

Justin Morton

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Areas of Specialization

Ethics, Metaethics

Areas of Competence

Ancient Philosophy, Metaphysics, Epistemology

Employment

Assistant Professor of Instruction | 2026 – Present | University of Texas at Tyler

Professor | 2025 – 2026 | Tarrant County College

Associate Professor | 2020 – 2025 | Tarrant County College

Assistant Professor | 2021 – 2023 | Zayed University (UAE)

Assistant Professor | 2019 – 2020 | University of California, Davis

Visiting Assistant Professor | 2018 – 2019 | University of California, Davis

Education

PhD | 2018 | The University of Texas at Austin

MA | 2015 | The University of Wisconsin

MA | 2012 | Texas Tech University

BA | 2010 | Stephen F. Austin State University

Publications

Forthcoming	“How Theists Can Answer the ‘Why Be Moral?’ Question: An Indirect Reason-Generation Account” <i>Analytic Philosophy</i>
2025	“An Unjustified Orthodoxy: Why Theists Need Not be (So) Metaethically Constrained” <i>The Philosophical Quarterly</i>
2022	“A Defense of Global Theological Voluntarism” <i>Faith and Philosophy</i>
2022	“Mind-Dependence and Normative Principles” <i>Philosophical Studies</i>
2020	“Grounding the Normative: A Problem for Structured Non-Naturalism” <i>Philosophical Studies</i> 177: 173-96
2019	“Can Theists Avoid Epistemological Objections to Moral (and Normative) Realism?” <i>Faith and Philosophy</i> 36: 291-312
2019	“Grounding Thick Normative Facts” <i>Pacific Philosophical Quarterly</i> 100: 408-31.
2019	“When Do Replies to the Evolutionary Debunking Argument Beg the Question?” <i>Australasian Journal of Philosophy</i> 97: 265-80.

- 2016 “A New Evolutionary Debunking Argument Against Moral Realism” *Journal of the American Philosophical Association* 2: 233-53
- 2014 “Parsimony and the Argument from Queerness” (with Eric Sampson) *Res Philosophica* 91: 609-27 (Special issue on ethical non-naturalism, edited by Terence Cuneo)

Books

- Under Contract *Sovereign Morality*, under contract with Cascade Press, an imprint of Wipf and Stock

Invited

- Under Contract “Divine Command Theory” In *The Oxford Handbook of Deontology*, ed. Piers Rawling

Survey and Encyclopedia Articles

- 2022 “Normativity in Metaethics” In the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, co-authored with David Copp

Under Review/In Draft

- “Yes, Theists *Are* (Potentially) Better People”
- “Platonic Moral Virtue and The Division of Moral Labor”
- “Normative Principles, Understanding, and Testimony” (with Derek Haderlie and Andrew Del Rio)
- Theological Voluntarism: A Defense* (book draft)
- Virtue and The Human Heart: A Christian Account of Character Formation* (pop book project)

Select Presentations

- “What is the Meaning of Life?”
- Invited presentation to TCC’s Christian Apologetics Club | September 2024
- “An Unjustified Orthodoxy: Why Theists Need Not Be So Metaethically Constrained”
- Alabama Philosophical Society | September 2023
- “Lessons from the Tuskegee Syphilis Study”
- Invited talk to the Baylor Medical Ethics Club | April 2023
- “Theism, the Eschaton, and Prudential Reasons to be Moral”
- Society of Christian Philosophers | October 2022
- “Why Study Medical Ethics?”
- Invited talk to the Baylor Medical Service Organization (MSO) | November 2022
- “Mind-Dependence and Normative Principles”
- Chapel Hill Normativity Workshop | March 2020
- “The Division of Moral Labor and the Metaphysics of Moral Virtue”
- Texas Tech University, invited colloquium talk | September 2019

- Alabama Philosophical Society | September 2019
- “A Defense of Global Theological Voluntarism”
- Evangelical Philosophical Society | November 2019
- “Divine Command Theory”
- Lecture given to the UC-Davis Philosophy Club | March 2019
- “When Do Replies to the Evolutionary Debunking Argument Beg the Question?”
- Alabama Philosophical Society | September 2017
- “Can Theists Avoid Epistemological Objections to Moral Realism?”
- Alabama Philosophical Society | September 2018
- Society of Christian Philosophers (Midwest) | September 2016
- “Grounding the Normative: A New Direction for Non-Naturalists”
- Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress | August 2016
- The Language and Metaphysics of Normativity, in Uppsala, Sweden | May 2016
- “Metaphysical Permissivism and the Problem of Inter-Domain Conflict”
- North Texas Philosophical Association | April 2016
- “Parsimony and the Argument from Queerness” (with Eric Sampson)
- 40th Annual Conference on Value Inquiry: Evolution and the Foundations of Ethics | May 2014

