

CURRICULUM VITAE

Christopher Johns
Associate Professor
Philosophy
Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Biography

I am originally from Columbus, Ohio. Prior to my academic life I worked as a musician and manual laborer in and around New York City. In 1995, I received a BA in Linguistics, and in 1997, I received an MA in English, both from the Ohio State University. In 2007, I received my PhD in Philosophy from Stony Brook University, New York, then worked for two years as Visiting Assistant Professor at St. Xavier University in Chicago. I started at AUB in 2009 as Visiting Assistant Professor, then in 2010 as Assistant Professor, and since 2016 as Associate Professor. I was Chair of the Philosophy department from January 2018 to Sept. 2023. In my spare time I play the drums, guitar, and sing. chrisjohnsphd.net

I. Educational Background

- Ph.D. Philosophy, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, New York, 1999-2007.
- M.A. Philosophy, Stony Brook University, 2005.
- M.A. English, Ohio State University, 1995-7. Specialization in literary theory.
- B.A. Linguistics, Ohio State University, 1991-5. Minors in Philosophy and History of Art, *Magna Cum Laude*, with Honors in the Liberal Arts.
- Languages: English fluency, French and German reading competency, Latin translation competency.

II. Employment History

- 2016-current: Associate Professor of Philosophy, American University of Beirut
- 2010-2016: Assistant Professor of Philosophy, American University of Beirut
- 2009-2010: Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, American University of Beirut
- 2007-2009: Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Saint Xavier University, Chicago IL.

III. Research and/or Creative Work Outputs

Publications and presentations after promotion to current rank (Associate Professor, Sept. 2016)

Authored Books

- *Leibniz's Discourse on Metaphysics: A New Translation and Commentary* (Edinburgh University Press, April 2023).

Refereed Book Chapters

- "The Impact of Leibniz's Geometric Method for the Law," in *Leibniz's Legacy and Impact, Routledge Studies in Seventeenth Century*. Eds. Julia Weckend and Lloyd Strickland (2019).

Refereed Journal Publications

- "Leibniz and the Religion of the Mohammadans" in *Religions* Special Issue, "Exploring Leibniz's Religion and Philosophy of Religion: Essays in Honour of Maria Rosa Antognazza (1964–2023)," September 2024.

- Book Review: “The New Method of Learning and Teaching Jurisprudence, According to the Principles of the Didactic Art Premised in the General Part and in the Light of Experience,” in *The Leibniz Review*, 28:109-117 (2018).

Refereed Conference Proceedings

- “Egoism, Pleasure, and Obligation in Leibniz’ Philosophy of Right,” in *Le present est plein de l’avenir, et chargé du passé, Vorträge des XI. Internationalen Leibniz-Kongresses*, 31. Juli - 4. August 2023, Leibniz Universität Hannover, Deutschland. Band 2: pp. 204-216.

Articles Under Review

- Leibniz on Egoism, Pleasure, and Moral Motivation, for *Journal of the History of Philosophy*.

Conferences and Invited Talks

- “Egoism, Pleasure, and Obligation,” 11th International Leibniz Conference, Leibniz Universität, Hannover, Germany, July 31 – Aug. 4. Presented Aug. 3. 2023.
- “Why the properties of matter cannot explain matter, according to Leibniz.” Presentation for the Department of Physics, AUB, Lee Observatory, March 29, 2023.
- “What is Love?” A Neo-Socratic Dialogue.” March 14, 2022, AUB, West Hall 310, sponsored by the Philosophy Student Society.
- “Perfections as Completable Qualities in Leibniz’s *Discourse*.” Inaugural AUB-NYUAD Workshop, May 5, 2018, American University of Beirut.
- “Moral Therapy in Princess Elisabeth’s Correspondence with Descartes.” Lehigh University 5th Annual Philosophy Conference, “Women in Early Modern Philosophy,” Bethlehem, PA. October 19 – 20, 2017.
- “Leibniz’s Possible Worlds Theodicy: Is this the Best Possible World?” Presentation for the Philosophy Student Society, American University of Beirut, December 2, 2016.

Chaired Sessions

- Chair for “Locke and Spinoza” Colloquium, Eastern APA, January 3-6, 2018.

Publications and presentations prior to current rank (Assistant Professor Aug. 2016)

Authored Books

- *The Science of Right in Leibniz’s Moral and Political Philosophy* (Bloomsbury Academic, Oct. 2013).

