

*Curriculum Vita*  
Michael F. Patton, Jr.

Philosophy Program  
University of Montevallo  
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**Current Position:** Professor of Philosophy

**Education**

Ph. D. December '90, Syracuse University (Philosophy)  
"Nihilism, Thought and Personhood," Peter van Inwagen, Director  
M.A. '89, Syracuse University (Philosophy)  
B. A. '83, Vanderbilt University (Philosophy)

**Areas of Specialization**

Analytic Metaphysics, Ontology, Early Modern Philosophy

**Areas of Competence**

Reasoning	Modern Philosophy	Logic
Ethics	Epistemology	Philosophy of Religion
Business Ethics	History of Philosophy	

**Professional Experience**

2007 on Professor of Philosophy, University of Montevallo  
2002-2007 Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Montevallo  
1996-2002 Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Montevallo  
1995-1996 Acting Dean (Division of Arts and Sciences), Felician College  
1993-1996 Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Felician College  
1992-1993 Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Hawaii at Hilo  
1990-1992 Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Tulsa  
1986-1990 Graduate Teaching (Full Responsibility)  
1985 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Syracuse University

**Languages**

French (Reading Knowledge), Latin (Reading Knowledge)

**Current Projects**

I am the Editor of the *Southwest Philosophy Review*.  
I am currently writing an original monograph entitled *Hume and the End of Design*.  
I am also nearing completion of a first draft of a critical reasoning text.

## Publications

***Freedom Isn't Free, But Freedom Is*** (with Samantha Webb) in *Stephen Colbert and Philosophy*, Ed. Aaron Allen Schiller. Chicago: Open Court Press, 2009.

***Oz Never Did Give Nothing to the Tin Man*** in *The Wizard of Oz and Philosophy*, Eds. Randall Auxier and Phil Seng. Chicago: Open Court Press, 2008.

***Whatever You Say, Boss or The Thunder Road Said*** in *Bruce Springsteen and Philosophy*, Eds. Randall Auxier and Doug Anderson. Chicago: Open Court Press, 2008.

***The Dinner Band on the Cruise Ship of Theseus*** in *Pink Floyd and Philosophy: Careful with that Axiom, Eugene*, Ed. George Reisch. Chicago: Open Court Press, 2007.

***Pious Hindsight: South Park's Hybrid Vigor*** in *South Park and Philosophy*, Ed. Richard Hanley. Chicago: Open Court Press, 2007.

### ***Hume and the End of Design***

*1650-1850: Ideas, Aesthetics, and Inquiries in the Early Modern Era*, Volume 12, 2006.

### ***Game Preserve Ethics—The Case for Hunting the Poor (as told to Michael Patton by Harrett Gardin)***

*Southwest Philosophical Review*, 21:2 (Winter 2005)

***Can Bad Men Make Good Brains Do Bad Things?*** anthologized in *What If... Collected Thought Experiments in Philosophy* by Peg Tittle (Longman, 2004)

### ***Os Homens Maus Poderão Levar Cérebros Bons a Fazer Coisas Más?***

*Trólei: Revista de Filosofia Moral et Política*, 1. (2003) (In translation)

### ***Personal Identity, Autonomy and Advance Directives***

*Southwest Philosophical Review*, 18:2 (Winter 2002)

### ***Probabilities and Temporal Parts***

*Acta Analytica*, 17:28 (Winter 2002)

### ***The Officeholder view of Personal Identity***

*The Personalist Forum*, 15:2 (Fall 1999).

***Multicultural Education and the Future of Democracy*** (with Keith Burkum), Proceedings of the 1995 Annual Conference of the Institute for the Study of Postsecondary Pedagogy at SUNY New Paltz (Topic: American Pragmatism, John Dewey, and Teaching and Learning in a Multicultural Society)

***Teaching Graduate Students to Teach--An Approach***  
*Teaching Philosophy*, 15:3, September 1992.

***Full-Time Objections to Part-Time Objects***  
*Philosophical Papers*, Volume XX, Number 1, December 1991.

***Can Bad Men Make Good Brains Do Bad Things?***  
*Proceedings and Addresses of the American Philosophical Association*, 61.3,  
1988

### **Reviews (invited)**

Review of Donskis, Leonidas's *The End of Ideology and Utopia? Moral Imagination and Cultural Criticism in the Twentieth Century*.  
*Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies*, XIV, 189-90, 2002.

Review of *Metaphysics: Classic and Contemporary Readings*"  
*Teaching Philosophy*, 15:2, June 1992.

### **Invited Lectures**

***Patriotism, Free Speech and Academia***  
New Horizons, University of Alabama at Birmingham, March 22, 2005

***Issues Concerning the Lives of Women in Egypt***  
AAUW Presentation, University of Montevallo Chapter, November 15, 2001.