Teaching: Undergraduate

Ethical Theory (UT-Tyler upper-level)	Spring 2026
Modern Philosophy (UT-Tyler upper-level)	Fall 2026
Critical Thinking and Moral Reasoning (UT-Tyler)	Many times
World Religions and Philosophy (Texas Tech)	Many times
Moral Philosophy (Baylor)	Fall 2022
Introduction to Medical Ethics (Baylor)	Fall 2022
Applied Creative and Critical Thinking (ZU)	Fall 2021
Systems and Society (ZU)	Spring 2022
Strategic Learning and Growth (ZU)	Spring 2022
Ethics of Technology (UCD freshman seminar)	Winter 2020
World Religions (TCC)	Many times
Political Philosophy (UCD upper-level)	Fall 2019
Philosophy of Law (UCD upper-level)	Spring 2019, Spring 2020
Metaethics (UCD upper-level)	Fall 2018
Applied Epistemology (UCD freshman seminar)	Fall 2018
Introduction to Ethics (TCC, UT-Tyler)	So many times
Introduction to Philosophy (TCC, UT-Tyler)	Even more times

Independent Studies:

- Legal Positivism | Fall 2019

- Critical Theory and Christianity | Winter 2020

Directed Group Studies:

- Philosophy of Humor | Winter 2020

Teaching: Graduate

Moral Metaphysics (UCD graduate seminar)

- Topics covered: moral disagreement, moral testimony, moral perception, and moral uncertainty

Moral Epistemology (UCD graduate seminar)

- Topics covered: the argument from queerness, supervenience, normative dependence/grounding, particularism vs. generalism, realism vs. anti-realism, reasons fundamentalism

Advising

Honors Thesis Advisor:

- Zachary Nemirovsky: “The Contradiction of Moral Relativism” | Winter/Spring 2019
 - Awarded Highest Honors
- Lemuel Herg: “Cultural Relativism” | Fall/Winter 2019-2020

Second Year Paper Committee Member (Graduate):

- Khang That Vinh Ton: “Moral Error Ascriptions: A Problem for Expressivism” | Spring 2019
- Ramiel Tamras: “The Hard Problem of Normativity: Taking Moral Normativity Seriously” | Spring 2020

Prospectus Committee Member (Graduate):

- Patrick Skeels: “The Dynamics of Disagreement” | Spring 2020

Teaching Development

Member of the Graduate Teacher Training and Supervision Committee, UC-Davis | Fall 2019-present

Book Group on *What the Best College Teachers Do* (Organizer) | Summer 2017

Development in Instruction Group (DIG) at UW-Madison | 2013-2015

- A group of graduate students who met bi-monthly to discuss teaching methods and regularly observed each other’s classes

Workshop on teaching philosophy | American Association of Philosophy Teachers | Fall 2012

Honors and Awards

Cogburn Essay Prize (Texas) | Spring 2018

Graduate School Continuing Fellowship (Texas) | Spring 2018

Graduate School Recruiting Fellowships (Texas) | Fall 2015, Summer 2016, Summer 2017

Invited Attendee, “Do We Need God to be Moral?” Debate: Frans de Waal and Jeff Schloss | 2014

Departmental Scholarship (Wisconsin) | 2012—2014

Professional Service

Pre-Law Advisor, UT-Tyler | Spring 2026 - Present

Student Affairs Committee, Zayed University | Spring 2022

Academic Standards Committee, Zayed University | Fall 2021

Graduate Placement Officer, UC-Davis | Fall 2018-Spring 2020

Undergraduate Committee, UC-Davis | Fall 2019-Spring 2020

Graduate Teacher Training and Supervision Committee, UC-Davis | Fall 2019-Spring 2020

Graduate Admissions Committee, UC-Davis | Fall 2019-Spring 2020

Co-Organizer | Davis Group in Ethics and Related Subjects (DaGERS) | Fall 2018-Spring 2020

Organizer/Leader | Summer Reading Group in Ethics (UC-Davis) | Summer 2019

Journal Referee, *Nous*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *The Journal of Philosophy*, *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, *Ratio*, *Synthese*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *The Southern Journal of Philosophy*, *Erkenntnis*

Organizer, *Metaethics Reading Group*, UT-Austin | Summer 2016, Summer 2017

Co-Organizer, *University of Texas Graduate Philosophy Conference* | 2016

Special Contributor, *The Philosophers' Cocoon* (blog) | 2017

Conference Referee

- 5th Annual Philosophers' Cocoon Conference | 2017
- Austin Graduate Ethics and Normativity Talks | 2015-2017
- University of Texas Graduate Philosophy Conference | 2015-2017

Research Assistant, Book project by Russ Shafer-Landau and Terrence Cuneo | 2015