

Allison Postell, Ph.D.

Contact Information

E-mail: apostell@hillsdale.edu

Location: Lane 411

Education

2013: Ph.D., Philosophy

University of Dallas, *awarded with distinction*

2007: M.A., Philosophy

University of Dallas, *magna cum laude*

2005: B.A., Philosophy and Spanish

St. Norbert College, *summa cum laude*

Research Interests

Area of specialty: Aristotelian and contemporary virtue ethics. *Area of competence:* Ancient and Medieval philosophy and ethics.

Doctoral Information:

Title: *What Comes Naturally: Metaethical Foundations of Virtue Ethics*

Thesis: Nature and an ontological conception of goodness ground virtuous cultural practices.

Teaching Experience and Service

2020-present:

Lecturer, Hillsdale College

Courses Taught:

- *PHIL 105: The Western Philosophical Tradition*

2010-2020:

Senior Instructor (2019-2020), Instructor (2014-2019), Lecturer (2010-2014), University of Colorado-Colorado Springs

Courses Taught:

- *PHIL 1000: Introduction to Philosophy*
- *PHIL 1020: Introduction to Ethics*
- *PHIL 1120: Critical Thinking*
- *PHIL 3150: Virtue Ethics*
- *PHIL 3200: Politics and the Law*
- *PHIL 3510: Pre-Socratic Philosophy*
- *PHIL 3520: Plato*
- *PHIL 3540: Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy*
- *PHIL 3550: Aristotle*

Independent Studies and Senior Theses: Evil? No Problem (2019 senior thesis, second reader), Plato's *Symposium* (2018 directed independent study), Pharmaceutical Ethics (2018 senior thesis, second reader), Stoic Emotions (2017 senior thesis, second reader), The Philosophy of Academic Freedom (2017 senior thesis, second reader), Aquinas on Evil (2016 senior thesis, second reader), Aristotelian Teleology and Cognitive Evolution (2016 senior thesis, second reader)

2014-2017:

Director of Classics, University of Colorado-Colorado Springs

2012-2014:

Lecturer, St. John Vianney Theological Seminary (Denver)

Courses Taught:

- *PHIL 1009: Medieval Philosophy*
- *PHIL 2350: Greek Drama*

2008-2009:

Lecturer, University of Dallas for *PHIL 1301: Philosophy and the Ethical Life*

Publications

"Finnis, John." In: Sellers M., Kirste S. (eds) *Encyclopedia of the Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy*. Springer, Dordrecht: 2018.

"Williams, Bernard." In: Sellers M., Kirste S. (eds) *Encyclopedia of the Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy*. Springer, Dordrecht: 2018.

“Modern Virtue Ethics Isn’t Really Aristotelian.” Review of *Before Virtue: Assessing Contemporary Virtue Ethics*, by Jonathan Sanford. *The Public Discourse*, November 10, 2016: <http://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2016/11/18161/>.

“Complex Psychology.” Review of *The Logic of Desire: Aquinas on Emotion*, by Nicolas E. Lombardo, O.P. *Anamnesis* 4:1 (2014). Web essay published on December 31, 2013: <http://anamnesisjournal.com/2013/12/review-nicolas-lombardos-logic-desire-aquinas-on-emotion/>.

“Wineskin or Windbag? Elihu and the Problem of Justice in the Book of Job,” *Ramify* 2:1 (2011): 38-53.

Scholarship in Progress

The Nature of Virtue Ethics. (The Catholic University of America Press; accepted book proposal)

- *Description*: Defends thoroughgoing Aristotelian naturalism as a compelling basis for virtue ethics by grounding the argument in Aristotelian primary texts and recent scholarship; argues that Aristotelian naturalism is better equipped to respond to contemporary debates within virtue ethics than rival grounding projects.

Conferences and Presentations

Panel Chair for Ethics Section. American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting, Denver, CO. November 2018.

“Liberty, Responsibility, and Prudence in Bertrand de Juvenel.” Liberty Fund Conference, Tuscon, AZ. March 2018. Invited Conferee.

Paper Commentator on “Beginning and Ending with Hestia: Finding a Home for Justice in Plato’s Political Philosophy.” American Catholic Philosophical Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA. November 2016.

Panel Chair for Ethics Section. Mountain-Plains Philosophy Conference, University of Colorado-Colorado Springs. October 2016.

