

Donovan Cox
Curriculum Vitæ

Department of History, Philosophy, and Religious Studies
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. PHILOSOPHY <i>The University of Massachusetts, Amherst</i>	2020
M.A. PHILOSOPHY <i>The University of Connecticut</i>	2004
B.A. PHILOSOPHY AND ENGLISH <i>The University of Georgia</i>	1999

ACADEMIC AREAS

SPECIALIZATION: Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy. COMPETENCE: Ethics, Modern Philosophy.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

NAZARBAYEV UNIVERSITY <i>Instructor in Philosophy (Full-time, Non-Tenure-Track)</i>	2021 – 2024
UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD <i>Adjunct Faculty</i>	2019 – 2020
UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD <i>Visiting Faculty in Philosophy (Full-Time, Non-Tenure-Track)</i>	2017 – 2019
LOOMIS CHAFFEE SCHOOL <i>Faculty in Department of Philosophy, Psychology, Religious Studies</i>	2013 – 2015
UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD <i>Adjunct Faculty</i>	2012 – 2015

PUBLISHED ARTICLES

- “The Anomaly of the Last Elenchos of Plato’s *Euthyphro*”, forthcoming in *Proceedings of Socratica V, Triennial Conference of the International Society for Socratic Studies*, De Gruyter.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- “Socratic Piety: Benefitting Gods and Mortals” (under review).
- “Euthyphronic Piety, Commerce, and Voluntarism”
- “Esteem, Honor, and the Folly of Commemorating Whole Persons”

PRESENTATIONS

- “The Anomaly of the Last Elenchos of Plato’s *Euthyphro*.” Socratica V, Triennial Conference of the International Society for Socratic Studies, 11–14 July 2022, Rice University.
- “The Anomaly of the Last Elenchos of Plato’s *Euthyphro*.” Central APA Colloquium, 24 Feb. 2021.
- “Explanatory Failure and Moral Failings at the End of *Euthyphro*.” UHart Interdepartmental Colloquium (03 Oct. 2019).
- “Why Does Socrates (Sometimes) Think Virtue Can’t Be Taught?” UHart Interdepartmental Colloquium (10 Nov. 2018).
- “Socratic Piety, Reciprocity, and Service”. Invited Talk at Manhattan College (01 March 2018).

AWARDS AND PRIZES

Sustained Excellence in Teaching Award for Part-Time Faculty <i>University of Hartford</i>	2020
Critical Thinking Fellowship <i>University of Hartford College of Arts and Sciences</i>	2018 – 19
Robison Prize for Excellence in Teaching <i>University of Massachusetts, Amherst Philosophy Dept.</i>	2009

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Team-Taught

NAZARBAYEV UNIVERSITY

- PHIL 210: Ethics

Designed and Taught as Primary Instructor

UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to the History of Western Philosophy• Philosophical Writing• Rationalists and Empiricists• Practical Reasoning and Critical Thinking | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Classical American Philosophy• Philosophy of Language• Art and Thought of Classical Greece• Western Heritage: Humanities |
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LOOMIS CHAFFEE SCHOOL

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intro to Philosophy• Ancient Philosophy• Theory of Knowledge | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Existentialism• Myth, Dream, and Ritual• Death and Dying |
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UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, AMHERST

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intro Philosophy, Honors• Ancient Philosophy• Philosophy of Art• Existentialism | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medical Ethics• Problems in Social Thought• Intro to Ethics |
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ACADEMIC LANGUAGES

Ancient Greek (advanced reading), German (reading competence).

DISSERTATION

TITLE: *Socratic Piety, Reciprocity, and the Last Elenchos of Plato's Euthyphro*.

COMMITTEE: Vanessa de Harven (chair), Ernesto Garcia, Jyl Gentzler (Amherst College), Melissa Mueller (Classics Dept.)

