Luke Manning, PhD

Curriculum Vitae — Updated September, 2025

Lecturer in Philosophy
Department of English and Philosophy
Auburn University at Montgomery
P.O. Box 244023
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Areas of Specialization

Philosophy of Language, Logic, Metaphysics

Areas of Competence

Moral & Political Philosophy, Aesthetics, Philosophy of Mind

Education

PhD, Philosophy   2007–2012

   University of California, Santa Barbara
   Dissertation: *Signifying Nothing? How Fiction Represents*
   Committee: Nathan Salmon (chair), C. Anthony Anderson, Kevin Falvey

MA and C.Phil, Philosophy   2004–2007

   University of California, Santa Barbara
   Thesis: *Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Bandersnatch:*
           A Critical Assessment of Kripke's Theory of Fictional Names
   Thesis advisor: Nathan Salmon

BA with honors, Philosophy   1999–2003

   Michigan State University

Teaching Positions

Duties for teaching positions include: developing courses, syllabus, assignments, and exams; holding class meetings and office hours; maintaining course website/learning management system; communicating with students and providing mentoring; in some cases, supervising student assistants.

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Teaching Positions (continued)

Auburn University at Montgomery, Lecturer (full time)   08/2021–

Auburn University at Montgomery, Visiting Lecturer (full time)   08/2020–08/2021

Auburn University at Montgomery, Summer Adjunct (part time)   06–08 of 2020–2024

Auburn University, Instructor (full time)   08/2015–05/2020

Auburn University, Summer Adjunct (part time)   06–08 of 2016–2020

Western Michigan University, Adjunct Instructor (part time)   01/2014–05/2015

Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Adjunct Instructor (part time)   08/2013–05/2015

University of California, Santa Barbara, Teaching Associate (part time)   09–12/2007,
06–12/2008, 04–06/2009

Teaching Training

Microsoft Word Accessibility Training, Auburn University at Montgomery   2025

Canvas Training, Auburn University at Montgomery   2024

Brightspace/D2L & Online Instruction Training, Southern New Hampshire University 2023

Blackboard Ultra Training, Auburn University at Montgomery   2022

Blackboard Training, Auburn University at Montgomery   2020

Online Instruction Certification, Auburn University at Montgomery   2020

Workshop for Online Instruction, College of Liberal Arts, Auburn University   2019

Active Learning Workshop Series, Biggio Center, Auburn University   2017

Course Design and Technology Workshop, Biggio Center, Auburn University   2017

Courses Taught

Lower Division Undergraduate

▷ **Applied Ethics**
(37 sections at AUM: Su20, Fa20, Sp21, Su21, Fa21, Sp22, Su22, Fa22, Sp23, Su23, Fa23, Sp24, Su24, Fa24, Sp25, Su25, Fa25)
Moral reasoning skills, moral theories, and the complications of applied cases including application to medical settings
This includes eight sections with the theme "Medical Ethics."

▷ **Introduction to Logic**
(4 sections at AUM: Fa24, Fa25)
Deductive logic, including categorical and propositional logic; semantics, translation, and proofs
(Continued)

Lower Division Undergraduate Courses Taught (continued)

▷ **Logic**

(4 sections at AUM: Fa20, Fa22)

Deductive logic, including categorical, propositional, and predicate logic; and inductive logic, including conditional probability and Bayesian reasoning

▷ **Reasoning and Critical Thinking**

(2 sections at AUM: Su24, Su25)

Deductive reasoning, inductive reasoning with probability and generalizations, causal reasoning, social reasoning, and cognitive biases

▷ **Ethics and the Health Sciences (Biomedical Ethics)**

(14 sections at Auburn: Sp19, Su19, Fa19, Sp20, & Su20)

Major moral theories, moral reasoning skills, navigating ethical disagreements and dilemmas, bioethics principles (respect for autonomy, beneficence, nonmaleficence, utility, and justice), and their application to healthcare treatment, research, and policy