***Persons as Offices***  
Southern Methodist University, November 2, 2001

***There is Nothing Big Enough to See***  
Keynote Address  
Southwest Conference for Undergraduate Philosophers at University of Central  
Oklahoma, February 17, 2001.

***Why I am Not a Theist***  
Sigma Iota Rho Presentation, November 6, 2001.

***Probability and Metaphysics***  
Georgetown University Students' Speaker Series, November 12, 2000.

***Killing you for your own good: The case for active euthanasia***  
Georgetown University Students' Speaker Series, October 22, 1999.

***The Failure of Temporal Parts Theory***

Philosophy Faculty Colloquium, Texas Tech University on September 24, 1999.

***I Do Not Exist***

Philosophy Club Colloquium, Texas Tech University, September 23, 1999.

***The Officeholder View of Personal Identity***

University of Mississippi's Philosophy Forum, September 10, 1998.

***Why we don't exist***

Phi Sigma Tau Philosophy Honors Society Initiation Ceremony, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, December 12 1997.

***Why should we study Philosophical Ethics?***

The Webb School's Curriculum Development Day, Bell Buckle, TN, February 1, 1997.

**Conference Presentations**

***It Don't Come Easy—Towards a Utilitarian Account of Aesthetics***

Presidential Address, Alabama Philosophical Society, October 21-22, 2005

***Teaching New Dogs Some Old Tricks: Hume Account of Animal Reasoning***

South Central Society for 18th Century Studies, February 23-26, 2005.

***Hume v. ID, or, Night of the Living Dead Explanations***

Mid-South Philosophy Conference, February 18-19, 2005.

***Game Preserve Ethics, the Case for Hunting the Poor***

Southwest Philosophy Conference, November 12-14, 2004

***Hume On Irreducible Complexity***

South Central Society for 18th Century Studies, February 26-29, 2004.

***Game Preserve Ethics—The Case for Hunting the Poor (as Harrett Gardin)***

Mid-South Philosophy Conference, February 20-21, 2004.

***Perceptions and Dimensionality: Hume's Metaphysics of Externality***

South Central Society for 18th Century Studies, March 6-9, 2003.

***(Almost) All Medical Practice and Research is Immoral***

Mid-South Philosophy Conference, February 21-22, 2003.

***(Almost) All Medical Research and Practice is Immoral***

Alabama Philosophical Society, Annual Meeting, October 24-25, 2003.

***Killing You for Your Own Good—The Case for Active Euthanasia***  
Southwest Philosophical Society, November 3, 2001

***Autonomy and Advance Directives***  
Midsouth Philosophy Conference, February 23-15, 2001.

***Personal Identity, Autonomy and Advance Directives***  
Alabama Philosophical Society, Annual Meeting, October 27-28, 2000.

***Euthanasia and Occurrent Desires***  
Mid-South Philosophy Conference, March 4-7, 1999.

***The Officeholder View Of Personal Identity***  
10th Annual Conference on Persons  
St. John's University (Santa Fe), August 8-10, 1999.

***Strict Personal Identity and Its Discontents***  
Mid-South Philosophy Conference, March 4-7, 1999.

***Can an Object Survive the Loss of a Part?***  
Alabama Philosophical Society Annual Meeting, November 6-7, 1998

***Personal Identity, Autonomy and Advance Directives***  
20th World Congress of Philosophy, August 10-16, 1998.

***Everest and Egomania: Krakauer's Indictment of Mountaineering***  
15th Annual Sports Literature Conference, July 26th, 1998, University of  
Montevallo, Montevallo, AL.

Comments on "*Mathematical Fictionalism in Context*"  
Mid-South Philosophy Conference, February 28-March 1, 1997.

***Paradoxes of Diachronic Identity***  
Tennessee Philosophical Association Meeting, November 1997.

***Who are Philosophers that CEOs Should be Mindful of Them?***  
25th Conference on Value Inquiry, April 18, 1997.

***A Problem for Temporal Parts Theory***  
Mid-South Philosophy Conference, February 28-March 1, 1997.

***Probabilities and Temporal Parts***  
New Jersey Philosophical Association, November 18, 1996.

***Euthanasia and the Plasticity of Intrinsic Values***  
24th Conference on Value Inquiry, April 19, 1996.

***Contingent Validity: Divine Omnipotence and the Laws of Logic***  
New Jersey Philosophical Association, November 18, 1995.

***Humanist in a Box: A Course in Artificial Intelligence for Arts and Sciences Majors*** with Marc LaBella  
Computers on Campus National Conference, November 12-15, 1995.

***Multicultural Education and the Future of Democracy*** with Keith Burkum  
Institute for the Study of Postsecondary Pedagogy's Fifth Annual Conference:  
*American Pragmatism, John Dewey, and Teaching and Learning in a Multicultural Society*, November 12-15, 1995.