Dissertation Summary: My dissertation, *Socratic Piety, Reciprocity, and the Last Elenchos of Plato's Euthyphro*, offers a new reading of the end of Plato's *Euthyphro*. Euthyphro's last attempt to define piety is to say that it is what is pleasing to the gods in prayer and sacrifice, offered so as to oblige the gods to return reciprocal benefits. Traditional scholarship on the passage makes two mistakes: (i) it takes Socrates' comparison of Euthyphro's model of piety to commerce to be the principal criticism of the model; (ii) it attaches little or no philosophical significance to Socrates' reduction of Euthyphro's last definition to his third, already rejected definition, that piety is what is dear to the gods. I argue that the logic and grammar of the passage do not support the reading described in (i), but instead support an alternative reading that allows us to see that there is a substantial philosophical reason Plato wanted to link the last and third definitions in closing the dialogue. That reason is that the same explanatory failure characterizing Euthyphro's third voluntaristic definition of piety also characterizes the contractual model of exchange represented by his last definition. This new analysis of the dialogue has the additional benefit of allowing for a fresh take on Socratic piety – often thought to be conducting rational inquiry toward the end of moral self-improvement – centering on the notion of *Socratic reciprocity*, defined by contrast with Euthyphronic exchange. My account of Socratic piety emphasizes its communal aspect: rational inquiry is best carried out in a community of inquirers reciprocally benefiting one another by acting as teachers and learners by turns.

SERVICE

- Nazarbayev University, Library Committee, Fall 2023.
- Nazarbayev University, Capstone advising, Fall 2023.
- Nazarbayev University, Course Coordinator for PHIL 210. Spring 2022, Fall 2022.
- Nazarbayev University, Search Committee, Summer 2021, Summer 2022, Fall 2023.
- Book Manuscript Review, Palgrave, Summer 2021.
- University of Hartford, Internship Coordinator for Philosophy Major Interns, 2018-2019.
- University of Massachusetts, Amherst, graduate student conference co-organizer, April, 2014.
- Construct and maintain website and database of collected works for Lynne Rudder Baker, 2011-2018.

REFERENCES

CURRENT APPOINTMENT:

- Matthew S. Heeney HPRS, NU
matthew.heeney@nu.edu.kz
- Ted Parent HPRS, NU
ted.parent@nu.edu.kz
- Russ Shafer-Landau External adviser to HPRS,
UW-Madison
shaferlandau@wisc.edu
608-263-3700

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Vanessa de Harven Philosophy, UMass, Amherst
Committee Chair
vdeharven@philos.umass.edu
- Ernesto Garcia Philosophy, UMass, Amherst
evg@philos.umass.edu
- Jyl Gentzler Philosophy, Amherst College
jgentzler@amherst.edu
413-542-5806
- Melissa Mueller Classics, UMass, Amherst
mmueller@classics.umass.edu
413-545-5776

TEACHING REFERENCES:

- Nathan Rochelle DuFord Government, Smith College (formerly Philosophy at UHart)
nduford@smith.edu
- Donald Jones English and Modern Languages, UHart
Honors Program Director
djones@hartford.edu
860-768-4751
- Dennis Robbins Faculty, Loomis Chaffee School
dennis_robbins@loomis.org
860-687-6122
- Curt Robison Faculty, Loomis Chaffee School
curt_robison@loomis.org
860-687-6374
- Brian Skelly Philosophy, UHart
bskelly@hartford.edu
860-768-4538

OTHERS:

- Donald Baxter Philosophy, UConn
donald.baxter@uconn.edu
860-486-4419
- JC Beall Philosophy, Notre Dame
jbeall@nd.edu
574-631-7399
- Gary Hardegree Philosophy, UMass, Amherst
gmh@philos.umass.edu
- Hilary Kornblith Philosophy, UMass, Amherst
kornblith@philos.umass.edu
413-545-5787

GRADUATE COURSEWORK

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, AMHERST, *selected*: UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT, STORRS, *selected*:

- Philosophy of Mathematics (Bricker)
- Problems in History of Philosophy: Leibniz (Sleigh)
- Plato: Epistemology (Matthews)
- Aristotle's *Metaphysics* (Perin)
- Problems in History of Philosophy: Ancient Scepticism (Perin)
- Math Logic 1 (Klement)
- Aristotle's Ethics (Matthews)
- Metaphysics (Baker)
- Selected Philosopher: Descartes (Chappell)
- Modal Logic (Hardegree)
- Seminar on Hume (Baxter)
- Independent Study: Leibniz (Baxter)
- Philosophy of Mind (Millikan)
- Philosophy of Perception (Clark)
- Philosophy of Language (Beall)
- Truth and Paradox (Beall)
- Independent Study: Set Theory (Beall)
- Philosophical Logic (Beall)
- Metaphysics (Baxter)
- Contemporary Analytic Philosophy (Hiskes)
- Seminar on Ethics (Kupperman)
- Aesthetics (Zangwill, *visiting*)