Refereed Journal Publications

- “Leibniz and the Square: A Deontic Logic for the *Vir Bonus*,” *History and Philosophy of Logic*, (May 2014).
- “Leibniz, Pufendorf, and the Possibility of Moral Self-Governance,” *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* (July 2012).
- “The Grounds of Right and Obligation in Leibniz and Hobbes,” *Review of Metaphysics* (March 2009).
- “Deontic Foundations in Leibniz’s Practical Philosophy,” *Studia Leibnitiana* (Band 38/39 Heft 2, 2009).

Refereed Conference Proceedings

- “The Rule of Reason: The Golden Rule and the Definition of Justice in Leibniz’s ‘Meditation on the Common Concept of Justice.’” *Einheit in der Vielheit: Vorträge des VIII. Internationaler Leibniz-Kongress* (Hannover: Gottfried-Wilhelm-Leibniz-Gesellschaft, July

24-29, 2006), pp. 413-421.

Conferences and Invited Talks

- “Kant’s Criticism of Leibniz on the Two Sources of Knowledge,” Presented at the Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Washington, DC, Jan. 6-9, 2016.
- “Leibniz and the Square: A Deontic Logic for the *Vir Bonus*.” Paper presented at 3rd World-Congress on the Square of Opposition, American University of Beirut, June 26 – 30, 2012.
- “The Role of Striving and Discord in Kant’s Ideal of Moral Perfection.” Presented at Conference on Ideals and the Ideal in Kant. Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey, May 23-26, 2012.
- “Aristotle and Leibniz on Pleasure, Love, and Justice.” American University of Beirut, November 25, 2010.
- Invited Speaker at Interfaith Dialogue, hosted by the Insight Club, AUB, May 17, 2010
- “Kant’s Criticism of Leibniz on the Two Sources of Our Cognition,” Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Memphis, TN, April 17-18, 2009
- “Two Conceptions of Power: Leibniz and Hobbes on Right and Obligation.” APA Central Division Conference, Colloquium session: Modern Political Philosophy. Chicago, IL, Feb. 18-21, 2009.
- “Deontic Foundations in Leibniz’s Practical Philosophy.” APA Eastern Division Conference, Colloquium session, Philadelphia, PA, Dec. 27-30, 2008.
- “Two Conceptions of Power: Leibniz and Hobbes on Right and Obligation.” CPSA Conference, Central States, St. Paul, Minnesota, September 26-27, 2008.
- “Leibniz on the Efficient Cause of Natural Law.” Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Memphis, TN, Feb., 22-23, 2008.
- “Plato’s *Symposium* and a Pedagogy of Dialectical Eroticism.” Co-presentation, with Jason Aleksander. The Women and Gender Symposium, Saint Xavier University, Chicago, IL, Jan., 26, 2008.
- “The Rule of Reason: The Golden Rule and the Definition of Justice in Leibniz’s ‘Meditation on the Common Concept of Justice.’” VII Internationaler Leibniz-Kongress; Leibniz Universität, Hannover, Germany, July 24-29, 2006.
- “Leibniz on Necessity, Obligation, and Justice.” Presentation for the Collegium Philosophiae Transatlanticum, Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Wuppertal Germany, Dec 10, 2005.
- “Moral Implications of Leibniz’s Doctrine of *Petites Perceptions*.” Presentation for the Collegium Philosophiae Transatlanticum, Stony Brook, March 10, 2003.

Chaired sessions and commentary

- Commentator on Andrew Johnson’s, “The Trouble with Kant’s Humanity Formula.” Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Memphis, TN, April 17-18, 2009.
- Commentator on Peter Kirwan’s, “A Mixing Argument for the Initial Acquisition of Physical and Intellectual Property.” Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Memphis, TN, Feb. 22-23, 2008.
- Chaired session at APA Central, Chicago, April 16-19, 2008/
- Chaired session at CSPA, St, Paul MN, Sept. 26, 2008

Conferences Organized

- “Powers, Dispositions, and the New Essentialism,” AUB, April 29- May 1st, 2016. Keynote speaker: John Heil. Organized and Chaired with Patrick Lewtas.
- “Alexander Baumgarten's Metaphysics: Sources, Interpretation and Influence,” La Salle University, Philadelphia, PA, March 27-29, 2014. Organizing and selection committee with Courtney Fugate.
- “Modern Influence in Contemporary Philosophy: Present Problems in a Past Light,” May 16th, 17, 18, 2013. Primary conference organizer. Keynote speaker: Galen Strawson.

