interpretation" American Philosophical Association (APA) Pacific Division Meeting, April 8 – 12, 2009, Vancouver, BC.

#### **Other Academic Presentations**

"WAC Conversation on Contract Grading," WNMU Writing Across the Curriculum Conversation Colloquium, (panel presentation) March 10th, 2023.

"Teaching Ethics and Sustainability," The Society for the Philosophical Study of Education, Online Symposium, November 5th, 2022.

"WAC Conversation on Using Grading Rubrics," WNMU Writing Across the Curriculum Conversation, Panel Discussion, November 4th, 2022.

"Juggling Modalities to Support Student Learning and Retention," New Mexico Higher Education Assessment and Retention Conference, Panel Presentation, March 6th, 2020, Albuquerque, NM.

"The Love of Wisdom in a Modern World." Mustang Showcase, March 20, 2018, Silver City, NM.

"Humanities for the Modern Age." Mustang Showcase, March 20, 2018, Silver City, NM.

"Charles Taylor on Religion and Secularity in Late Modernity." Research Symposium, Western New Mexico University, February 20, 2018, Silver City, NM.

#### **Public Philosophy**

"Plato and the Just Society," Series of Public Lectures for the Western Institute for Lifelong Learning, April 20, 22, 24, 2026.

"Aristotle and the Good Life," Series of Public Lectures for the Western Institute for Lifelong Learning, September, 9, 11 and 12, 2025.

"Lecture and Discussion on *Songs of the Fluteplayer*," A course for the Western Institute of Lifelong Learning, September 17 & 19, 2025.

"New Enchantment on the Dragonfly Trail," A conversation on the paintings of Paul Hotvedt, with the Artist, and Eileen Sullivan, Musician. A course for the Western Institute for Lifelong Learning, September 9, 11, and 16, 2024.

Comments on *Stewart Udall and The Politics of Beauty*, Film Screening, panel discussion, October 25th, 2022, Silver City, NM.

"Philosophy as a Way of Life," Public Lecture, J. Cloyd Miller Library, November 8, 2018, Silver City, NM.

### ***Professional and Community Service***

#### **Service to Western New Mexico University**

Member, Representation, Pathways and Inclusion (2024-present)  
 WNMU Faculty President (2024-2025)

Member, Post-tenure Review Working Group, 2023  
Member, Budget Review Committee, representative to University Planning Committee (2023-2024)  
Chair, Hiring Committee for Library Director (Summer 2023)  
Member of the Artificial Intelligence Working Group (2023)  
Member of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion University Working Group (2023-2024)  
Member of the Search Committee for Assistant Vice President of Student Life (2023)  
Faculty Senate Committee (*ad hoc*) on Shared Governance (2023, 2026)  
Faculty Advisor to the University Planning Committee for the 5-Year Plan  
Member of the Enrollment Committee (2022-2025)  
Research Committee Member (2019-2022)  
Vice-president of WNMU Faculty (2022-2023)  
4K Initiative Faculty Committee (2021-2024, chair 2022)  
Co-director of Student Research and Professional Development (2021-2024)  
Assessment Committee Humanities Representative (2021-2024)  
Faculty Senate Humanities Representative (2018-2021)  
Faculty Senate Secretary (2020-2021)  
Faculty Ambassador for WNMU Foundation's "Leading by Example" campaign (2020)  
Author of the Program Review for Philosophy (2020)  
Quality Matters Online Peer Reviewer  
Outdoor Experience Committee (*ad hoc* faculty lead initiative) (2019)  
Judge for the Research Paper Competition at the Student Academic Symposium (2019-present)  
Assistant Faculty Advisor for Class Backpacking Trip (spring 2018, with K. Whiteman)  
Graduate-level Philosophy Course Development for Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies (MAIS)  
Member of the Online Course Design Committee (2017-2019)  
Member of the Sustainability Degree Program (*ad hoc*) Oversight Committee (2017-present)

#### **Service to the Humanities Department**

WNMU Faculty Union – NEA Contract Action Team Representative (2026)  
Chair, Hiring Committee, Assistant Professor of Composition and Literature (2025-2026)  
Evaluations Committee Member (2022-2024)  
Faculty Mentor for Philosophy (2020-Present)  
Author of Program Review for Philosophy (2020)  
Assessment Coordinator for Philosophy  
Hiring Committee Member, 2018, 2020  
Honors Advisor (2018-2024)  
Philosophy Minor Advisor/Mentor (2017-2020)  
Humanities Department Recruitment, Faculty Lead (2017-2020)

#### **Service to the Discipline of Philosophy/English**

2023 Judge for Educational Testing Service (ETS) CLEP  
2023 Journal Referee for [Religions](#), special edition "Cultural and Religious Pluralism in an Age of Imaginaries," for the religion, humanities and philosophy section  
2022 Invited Project Scholar for philosophical "[Community Hub](#)" project.  
2022 External Reviewer for Tenure and Promotion, UNM Gallup English Department  
2021 Journal Referee for [Studies in Pedagogy](#), special edition on Philosophy as a Way of Life  
2021, 2022 Book Referee for Rowman & Littlefield Publishing  
2021, 2022, 2023 Journal Referee for [The International Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Society](#) (Common Ground Publishing)  
2019-2022 Member of the Conference Planning Committee for the American Association of Philosophy Teachers  
2018 Book Referee for [Universitaria Augustiniana](#)

