

Allison Postell, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Philosophy | apostell@hillsdale.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Philosophy, awarded with distinction, University of Dallas	2013
M.A., Philosophy, <i>magna cum laude</i> , University of Dallas	2007
B.A., Philosophy and Spanish, <i>summa cum laude</i> , St. Norbert College	2005

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Area of Specialization: Metaethics, Ethics, History of Philosophy
Area of Competence: Action Theory
Dissertation: *What Comes Naturally: Metaethical Foundations of Virtue Ethics*
Thesis: Nature and an ontological conception of goodness ground virtuous cultural practices

TEACHING AND SERVICE

Hillsdale College

Assistant Professor of Philosophy (2025-present), Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy (2022-2025), Lecturer (2020-2022)

COR 150: Classical Logic and Rhetoric
PHL 105: Western Philosophical Tradition
PHL 211: Ancient Philosophy
PHL 212: Medieval Philosophy
PHL 493: Elizabeth Anscombe
PHL 493: Bioethics

Collegiate Scholars Program Senior Theses:

“Proof of Personhood: The Legal and Philosophical Significance of the Congressional Testimony of a Woman Born-Alive in a Failed Abortion” (2025, second reader), “Rest peturbéd spirit’: A Partial Defense of Hamlet through the Ethical Theory of Elizabeth Anscombe” (2024, first reader)

University of Colorado-Colorado Springs

Senior Instructor (2019-2020), Instructor (2014-2019), Lecturer (2010-2014)

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

Director of Classics (2014-2017)

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)

St. John Vianney Theological Seminary, Denver

Lecturer (2012-2014)

PHIL 1009: Medieval Philosophy

PHIL 2350: Greek Drama

University of Dallas

Lecturer (2008-2009)

PHIL 1301: Philosophy and the Ethical Life

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed

“Virtue on Display: Ethics in Aristotle’s *Rhetoric*.” *Pietas* 2, no. 1 (Spring 2023): 31-50.

“The Nature of Virtue Ethics.” *Proceedings of the American Catholic Philosophical Association* 93 (2019): 239-252.

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

Book Reviews and Short Essays

“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). *Anamnesis*, December 31, 2013: <http://anamnesisjournal.com/2013/12/review-nicolas-lombardos-logic-desire-aquinas-on-emotion/>.

SCHOLARSHIP IN PROGRESS

“Tocqueville on Epistemic Authority in Public Opinion.” Co-authored article.

“Recognizing a Reliable Authority: Epistemic Virtue or Skill?” Co-authored article.

“Nature and Neo-Aristotelian Grammatical Naturalism.” Article.

The Nature of Virtue Ethics. Book manuscript. Catholic University of America Press.

CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS, AND PUBLIC LECTURES

“Aristotelian Habit and Modern Psychology.” Hillsdale K-12 Summer Conference in Classical Education, Hillsdale, MI. June 2025. Invited speaker.

“The Powers of the Soul and the Unity of the Virtues.” The Hippocratic Society National Conference, Dallas, TX. June 2025. Invited speaker.

“Christian Friendship.” Catholic Women’s Lenten Retreat, Hillsdale, MI. March, 2025.

“Nature and Neo-Aristotelian Grammatical Naturalism.” Society of Catholic Social Scientists, Steubenville, OH. October 2023.

“Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn and the Human Condition Today.” Center for Religion, Culture & Democracy Conference, Kansas City, MO. September 2023. Invited Conferee.

Panelist. Center for Constructive Alternatives Session on Big Pharma. Hillsdale, MI. March 2023.

“Authority of Character in Aristotle’s *Rhetoric*.” Ciceronian Society Annual Meeting, Grove City, PA. March 2022.

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. Conferee.

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

“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

SERVICE, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Club Co-Advisor, The Hippocratic Society: Hillsdale Chapter, 2025.

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

McDermott Fellow, University of Dallas, 2007-2009

GRADUATE PAPERS

<u>Course</u>	<u>Research Paper</u>
Homer and Vergil	“Ajax as the Homeric Spirited Man”
Aristotle’s <i>Metaphysics</i>	“Aristotle’s Refutation of the Megarians”
Plato and Aristotle	“Practical Judgment in the <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> ”
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</i> XI” and “Methodology in Aquinas’ Account of Original Sin”
The Bible	“Elihu as Representative of Rational Inquiry 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>Ipsum Esse Subsistens</i> ”
Aquinas Ethics	“ <i>ST</i> 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 <i>ST</i> qq. 12-17 and G.E.M. Anscombe’s <i>Intention</i> : The Continuing Relevance of Aquinas’ Psychology of Action”
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> ”
Aristotle’s Metaphysics	Audited Spring 2009