▷ **Intro to Ethics**

(35 sections at Auburn: Fa15, Sp16, Su16, Fa16, Sp17, Su17, Fa17, Sp18, Su18)

Major moral theories, moral reasoning skills, navigating ethical disagreements and dilemmas, applied ethical issues (e.g., abortion, euthanasia, terrorism, and animal rights)

▷ **Critical Thinking**

(1 section at KVCC: Sp15)

(2 sections at UCSB, including one with 279 students: Su08, Fa08)

Analyzing informal argumentative discourse, charitable reconstruction of arguments, evaluating argument content and presentation for fallacies, developing better arguments

▷ **Intro to Philosophy**

(6 sections at KVCC: Fa13, Wi14, Fa14, Wi15)

A survey of major issues in moral & political philosophy, philosophy of religion, epistemology, metaphysics, philosophy of language, and philosophy of art; skills for analyzing, evaluating, and developing arguments

▷ **Intro to Logic**

(1 section at KVCC: Fa14)

Analyzing informal argumentative discourse, charitable reconstruction of arguments, evaluating argument content and presentation for fallacies, developing better arguments; formal propositional logic

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Lower Division Undergraduate Courses Taught (continued)

▷ **Ethics**

(1 section at KVCC: Fa13)

Theories of what is morally valuable, major moral theories, applied ethical issues including abortion and environmental ethics

Upper Division Undergraduate Courses Taught

▷ **Special Topics in Philosophy: Philosophy of Art and Literature**

(3 sections at AUM, Sp23, Sp24, Sp25)

A survey of approaches, including 18th-century aesthetic theory, definitions of art, and theories of interpretation, value, fictionality, and ontology of art.

▷ **Special Topics in Philosophy: Social and Political Philosophy**

(1 section at AUM, Sp22)

A survey of social and political philosophy, including Plato's *Republic,* Arisotle's *Politics,* and major texts in social contract theory

▷ **Philosophy of Art**

(2 sections at WMU: Sp14, Fa14)

Definitions of art, theories of aesthetic evaluation, the relevance of cultural norms, the role of artist's intentions, the role of technology in creating art

▷ **Metaethics**

(1 section at UCSB: Sp09)

Theories about the nature and existence of moral properties and moral truths, attempts to analyze moral properties as natural properties, attempts to explain away moral properties in terms of moral fictions or emotionally expressive language

▷ **Hume**

(1 section at UCSB: Fa07)

David Hume's mature metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and philosophy of religion

Graduate Seminars Taught

▷ **Special Topics in Philosophy: Philosophy of Art and Literature**

(2 sections at AUM, Sp23, Sp24)

A survey of approaches, including 18th-century aesthetic theory, definitions of art, and theories of interpretation, value, fictionality, and ontology of art.

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Graduate Seminars Taught (continued)

▷ **Special Topics in Philosophy: Social and Political Philosophy**
(1 section at AUM, Sp22)
A survey of social and political philosophy, including Plato's *Republic,* Arisotle's *Politics,* and major texts in social contract theory

▷ **Problems of Intensionality (Philosophy of Language)**
(1 section at WMU: Sp15)
"Intensional" expressions express beliefs (as in "Alex believes it's raining") or other representations (as in "Alex reveres Zeus," which concerns Alex's attitude toward something). These raise problems for linguistic analysis, as they often seem to refer to nonexistent things. (For example, how can "Alex reveres Zeus" be true if there is no Zeus, and therefore, nothing that Alex reveres?) We surveyed influential historical approaches (medieval and early 20th-century), followed by contemporary approaches.