Paper Commentator on “Non-Culpable Ignorance is Culpable Ignorance.” Mountain-Plains

Philosophy Conference, United States Air Force Academy. October 2013.

“Action as Aspectival Event.” University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Departmental book club paper presentation. March 2013.

“Examining Teleology.” The Catholic University of America, Washington D.C. March 2010. Conference Attendee.

“Elizabeth Anscombe on Ethics, Religion, and Politics.” Witherspoon Institute’s Summer Philosophy Seminar, Princeton, NJ. August 2009. Seminar Participant.

“Desiring Goodness: Passionate Virtue in Aristotle’s Ethics.” Association for Core Texts and Courses Academic Conference, Memphis, TN. April 2009.

“The Trustworthiness of Seeming Virtue: the Authority of Character in Aristotle’s *Rhetoric*.” North Texas Philosophical Association Annual Conference, Dallas, TX. March 2009.

“Honor, *Generositas*, and the Commonwealth in Hobbes’s *Leviathan*.” University of Dallas Fall Colloquium, Irving, TX. September 2008.

“Elihu as Representative of Rational Inquiry in the Book of Job.” Association for Core Texts and Courses Academic Conference, Plymouth Harbor, MA. April 2008.

“Nietzsche’s Socrates: On the Relationship between Philosophy and Reason.” *Paideia* Academic Conference, Dallas, TX. February 2008

Awards and Nominations

Teaching Instructor of the Year, UCCS College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences: 2018

Educator of the Year Nominee, University of Colorado-Colorado Springs, 2014-2015; 2015-2016

Graduate Paper Topics

Course

Homer and Vergil
Aristotle’s *Metaphysics*
Plato and Aristotle

Research Paper

“Ajax as the Homeric Spirited Man”
“Aristotle’s Refutation of the Megarians”
“Practical Judgment in the *Nicomachean Ethics*”

Philosophical Anthropology	"Aristotle on Action: The Interdependency of Desire and Intellect"
Dionysius and Augustine	"Divine Yearning in Dionysius the Aeropagite"
Augustine and Aquinas	"The Word as Eternal in <i>Confessions XI</i> " and "Methodology in Aquinas' Account of Original Sin"
The Bible	"Elihu as Rational Inquirer in the Book of Job"
Dante/Milton	"An Argument for the Necessity of Divine Intervention Before the Fall"
Aquinas Metaphysics	"Uses of <i>Esse</i> in Aquinas: An Exploration into <i>Ens Commune</i> , <i>Esse Commune</i> and <i>Ipsium Esse Subsistens</i> "
Aquinas Ethics	"ST Ia IIae Q. 18 aa. 2, 6: Aspects of 'Object' and Its Role in Connecting Intellect and Will" and "Practical Reason and the Will in ST qq. 12-17 and G.E.M. Anscombe's <i>Intention</i> "
Duns Scotus Metaphysics	"Scotus and Emergence Theory: An Analysis of Scotus and Teilhard de Chardin"
Nietzsche	"Nietzsche's Socrates: The Relationship Between Philosophy and Reason"
Hegel/Nietzsche/Dostoevsky	"Nietzsche and Scheler: A Comparative Analysis of <i>Ressentiment</i> "
Hegel's Encyclopaedia	"Desire and the Heart"
What is Enlightenment?	"Reason in Aquinas and Hume: Reconciling Accounts From Two Different Traditions"
Phenomenology	"Phenomenological Teachings on Ontology: The Fundamental Structure that Underlies Intentional Relations"
Ethics	"A (Re)Consideration of Natural Law in Light of Contemporary Rights Theories"
Islamic Political Thought	"Two Roads to Virtue: Natural Science and the Diviner in Alfarabi's <i>Selected Aphorisms</i> "
Epistemology	Audited Spring 2008
Hobbes/Rousseau	"Honor, <i>Generositas</i> , and the Commonwealth in Hobbes' <i>Leviathan</i> "
Classical Rhetoric	"The Trustworthiness of Seeming Virtue: Authority of Character in Aristotle's <i>Rhetoric</i> "
Virtue Ethics	"Why Should I? Thinking and Desiring Goodness"
Imagination	"Acute Vision: <i>Phantasia</i> in Aristotelian <i>Phronesis</i> "