Ronald A. Novy, PhD

Lecturer in Philosophy and the Humanities

University College

University of Central Arkansas

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## Areas of Specialization

Ethics, Metaphysics, Social and Political Philosophy, Marx

## Areas of Teaching Competence

Philosophy of Mind, Nineteenth-Century Philosophy, Modern Philosophy, Philosophy and Popular Culture, Feminism, Transhumanism, Philosophy of Education

## Education

* PhD, Philosophy, University of Missouri, Columbia, 2007

Dissertation: *Homo Aestheticus*: Species Being and the Struggle for Existence

* MA, Philosophy, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, 1993

Thesis: Mind Under Matter: Taylorism, Class, and the Uses of Artificial Intelligence

* BA, Political Science and International Relations, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, 1987

**Academic Experience**

**University of Central Arkansas**, Conway, AR

*University College*

* Senior Lecturer in Philosophy and the Humanities, 2015 – present
* Lecturer in Philosophy and the Humanities, 2008 – 2015
* Director (Interim), 2012 - 2014

*Department of Philosophy and Religion*

* Visiting Assistant Professor, 2007 – 2008
* Lecturer / Instructor, 2002 – 2007

*College of Liberal Arts*

* Academic Advisor, 2004 – 2009

**University of Missouri**, Columbia, MO

* Instructor, Department of Philosophy, 1999 – 2002
* Teaching Assistant, Department of Philosophy, 1996 – 1999

**Lincoln University**, Jefferson City, MO

* Adjunct Faculty, Department of History, Politics, and Philosophy, 1997 – 1998

**Publications**

* “Willy Wonka and the Imperial Chocolate Factory” in *Roald Dahl and Philosophy: A Little Nonsense Now and Then* (ed. Jacob M. Held) Rowman and Littlefield, April 2014.
* "Transhumanism: or, Is It Right to Make a Spider‑Man?" in *Spider-Man and Philosophy: The Web of Inquiry* (ed. Jonathan Sanford) Blackwell, May 2012.
* “McElligot’s Pool: Epistemology (With Fish!)” in *Dr. Seuss and Philosophy: Oh, the Thinks You Can Think!* (ed. Jacob M. Held) Rowman and Littlefield, June 2011.
* “Rebellion in Sal-ma-Sond: The Social Contract and a Turtle Named ‘Mack’” in *Dr. Seuss and Philosophy: Oh, the Thinks You Can Think!* (ed. Jacob M. Held) Rowman and Littlefield, June 2011.
* “Hate Crimes and Terror: The Case of Terry Berg” in *Green Lantern and Philosophy: No Evil Shall Escape This Book* (ed. Jane Dryden and Mark D. White) Blackwell, May 2011.
* “Iron Man in a Chinese Room: Does Living Armor Think?” in *Iron Man and Philosophy: Facing the Stark Reality* (ed. Mark D. White) Blackwell, April 2010.
* “Fate at the Bottom of a Bottle: Alcohol, Choice, and Tony Stark” in *Iron Man and Philosophy: Facing the Stark Reality* (ed. Mark D. White) Blackwell, April 2010.
* “Why Good Help is Hard to Find: Henchmen, Friends, and Aristotle” in *Supervillains and Philosophy: Sometimes, Evil is its own Reward* (ed. Ben Dyer) Open Court, September 2009.
* “What Is It Like to Be a Batman?” in *Batman and Philosophy: The Dark Knight of the Soul* (ed. Mark D. White and Robert Arp) Blackwell, June 2008.

— Reprinted, *The Philosophers’ Magazine*, January 2009.

* *Contemporary Moral Problems Textbook*, Second Edition (Peter Mehl, Ron Novy, and Phillip Spivey, eds.), Kendall Hunt Publishing, May 2005.

*Works in Progress*

— “The Mummer's Plague: ‘The Masque of the Red Death’ in the Age of Terror.”

— *What Mental Illness Can Teach Philosophy* (researching manuscript).

## Lectures, Conferences, and Presentations

###### Invited Lecture, “On Kittay’s ‘Vulnerability and the Moral Nature of Dependency Relations.’” Seminar in Feminist Philosophy, University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR, November 2014.

###### Lecture, *Roald Dahl and Philosophy*: *A Little Nonsense Now and Then*. Panel presentation (with Drs. Taine Duncan, Jacob Held, Tanya Jeffcoat, and Benjamin Rider). Faulkner County Library, Conway, AR. October 2014.