Publications

▷ Review of *Fictional Objects,* Stuart Brock and Anthony Everett (eds.) Oxford University Press, 2015; *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism,* Summer 2016

▷ "Reply to Sartorelli on Pretense and Representing Fictional Objects,"
The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism, Spring 2015

▷ "No Identity without an Entity," *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly,* 96:2, 2015

▷ "Real Representation of Fictional Objects," *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism,* Winter 2014

Presentations

▷ "Creating Fictional Objects"
at British Society of Aesthetics Conference on Fictional Characters,
University of Southampton, UK (December, 2015)
and at Alabama Philosophical Society Conference, Pensacola, Florida (October, 2015)

▷ "What is the Problem of Negative Existentials?"
at Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama (September, 2015),
at Western Michigan Metaphysics Workshop, WMU (November 2013),
and at APA Pacific Division meeting (March 2013)
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Presentations

▷ "What is Philosophy?"
   at Hope College, Holland, Michigan (invited, February 2013)

▷ "What is a Quantifier?"
   at Mathematics and Metaphysics Workshop, University of California, Santa Barbara (November, 2011)

▷ "No Hope for Fodor's Asymmetric Dependence Theory of Representation,"
   at University of Alaska, Anchorage (invited, April 2007)

Research Interests

Much of my research concerns *representation,* in forms such as linguistic, mental, pictorial, and fictional, and phenomena such as *de re* representation and representation of things to which we deny commitment (e.g., so-called negative existentials). Much of it also concerns *artifacts,* such as fictional objects and works of fiction, languages and linguistic expressions, institutions, and concepts, and phenomena such as derived intentionality, functions, and abstract artifacts.

Works in Progress

▷ "What is the Problem of Negative Existentials?"
   I give a new analysis of this problem as a paradox, which better explains the extent and difficulty of the problem and helps us compare and evaluate possible solutions.

▷ "Particularity in Fiction"
   What distinguishes a fiction according to which there are ghosts from a fiction "about a particular (fictional) ghost"? Kendall Walton has sketched an answer, but it is incomplete and threatens to collapse the distinction. I solve these problems and develop the solution using concepts from contemporary psychology.

▷ "Fictional Objects and Artifacts"
   Many theorists hold that fictional objects are artifacts. So what work is required to create them? John Searle suggests it is certain speech acts. Using a broad variety of examples, I show that this is inadequate, and that contrary to a widespread assumption, fictional objects need not be *intentionally* created.
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Works in Progress (continued)

▷ "Creating Fictional Objects *De Dicto*"
Nicholas Wolterstorff, Gregory Currie, and Alberto Voltolini explain the creation of fictional objects in terms of general propositions made true in works of fiction. I critically analyze these three accounts and argue that creation is better understood in terms of Walton's analysis of particularity in fiction.

Service and Professional Activities

▷ Philosophy Review Committee chair, AUM Dept. of English & Philosophy (2025–)

▷ Faculty Handbook Committee member, AUM (2025–)

▷ Faculty Senate Parliamentarian, AUM (2022–2025)

▷ Department Chair Search Committee member, AUM (2024–2025)

▷ Helped develop online Peer Mentor (student assistant) model, AUM (2023–2024)

▷ Philosophy Curriculum Review Working Group chair, AUM (2022–)

▷ Peer Mentor supervisor, AUM (2022–)

▷ Department Chair Search Committee member, AUM (2021–2022)

▷ American Philosophical Association, Member (2005–)

▷ Developer of ancillary course materials, W.W. Norton press (2018)

▷ Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy LaTeX consultant (2015–2016)

▷ Junior Metaphysics Workshop, Grand Valley State University, Session chair (2015)

▷ Participation in department and college meetings, KVCC (2013–2015)

▷ Mentoring graduate students in developing guest lectures, WMU (2014–2015)

▷ "Themes from Burge" conference, co-organizer at UCSB (2009–2010)

▷ Philosophy Club President, UCSB, organizing departmental functions (2007–2008)

▷ "The Guerrilla Radio Show" co-host of informal philosophy radio show/podcast at UCSB (2006-2008)

▷ Website co-developer and maintainer, UCSB Philosophy Department (2005–2006)

▷ Referee for *Analysis, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism, Noûs, Philosopher's Imprint, Philosophical Studies,* Routledge press, and WW Norton press