IV. Teaching

A. Courses Taught after appointment to Associate Professor (see appendix F for scores)

Term	Course #	Level	Course Name
Spring 2024	PHIL 261B	UG	Special Topics in Stoicism
Fall 2023	PHIL 219	UG	Existentialism
	PHIL 301L	GR	Kant and Korsgaard
Spring 2023	PHIL 215	UG	19 th Century Philosophy
Fall 2022	PHIL 254A	UG	Special Topics in Metaphysics: Free Will
	PHIL 102	UG	Freshman Classics
Spring 2022	PHIL 304G	GR	Metaphysics of Good & Evil
Fall 2021	PHIL 230	UG	Philosophy of Plato
Spring 2021	PHIL 216	UG	Political Philosophy
Fall 2020	PHIL 213	UG	Ancient and Medieval Philosophy
Spring 2020	PHIL 310	GR	Descartes & Spinoza
Fall 2019	PHIL 222	UG	Philosophy of Science
Spring 2019	PHIL 214	UG	History of Modern Philosophy
Fall 2018	PHIL 249	UG	Philosophy of Feminism
Spring 2018	PHIL 310R	GR	Leibniz’s <i>Discourse on Metaphysics</i>
Spring 2017	PHIL 260L	UG	Special Topics: Leibniz’s Metaphysics
	PHIL 214	UG	History of Modern Philosophy
Fall 2016	PHIL 225	UG	History of Moral Philosophy
	PHIL 226	UG	Ethical Theory
During this period (2016-2024) I taught 17 different courses. My average “overall teaching effectiveness” score for this period is 4.42			

Courses Taught Prior to Fall 2016 (see appendix F for scores)

Term	Course #	Level	Course Name
Spring 2016	PHIL 206-1	UG	Business Ethics
	PHIL 206-2	UG	Business Ethics
	PHIL 254D	UG	Special Topics in Metaphysics: Substances, Powers, Minds
Fall 2015	PHIL 223	UG	Philosophy of Language
	PHIL 310N	GR	Substance in Modern Philosophy
Spring 2015	PHIL 221	UG	Philosophy of Mind
	PHIL 206	UG	Business Ethics
Fall 2014	PHIL 211-1	UG	Intro to Logic
	PHIL 211-2	UG	Intro to Logic
	PHIL 218	UG	Metaphysics & Epistemology
Spring 2014	PHIL 211-3	UG	Intro to Logic
	PHIL 225	UG	History of Moral Philosophy
Fall 2013	PHIL 205-1	UG	Intro to Bio-Medical Ethics
	PHIL 205-2	UG	Intro to Bio-Medical Ethics
	PHIL 224	UG	Philosophy of Religion
Spring 2013	PHIL 209-2 & 3	UG	Environmental Ethics
	PHIL 260H/ PHIL 310J	UG/ GR	Substance in Modern Philosophy
Spring 2012	PHIL 209-1	UG	Environmental Ethics
	PHIL 209-2	UG	Environmental Ethics
Fall 2011	PHIL 209-1	UG	Environmental Ethics
	PHIL 209-2	UG	Environmental Ethics
	PHIL 260E	UG	Kant's Moral Phil
Spring 2011	PHIL 214	UG	History of Modern Philosophy
	PHIL 217	UG	Intro to Aesthetics
	PHIL 303	GR	Aesthetics
Fall 2010	PHIL 210-3	UG	Intro to Ethics
	PHIL 210-4	UG	Intro to Ethics
	PHIL 218	UG	Metaphysics & Epistemology
Spring 2010	PHIL 210-6	UG	Intro to Ethics
	PHIL 210-7	UG	Intro to Ethics
	PHIL 310	GR	Leibniz & Locke
	PHIL 321	GR	Tutorial Ancient

Fall 2009	PHIL 210-5	UG	Intro to Ethics
	PHIL 210-6	UG	Intro to Ethics
	PHIL 214	UG	History of Modern Philosophy
During this period (2009-2016) I taught 16 different courses. Average overall score for this period: 4.0			

- CVSP Common Lectures on Bacon and Locke
- PSYC 228 One week module on music cognition

At Saint Xavier University, Chicago, IL (VAP, 2007 – 09)

- PHIL 352 Historical Studies in Ethics: Kant.
- PHIL 285 Human Nature
- PHIL 200 Introduction to Ethics
- PHIL 150 The Examined Life.