* Invited Presentation, “Best Practices in Student Retention,” Co-Presenter with Dr. Julia Winden Fey, Lunch and Learn Program, Instructional Development Center, University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR, January 2014.
* Lecture, “Hate Crimes and Terrorism” a part of “Women in the World: Pornography, Abuse, and the Sexualization of Young Girls” panel discussion (with Drs. Taine Duncan and Jacob Held), “Exploring Our World Lecture Series” sponsored by Academic Outreach and the College of Liberal Arts, University of Central Arkansas. Conway, AR, May 2012.
* Invited Lecture, “Cyborgs, Spider-Man, and Building a Better Us.” Philosophy and Religion Lecture Series, University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR, April 2012.
* Presentation, “Defensible Practices?” in “Author Meets Critics: Michael L. Gross – *Moral Dilemmas in Modern War,”* North American Society for Social and Political Philosophy, the American Philosophical Association’s Central Division Meeting, Chicago, IL, February 2012.

###### Lecture, “*Dr. Seuss and Philosophy*: An Introduction to Philosophical Themes through Popular Culture.” Panel presentation (with Drs. Jacob Held, Tanya Jeffcoat, and Benjamin Rider). Faulkner County Library, Conway, AR, December 2011.

* Lecture, “The Intention Stance (Meat *and* Silicon)” a part of “Minds and Machines: Artificial Intelligence” Presentation and panel discussion (with Drs. Jesse Butler and Charles Harvey), “Exploring Our World Lecture Series” sponsored by Academic Outreach and the College of Liberal Arts, University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR, November 2011.
* Invited Lecture, “Why ‘Philosophy and Popular Culture?’” Philosophy and Religion Lecture Series, University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR, October 2009.
* Invited Presentation, “Philosophical Reflections on Artificial Intelligence: A Panel Discussion” (with Drs. Jesse Butler and Charles Harvey), Philosophy and Religion Lecture Series, University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR, November 2008.
* Invited Lecture, “Zombies and the Mind-Body Problem,” Philosophy and Religion Lecture Series, University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR, March 2008.
* Presentation, “Ticking Time Bombs, Knowledge, and What’s Wrong with *24*,” 32nd Annual Midsouth Philosophy Conference, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN, February 2008.

## Lectures, Conferences, and Presentations, Continued

* Invited Lecture, “Why the Ticking Time Bomb Doesn’t Justify the Use of Torture,” Philosophy and Religion Lecture Series, University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR, November 2007.
* Invited Lecture, “What’s So Dangerous about Charles Darwin: A Quick Sketch of Some Big Ideas,” International Darwin Day Annual Lecture sponsored by Academic Outreach and the College of Undergraduate Studies, University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR, February 2007.
* Invited Lecture, “Feminist Epistemology,” Seminar in Feminist Philosophy, University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR, November 2006.
* Invited Presentation, “Habeas Corpus and the War on Terror,” Mid-South Conference of the Young Democratic Socialists of America, University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR, October 2006.
* Invited Presentation, “The Politics of Hurricane Katrina,” Mid-South Conference of the Young Democratic Socialists of America, University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR, October 2005.
* Invited Lecture. “Is Evolution a Threat to Morality?” Honors College Colloquium, University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR, April 2005.
* Invited Presentation, “Four Traditional Arguments Condemning Homosexuality,” (with Dr. Dawn Jakubowski), Regional LGBT College Leadership and Training Conference, University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR, November 2004.
* Presentation, “Why We Cannot Have Ethical Responsibilities to Texts,” English Graduate Student Association Conference, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO, March 2001.
* Presentation, “On Goffstein’s ‘Reconstructing Habermas, Wittgenstein, and Zen: Toward a Critical Communicative Spirituality,’” Society for Social and Political Philosophy, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO, March 1998.
* Presentation, “Denial and Negation: Anti-Semitism in Marx’s *On the Jewish Question*,” Society for Social and Political Philosophy, Central Methodist College, Fayette, MO, June 1997.

**Current Research Interests**

* Transhumanism: Ethical, Metaphysical, and Political Implications of Emerging Technologies
* Mental Illness and Telling Stories
* The Capabilities Approach and Critical Pedagogy in Developmental Education

**Teaching**

**University of Central Arkansas**

*Courses*

* PHIL 1301: Philosophy for Living
* PHIL 2325: Contemporary Moral Problems
* PHIL 3341: Theories of Knowledge – Social Epistemology
* PHIL 3370: Metaphysics
* PHIL 3375: Philosophy of Mind
* PHIL 3395: Topics in Philosophy – Marx and Marxism
* PHIL 3395: Topics in Philosophy – Theories of Mind
* PHIL 3395: Topics in Philosophy – Metaphysics
* FYFS 1301: First-Year Freshman Seminar: Thinking Through the Graphic Novel
* HONC 3310: Honors Seminar: Human Rights, Citizenship, and Violence
* UNIV 1100: University Studies

*Supervision of Student Research*

* Faculty Mentor, College of Liberal Arts Student Research Symposium

— Tim Havens, “Personal Artifacts: Artificial Beings as Persons,” May 2014.

* Honors Thesis Advisor

— Adam Cox, “The Future of Longevity Escape Velocity: A Joint Thesis,” 2008.

— Nathan McCune, “The Future of Longevity Escape Velocity: A Joint Thesis,” 2008.