Awards and Fellowships

▷ Merit pay raises, Auburn University at Montgomery   2022, 2023, 2024, 2025
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Awards and Fellowships (continued)

▷ Merit pay raises, Auburn University	2016, 2017, 2018, & 2019
▷ Travel grant, Auburn University	2015
$1,500 to present at British Society of Aesthetics conference	
▷ Phillip and Aida Siff Award, UC Santa Barbara Philosophy	2012
Best graduate student paper	
▷ Ralph W. Church Fellowship, UC Santa Barbara	Fa11
▷ Pre-doctoral Fellowship, Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, UCSB	Fa10
▷ Phillip and Aida Siff Award, UC Santa Barbara Philosophy	2007
Best graduate student paper	
▷ Ralph W. Church Fellowship, UC Santa Barbara	Fa04–Sp05
▷ Lewis K. Zerby Prize, MSU Philosophy	2002
Outstanding undergraduate paper	
▷ Honors College member, Michigan State University	1999–2003
▷ MSU National Merit Scholarship, Michigan State University	1999–2003
▷ Alumni Distinguished Scholarship, Michigan State University	1999–2003
Semifinalist award	
▷ Michigan Competitive Scholarship	1999–2003

Other Skills

▷ Learning Management Systems: Canvas, Blackboard Ultra, Blackboard Learn, Desire2Learn/Brightspace, Moodle

▷ Other technology: MS Office, Outlook, Zoom, LaTeX, Photoshop, Illustrator, Acrobat, HTML, CSS, WordPress

Graduate-level Courses Taken at UC Santa Barbara

Metaphysics and Epistemology

- ▷ **Intermediate Symbolic Logic** (Salmon)
- ▷ **Philosophical Logic** (Anderson)
- ▷ **Philosophy of Math** (Rescorla)
- ▷ **Gottlob Frege*** (Rescorla)
- ▷ **Meaning and Reference*** (Salmon)
- ▷ **Freedom and Determinism*** (Brueckner)
- ▷ **Action Theory*** (Falvey)
- ▷ **Ludwig Wittgenstein*** (Falvey)

Seminars in Metaphysics and Epistemology

- ▷ **Fictional Objects** (Salmon)
- ▷ **Kaplan on "On Denoting"** (Salmon)
- ▷ **Kripke on "On Denoting"** (Salmon)
- ▷ **Kripke's Puzzle about Belief*** (Salmon)
- ▷ **Recent Work on Saul Kripke*** (Salmon)
- ▷ **Logic of Sense and Denotation*** (Anderson)
- ▷ **Truth** (Rescorla)
- ▷ **Computational Theory of Mind** (Rescorla)
- ▷ **Meaning and Use** (Rescorla)
- ▷ **Perception*** (Rescorla)
- ▷ **First-Person Thought*** (Falvey)
- ▷ **First-Person Authority*** (Falvey)

Value Theory and History

- ▷ **Moral Psychology** (Zimmerman)
- ▷ **Meta-Ethics** (Anderson)
- ▷ **Aristotle** (Tsouna)
- ▷ **GW Leibniz** (Holden)

Seminars in Value Theory and History

- ▷ **David Hume** (Holden)
- ▷ **John Locke** (Holden)
- ▷ **Aesthetics*** (McMahon)

* Course was audited.

References

Aaron Cobb (former chair and teaching supervisor)
  Senior Scholar of Character, Educating Character Initiative
  The Program for Leadership and Character
  cobba@wfu.edu
  Wake Forest University

James Shelley (former chair and teaching supervisor)
  Professor of Philosophy, Auburn University
  shelljr@auburn.edu
  Department of Philosophy
  6080 Haley Center
  Auburn, AL 36849

Marc Alspector-Kelly (former chair and teaching supervisor)
  Professor of Philosophy, Western Michigan University
  marc.alspector-kelly@wmich.edu
  Department of Philosophy
  Western Michigan University
  1903 W Michigan Ave
  Kalamazoo MI 49008-5328 USA

Additional references are available on request.