
J. MATT DEATON, PH.D.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Philosophy, University of Tennessee, 2011

M.A., Philosophy, University of Tennessee, 2007

B.A., Philosophy & Political Science, University of Tennessee, 2005

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Ethics

Social & Political Philosophy

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Critical Thinking

Philosophy of Law

Intro to Philosophy

World Religions

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Introduction to Ethics

- Pellissippi State Community College (on site), Fall 2010, (online), Fall 2021 – Fall 2024, Summer 2025, Fall 2025, Spring 2026
- The University of Texas at Tyler (online), Fall 2016 – present
- Walters State Community College (on site), Fall 2009, Fall 2010

Introduction to Philosophy

- Pellissippi State Community College (online), Spring 2018 – Spring 2021, Fall 2024, Summer 2025, Fall 2025, Spring 2026
- Carson-Newman University (on site), Spring 2010, Fall 2020 (online), Fall 2021, Fall 2023 (online)
- Walters State Community College (on site), Spring 2010, also (online), Fall 2010, Fall 2013 – Spring 2018
- Lee University (on site), Fall 2011

Critical Thinking

- Pellissippi State Community College (online) Spring 2025
- South College (on site), Summer 2008 – Spring 2009

Philosophy as Conversation (oral-concentration)

- East Tennessee State University (online), Spring 2018 – Spring 2022 (spring semesters only)

Bioethics

- University of Tennessee (on site), Fall 2011

Contemporary Moral Issues (oral-concentration)

- University of Tennessee (on site), Fall 2008, Fall 2011

Business Ethics

- University of Tennessee (on site), Summer 2006, 2007, 2008

Independent Study: Social and Political Philosophy

- University of Tennessee (on site), Summer 2010

Social and Political Philosophy

- University of Tennessee (on site), Summer 2009, 2010, Fall 2011

Professional Responsibility (oral-concentration)

- University of Tennessee (on site), Spring 2009 – Spring 2011

University Honors, Introduction to Governance and Public Policy

- Howard Baker Center for Public Policy (nonpartisan), University of Tennessee (on site), Fall 2011

Engineering Ethics (as a Graduate Teaching Assistant)

- University of Tennessee (on site), Spring 2007, Fall 2007

HONORS, AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Senior Research Fellow, Squire Family Foundation, 2011-2016
- Presidential Management Fellow, US Department of Veterans Affairs and Congressional Research Service, 2012-2013
- Graduate Teaching Associate Excellence in Teaching Award for 2008-2009, Philosophy Department, University of Tennessee
- Baker Scholar, Howard Baker Center for Public Policy (nonpartisan), 2007-2011
- Top Collegiate Scholar, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Tennessee, 2005

PUBLICATIONS

- *Ethics Bowl to the Rescue! Saving Democracy by Transforming Debate*, Notaed Press, forthcoming August, 2025.
- "Reconsidering the Ethics of Provocation Techniques for Psychogenic Non-Epileptic Attacks and Proposed Ethical Guidelines for Use," *Epilepsy & Behavior*, Volume 163, 110184, February, 2025 (co-authored with Cleveland Medical Center Neurologist Dr. Jim Dolbow).
- "If They Only Knew," *Journal of Patient Experience*, 2022 (co-authored with Cleveland Medical Center Neurologist Dr. Jim Dolbow).
- *Abortion Ethics in a Nutshell: A Pro-Both Tour of the Moral Arguments*, Notaed Press, 2021.
- "Why and How to Share Collective Feedback," Official Blog of the American Philosophical Association, 2020.
- *The Best Public Speaking Book*, Notaed Press, (2nd Edition, 2019; 1st Edition, 2013).

- *Year of the Fighter: Lessons from my Midlife Crisis Adventure*, Notaed Press, 2018.
- *Ethics in a Nutshell: The Philosopher's Approach to Morality in 100 Pages*, Notaed Press, 2017.
- "Problems for Foley's Accounts of Rational Belief and Responsible Belief." (with EJ Coffman), *Res Philosophica* 90 (2013): 147-160.
- *Ethics in a Nutshell: An Intro for Ethics Bowlers* (ethics bowl open source edition), Notaed Press, 2013, 2015 (2nd Ed.).
- "The Race to the Bottom Hypothesis," *Encyclopedia of Environmental Issues*, 2nd Ed., Salem Press, Pasadena, CA, 2010.
- Three articles in *Encyclopedia of Global Justice*, Deen Chatterjee, ed. Springer, New York, 2010.
 - ❖ "Public Interest"
 - ❖ "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights"
 - ❖ "UDHR Rights and Duties: Contrasted and Critiqued"

RELATED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Syllabus Showcase Series Editor, Official Blog of the American Philosophical Association, 2020 – 2023
- Founder, Webmaster and Primary Blogger, EthicsBowl.org, 2018-present
- Assistant Coach, Ethics Bowl Team, Sequoyah High School, Madisonville, TN, 2015-2020
- Director of Outreach, National High School Ethics Bowl, Parr Center for Ethics, University of North Carolina, 2013-2016
- Backup Organizer, Los Angeles High School Ethics Bowl, 2015 (University of Southern California), 2016 (California Polytechnic University at Pomona)
- Co-founder, Co-organizer and Host, DC Area High School Ethics Bowl, American University, 2012-2014
- Founder, host and co-organizer, Tennessee High School Ethics Bowl, University of Tennessee, 2009-2011

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- American Philosophical Association
- Tennessee Philosophical Association