— Thomas Kendrick, “Christianity and Marxism,” 2006.

* Honors Oxford Tutorial Advisor

— Adam Cox, Cyborgization of the Mind and Body, 2007 – 2008.

— Nathan McCune, Cyborgization of the Mind and Body, 2007 – 2008.

— Thomas Kendrick, Marxist Humanism, 2005 – 2006.

**University of Missouri**

* General Introduction to Philosophy
* Introduction to Ethics
* Logic and Critical Thinking
* Medical Ethics

**Lincoln University**

* Introduction to Logic

**Course Creation**

*Upper-Division, University of Central Arkansas*

* PHIL 3370: Metaphysics, Philosophy and Religion Department.
* PHIL 3375: Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy and Religion Department.
* PHIL 3395: Topic – Marx and Marxism, Philosophy and Religion Department.
* HONC 3310: Seminar: Human Rights, Citizenship, and Violence, Honors College.

*Lower-Division, University of Central Arkansas*

* FYFS 1301: First-Year Freshman Seminar: Thinking Through the Graphic Novel, College of Undergraduate Studies.

**Professional Service**

* Member, Academic Advisory Board, Contemporary Learning Series, McGraw-Hill Higher Education.

— *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Bioethical Issues*.

— *Taking Sides: Clashing Views in Business Ethics and Society*.

— *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Moral Issues*.

— *Taking Sides: Clashing Views in Science, Technology, and Society*.

* Reviewer, McGraw-Hill Companies.
* Reviewer, Oxford University Press.
* Reviewer, Wadsworth / Cengage Learning.
* Member, Human Trajectories Advisory Board, Lifeboat Foundation, 2009 – present.
* Member, Review Committee, 2009 Asian-Pacific Conference on Computing and Philosophy, International Association for Computing and Philosophy, Fall 2009.
* Member, Review Committee, 2009 North American Conference on Computing and Philosophy, International Association for Computing and Philosophy, Spring 2009.

**University Service**

* Member, Core Council, Academic Affairs, 2015 – present.
* Member, Curriculum Subcommittee, 2015 – present.
* Member, First-Year Seminar, Subcommittee, 2015 – present.
* Member, “First to Go” Faculty Panel, Fist Generation Student Awareness Week, September 2016.
* Chair, Black Male Achievement Challenge (B-MAC) Advisory Council, Office of Diversity and Community, 2014 – 2016.
* Member, Affirmative Action Advisory Committee, Faculty Senate, 2013 – 2016.
* Participant, “Note-Taking Intervention Study of At-Risk Students,” Dr. Martens, Psychology & Counseling Department, Fall 2015.
* Member, Academic Assessment Committee, Faculty Senate, 2012 – 2015.
* Co-Presenter, “Best Practices in Student Retention,” (with Dr. Julia Winden Fey), Lunch and Learn Program, Instructional Development Center, January 2014.
* Member (as Interim Director of University College), Academic Council, Academic Affairs, 2012 – 2014.
* Member, Faculty Scholars Committee, Faculty Senate, 2010 – 2013.
* Member, Sexual Harassment Complaint Committee, Faculty Senate, 2010 – 2011.
* Faculty Advisor, United Leftist Front / Young Democratic Socialists of America, Recognized Student Organization, 2005-2008.

**College and Departmental Service**

* Member, Conditionally-Admitted Student Placement Committee, 2016 – present.
* Member, Strategic Planning Committee, 2015 – present.
* Member, Advancement Committee, 2015-2016.
* Member, UNIV 1100 Taskforce, University College, 2014 – present.
* Member, Curriculum Committee, University College, 2010 – 2012, 2014 – present.
* Member, Co-requisite Transitional Math Group, University College, 2013 – 2015.
* Member, Assessment Committee, University College, 2012 – 2015.
* Director (Interim), University College, 2012 – 2014.
* Chair, By-Laws Committee, University College, 2010 – 2012.
* Member, Faculty Development Committee, University College, 2009 – 2012.
* Member, John Rohweder Scholarship Interdepartmental Committee, 2008 – 2010.
* Member, Technology Committee, University College, 2008 – 2012.
* Member, Ad-hoc Academic Dishonesty Committee, College of Liberal Arts, 2006 - 2008.
* Co-Presenter, Film and Lecture Series, Department of Philosophy and Religion, 2004 – 2008.

**Grants**

* Co-author, Strengthening Institution’s Program Grant, U.S. Department of Education, 2013 (unfunded). In preparation to resubmit.
* Co-author, University College Curriculum Redesign, Completion Innovation Challenge Grant Program,” Complete College America, Implementation 2012 - 2014.

**Professional Affiliations**

* American Association of Philosophy Teachers
* American Philosophical Association
* Arkansas Association for Developmental Education
* Institute for Ethics and Emerging Technologies
* International Network for Philosophy and Bioethics
* Radical Philosophy Association

**References**

* Available on Request