***Truth and Consequences: A Utilitarian Evaluation of Truth***  
23rd Conference on Value Inquiry, April 7, 1995.  
Comments on "Freedom and Constraint," APA Pacific Division Meeting, 1993.

#### **Other Conference Participation**

I attended the University of Mississippi Symposium on Psychoneural Reduction, February 26-28th, 1999.

Participant, AAC&U Conference: Liberal Education: *Confronting Questions of Quality*, January 28-30, 1999, San Francisco, CA.

Conference on Technology and Teaching at Auburn

Participant, AAC&U Conference: *The Politics of Curriculum Change*, November 4-5 1994, Washington, DC

Participant, NSF Workshop on Professional and Ethical Issues in Computing, June 1994. Deborah G. Johnson, Director

Participant, NEH Summer Institute on Naturalism, Lincoln, NE, Summer 1993. Robert Audi, Director.

#### **Related Activities**

I am the Editor of the *Southwest Philosophy Review*.

I am the immediate past president of the Alabama Philosophical Society 2005-2006

I am a reviewer for *The Journal of Value Inquiry*.

I am a paid text reviewer for Pearson Longman Press, Prentice Hall Publishing Company and McGraw Hill.

I am a member of the American Philosophical Association, the Southwest Philosophy Society and the Alabama Philosophical Society.

I am a member of Phi Kappa Phi.

I am Faculty Advisor for the Philosophy Club, the College Bowl Team and the Astronomy Club (with Michael Sterner).

### **Papers Under Review**

"What Cartesian arguments could not show"

"Can an object survive the loss of a part--A defense of ontological nihilism"

"Van Inwagen on life and lives"

"Causation, Perceptions, and Externality: Hume's Metaphysic of Objects"

### **Honors and Awards**

Syracuse University Teaching Fellow--1989-1990, 1990-1991

Outstanding University Teaching Assistant Award 1989-1990

Syracuse University Graduate Scholarship--1985 through 1990

Teaching Coordinator for Philosophy 187--1988-1990

Philosophy Department Summer Fellowship--1986, 1989

**Letters of reference available upon request.**

### **Courses Taught**

1996-present *University of Montevallo*

HNRS 307 The First Atomic Bomb (1 credit)

HNRS 309 Aristotelian Plays and Politics (3 credit)

HNRS 307 Animal Rights (1 credit)

HNRS 309 Philosophy of the Cosmos (3 credit)

HNRS 307 Honors Astronomy (1 credit)

HNRS 308 Scientific Revolutions (1 credit)

LS 301 Ancient Culture (with Tom Woods)

LS 302 Medieval Culture (with Tom Woods)

LS 303 Early Modern Culture (with Tom Woods)

LS 304 Late Modern Culture (with Tom Woods)

PHIL 110 Introduction to Philosophy

PHIL 180 Critical Reasoning

PHIL 220 Ethics

PHIL 230 Science, Technology and Value

PHIL 250 Symbolic Logic

PHIL 280 Ancient and Medieval Philosophy

PHIL 290 Modern Philosophy

PHIL 300 Special Topics (3 credit)

Feminist Philosophy

Wittgenstein

Philosophy of the Cosmos

Philosophy of Science

Nietzsche

Creationism, Evolution and Rationality

Philosophy of Dissent

Hume

Corporations and Culpability

PHIL 330 Philosophy of Science  
PHIL 350 Existentialism  
PHIL 360 Philosophical Analysis  
PHIL 370 Epistemology  
PHIL 380 Metaphysics

1993-1996 *Felician College*

PH 100 Critical Reasoning  
PH 101 Introduction to Philosophy  
PH 200 Foundations of the Philosophy of Education  
PH 201 Symbolic Logic  
PH 202 Logic and Computing  
PH 205 Business Ethics  
PH 207 Modern Philosophy  
PH 209 Contemporary Existentialism  
PH 301 General Ethics  
PH 302 Metaphysics  
CO 330 Invitation to Philosophize--Our Search for Wholeness  
CO 330 Honors Invitation to Philosophize--Our Search for Wholeness  
ID 350 Teleology, Evolution and Human Community

1992-1993 *University of Hawaii at Hilo*

PH 100 Introduction to Western Philosophy  
PH 200 Reasoning  
PH 210 Belief, Truth and Knowledge  
PH 300 Metaphysics

1990-1992 *University of Tulsa*

First Seminar 33 Philosophy and Human Nature  
PH 1003 Socrates to Sartre  
PH 1063 Ethics & the Problems of Society  
PH 1653 Reasoning  
PH 3973 Free Will

1985-1990 *Syracuse University*

PH 187 Theories of Knowledge and Reality (Taught and Administered all TAs)  
PH 197 Philosophy of Human Nature

Mark Lance  
Alastair Norcross  
Russel Weibe  
Larry Hardin  
Beate Schiwiek  
Sam Webb  
Michael Sterner