2017 Journal Referee for [\*Sophia: International Journal for Philosophy and Traditions\*](#) (Springer Academic Publishing)

### **Community Service & Engagement**

2025-present, Member of the Democratic Party State Central Committee (elected spring 2025)  
2025-2026, Board Member for the non-profit Silver City Recycles  
2025-present Board Member, Aldo Leopold Charter School Foundation  
2025-present Boy Scouts of America (BSA/Scouting America), Merit Badge Counselor: *Fly Fishing; Sustainability; Communication; Reading; Scholarship*  
2025 Southwest Word Fiesta, Steering Committee member  
2024 Political Candidate for Grant County Board of County Commissioners, District 5  
2023-2025 Boy Scouts of America (BSA/Scouting America), Troup 114 (parent, volunteer (Scoutmaster 2026-present))  
2022-2024 Gila River Festival Planning Committee member  
2021-2024 Spring, Gila Resources Information Project (GRIP), Earth Day Planning Committee Member  
2018 Coach for the "Pirates" T-Ball Team, Silver City T-Ball Summer League  
2018-Present Volunteer, Guadalupe Montessori School, Silver City, NM

### ***Professional Development***

2024 Wilderness First Aid Certification (Wilderness Medicine Training Center)  
2022 (spring) Ritz-Carlton Customer Service Training (customized for university faculty and staff)  
2021 Wilderness First Responder Certification (Wilderness Medicine Training Center)  
2021 Grant Writing Webinar  
2019-2020 Excellence in Leadership Seminar, Las Cruces, NM, Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)  
2019 Education for Ministry (EFM), Swanee University of the South  
2019 Defensive Driving Certification (authorized to operate state vehicles in NM)  
2019 Quality Matters Certification: Applying the QM Rubric  
2017 Advising Training, WNMU  
2017 Course Design Institute, January 11-12, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM  
2016 28th Annual Southwest Seminar for Great Teaching, October 27-9, Santa Fe, NM  
2016 (summer) Course Design Institute, June 15-18, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM

### ***Honors, Awards and Grants***

2024 Nomination for Online Teaching Excellence (course design)  
2023 *Con Ganas* Summer Institute: Developing Hispanic Serving Institutions, May 9-12, \$3000  
2022 WNMU Excellence in Teaching Award, \$1500  
2022 Nomination for Online Teaching Excellence (for both design and teaching)  
2020 WARM (State Matching Fund) for Millennium III Honors Program (fall 2021) \$19,000  
2020 VPAA Grant to develop a Business Ethics Course in Collaboration with the School of Business  
2020 Nomination for Online Teaching Excellence (for both design and teaching)  
2020 Fall WNMU Academic Affairs Professional Development Grant for Course Peer Review  
2019-2020 WNMU Academic Affairs Professional Development Grant for travel to the 2020 Eastern APA  
2019-2020 WNMU Academic Affairs Collaboration Grant for Business Ethics Course Development  
2019 WNMU Student Research & Professional Development Grant for a Summer Research Assistant  
2019 WNMU Student Research & Professional Development Grant: Summer Mentor for Student Researcher  
2019 WNMU Academic Affairs Professional Development Grant for travel to the ACTC 25th Annual Conference, April 11-14  
2018-2019 WNMU Academic Affairs Professional Development Grant for travel to the 2019 Central APA  
2018 National Endowment of the Humanities (NEH) Fellowship for the Summer Seminar, "Reviving Philosophy as a Way of Life"  
2015-2016 University of New Mexico, Susan Deese-Roberts Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award

2016 University of New Mexico Philosophy Department Travel Scholarship  
 2006 The Herman Shapiro Prize, San José State University  
 2003 Temple Prize, San José State University

**Languages**

German (reading)  
 Classical Greek (reading)

**Memberships (current & previous)**

Rotary International of Silver City  
 The American Philosophical Association (APA)  
 The Society of Christian Philosophers (SCP)  
 American Association of Philosophy Teachers (AAPT)  
 Philosophers for Sustainability  
 ΦΣΤ

**Research & Scholarship Matrix**

CATEGORY	Discipline-based Scholarship	Contributions to Practice	Learning Pedagogical and Scholarship	TOTAL
Refereed Monographs				
Articles in Refereed Journals	1			1
Edited Volume	1			1
Refereed Book Chapters				
Publications in Refereed Conference Proceedings				
Presentations of Refereed Papers			3	3
Non-refereed Book Chapters				
Book Reviews	5			5
Other Non-refereed Research or Scholarship	7		9	13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>26</b>

**Citations Matrix (h-index = 2)**

Publication Cited (year)	In Books	In Articles	In Other Publications	Total Citations
"Varieties of Humanism for a Secular Age" (2016)	1	6	3	10
Dissertation: Transcendence & Transformation			1	1
<b>Total</b>				<b>11</b>