Student Supervision and Advising Master's Student Thesis Advising

Year	Name	Thesis	Area	My role
2024 SP	Rayane El Masri	"Personhood and Artificial Intelligence: a Non-Binary Approach."	Philosophy of Mind/Artificial Int.	Reader
2022 FA	Houssam Ghanem	Place, Smart, and After Images	Philosophy of Mind	Reader
2022 SP	Huria Ibrahim	Examination of Leibniz's Theory of Freedom	Metaphysics	Reader
2022 SP	Marc Choufany	Marx and the Problem of Epistemology	History-Epistemology	Reader
2021 SP	Ziad El Danaf	Star Stuff and Forms: Hylomorphism and Mereology	Metaphysics	Reader
2021 SP	Nerses Arslanian	Wittgenstein's Philosophy As Method: A Grammatical Inquiry to Cartesian Dualism	Philosophy of language	Reader
2019 FA	Mohammad Bazy	On the Necessity of the Causal Principle: A Critique of Hume's Analysis of Causation from the Perspective of the Conceivability Principle.	Metaphysics	Advisor
2017 SP	Mark Hayek	On Critique: Kant and Benjamin	Inter-disp.	Reader
2017 SP	Asma Ayoubi	In Defense of the Aesthetic Attitude	Aesthetics	Advisor
2015 SP	Omar Talhouk	Natura Naturans: A Concept of a Nature for Representation,"	Metaphysics	Reader
2015 SP	Leila El-Altı	Inherent value in Animal Rights	Ethics	Reader
2013 SP	Nisreen Sinjab	Beauty in classical Islamic thought : the aesthetics of proportionality and harmony according to Ikhwān al-Safā' (The Brethren of Purity) and Ibn al-Haytham (Alhazen),	Aesthetics	Co-Adviser

2012 SP	Karam Wahab	Self-interest : Whose Game is it Anyway? Utilitarianism and Agency in Nietzsche	Ethics	Reader
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B. Educational Innovations and Academic Contributions

List any significant educational innovation activities including the development of new academic programs, courses, mentoring programs, continuing education offerings, laboratories, etc. Include as well any major roles in program reviews and accreditation.

- Nominated for Teaching Excellence Award (2023?)
- New course designation: PHIL 208, for courses on any applied Ethics topic.
- Designed ten different courses (Special Topics and graduate courses)
- Participated in Program Learning Outcomes program 2011-2023
- Periodic Program Review (2023-4)
- **Find the two CTL's I participated in.**

V. Service

A. University/ Faculty/Department Service

- Graduate Program Director, Fall 2023-- (Department level)
- Philosophy Department Chair, Jan 2018-Sept. 2023 (Department level)
- Periodic Program Review Committee: 2023-4 (Faculty level)
- General Education Program, board member, 2013-Spring 22 (Faculty level)
- Student Disciplinary Affairs Committee, Fall 2021-2?? (Faculty Level)
- Freshman Advisor, 2014-17 (Faculty Level)
- Undergraduate Philosophy Major advisor, 2011-17 (Department Level)

Service prior to Sept. 2016

- University Curriculum Committee, Spring 2014 (University level)
- Program Learning Outcomes board member, 2010- (Faculty level)
- URB Grant proposal reviewer, 2010 & 11 (Faculty level)
- AUB Student Essay Contest Committee, 2010 (Faculty level)
- Program Learning Outcomes board member, 2010-2023 (Faculty level)
- URB Grant proposal reviewer, 2010 & 11 (Faculty Level)

B. Professional Service

Served as referee for the following journal articles:

- “Critical Genealogy, Comprehension, and Explanation in Leibniz’s Critique of Bayle on Cosmic Dualism,” for journal *Religions*, August 16, 2024 (submission under review).
- “Divine Obligations as Theodicy in Leibniz’s Jurisprudence and Metaphysical Theology” for journal *Religions*, June 17, 2024 (submission published)
- “Leibniz’s Three Principles as the Trinity and its Involvement in Choosing the Best Possible World” (for journal *Religions*, April 4th 2024 (submission withdrawn)
- “Limits of Sovereignty in Leibniz’s Political Philosophy, *Ethical Perspectives*, 2019. (published)
- “Leibniz on State and Church,” *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, 2017. (published)
- “Self-Interest and the Distant Vulnerable,” *Ethics and International Affairs*, 2016. (published)

- “Leibniz’s Egypt Plan (1671-1672): from holy war to ecumenism,” *Intellectual History Review*, 2016. (published)

Prior to 2016

- “The Missing Exception and the Prosperity of the Wicked: Schmitt, Leibniz, and Michelet,” *Review of Politics*, 2015.
- “Leibniz, Locke, and the Early Modern Controversy over Legal Maxims,” *History of European Ideas*, 2015. (published)
- Member of the American Philosophical Association (APA)

C. Public and Community Service

- Greening with STI Boot Camp
- English teacher at Palestinian Refugee Camp, Mar Elias: 2009-2010