

STEVEN B. BRENCÉ

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Philosophy
University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403-1295

Email: brences@uoregon.edu
Fall, 2025

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Social and Political Philosophy. Ethics. Classical American Philosophy. Philosophy of Film.

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Critical Theory. 19th and 20th Century Continental Philosophy. Philosophy of Law. Logic. Environmental Philosophy. Early Modern Philosophy.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Philosophy, University of Oregon, 2001.
M.A. Philosophy, University of Oregon, 1993.
B.S. Philosophy and Political Science, University of Oregon, 1989.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Distinguished Teaching Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Oregon, 2024-Present.
Senior Instructor II, Department of Philosophy, University of Oregon, 2022-2024.
Senior Instructor I, Department of Philosophy, University of Oregon, 2015-2022.
Instructor, Department of Philosophy, University of Oregon, 2005-2015.
Instructor, Department of Philosophy, Oregon State University, 1997-2012.
Graduate Teaching Fellow, University of Oregon, 1992-1997.

TEACHING AWARDS

Center for Undergraduate Research and Engagement Faculty Research Mentor Award, University of Oregon, 2022.
Thomas F. Herman Faculty Achievement Award for Distinguished Teaching, University of Oregon, 2017.

PRIMARY ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Philosophy, University of Oregon, 2019-2021.

Acting Department Head, Department of Philosophy, University of Oregon, August 2021,
July- August, 2022 and July-August, 2023.

TEACHING DEVELOPMENT

New Courses Designed, University of Oregon

PHIL 225: Introduction to Formal Logic, 2018-2019.

PHIL 130: Philosophy and Popular Culture, 2014-2015.

Courses Revised for Core Education Re-approval, University of Oregon

PHIL 307: Social and Political Philosophy I, 2022.

PHIL 308: Social and Political Philosophy II, 2022.

PHIL 120: Ethics of Enterprise and Exchange, 2019.

PHIL 332: Philosophy of Film, 2019.

Professional Development Activities

Provost's Teaching Academy, University of Oregon, 2017-present.

TEP Teaching Triangles Program, 2025

TEP Peer Review Training, 2025

Career Faculty Peer Mentoring Group, 2024

Hybrid Teaching pathway, UO Summer Teaching Institute, University of
Oregon, 2022.

Online Course Development Initiative Fellowship, University of Oregon, 2022.

Reenvisioning the Core Curriculum pathway, UO Summer Teaching Institute,
University of Oregon, 2019.

Teaching First-Year Students pathway, UO Summer Teaching Institute,
University of Oregon, 2018.

COURSES TAUGHT

At the University of Oregon:

PHIL 463/563: John Dewey

PHIL 463/563: William James

PHIL 453/553: Schopenhauer/Kierkegaard

PHIL 433/553: Hobbes/Locke

PHIL 350: Metaphysics

PHIL 344: Philosophy of Law

PHIL 340: Environmental Philosophy

PHIL 332: Philosophy of Film

PHIL 325: Logic, Inquiry, Argument

PHIL 323: Moral Theory

PHIL 320: Philosophy of Religion

PHIL 308: Social and Political Philosophy II

PHIL 307: Social and Political Philosophy I

PHIL 225: Introduction to Formal Logic

PHIL 199: Philosophy and Science Fiction in Film

PHIL 199: Philosophy and the Holocaust

PHIL 130: Philosophy of Popular Culture

PHIL 120: Ethics of Enterprise and Exchange
PHIL 103: Introduction to Critical Reasoning
PHIL 102: Ethics
HC 221H: Philosophy and Science Fiction in Film
ENVS 345: Environmental Ethics
SOC 410: Sociology of Anti-Semitism

At Oregon State University:

PHIL 443/543: World Views and Environmental Values
PHIL 444: Bio-Medical Ethics
PHIL 440: Environmental Ethics
PHIL 405: Pragmatism
PHIL 405: Critical Theory
PHIL 350: Philosophy of Film
PHIL 342: Contemporary Ethics
PHIL 301: History of Ancient Philosophy
PHIL 205: Ethics
PHIL 150: Great Ideas in Philosophy: Theories of the Good Life
PHIL 121: Reasoning and Writing

UNDERGRADUATE HONORS THESIS SUPERVISION

Primary Advisor

Morgan Wiggs, "The Role of Regret in Moral Experience," (anticipated 2026)
Trevor Ritchey, "Societal Responsibility in the Use of AI," 2025.
Emily Sapp, "Masculinity, Misogyny, and the Mafia: a Critical Analysis of Identity and Gender in The Sopranos", Supported by University of Oregon Humanities Undergraduate Research Fellowship, 2025.
Brigham Hansen, "The Reifying Felony Conviction," 2025.
Myra Bernard, "Lippmann and Dewey in the 21st Century: Reviving Democracy in the Digital Landscape of Today," 2024.
Shaelyn Millay, "A Taxonomy of Evils: Expanding on Hannah Arendt's Conceptions of Evil to Identify Four Variations," 2024.
Elijah Leutwyler, "Friendship and Freedom: A History of the Philosophy of Friendship and an Amendment from the Archive of Slave Narratives in the 19th Century," 2023.
Torin Harte, "The Threat of Virtual Life to the Experience of Meaning: An Existential Exploration," 2022.
Stuart Robinson, "On the Category of Social Reproduction," 2022.
Pollyanna Stalie, "Toward a Deweyan/Nietzschean Alternative to Punishment," 2020.
Shane Cooney, "Overwhelmed and Undermined: The Use of Psychoactive Substances and the Problem of Meaninglessness," 2019.
Nick McClurg, "Moral Fiction as Imaginative Rehearsal," 2018.
Matthew Stephens, "Rivers and People as Legal Persons," Supported by University of Oregon Humanities Undergraduate Research Fellowship, 2018.
Andrew Dunn (winner of 2017 Phi Beta Kappa "Oregon Six" distinction), "Marx,

Dewey, and Rawles on the Public/Private Distinction within Classical Liberalism,” 2017.

Sara Carey, “‘Only The Dead Will Be Innocent’: Interpreting Colonialism and Violence through Contemporary French Films on the Algerian War”, Supported by University of Oregon Humanities Undergraduate Research Fellowship, Awarded “Pass with Distinction” Honors from the Clarke Honors College, 2016.

Tianjiao Li, “A Reconstruction of Legal Pragmatism: An Inquiry of Legal Philosophy and its Relations with the War of Drugs and the Problem of Mass Incarceration,” 2015.

Second Reader

Zero Berg, “Online Ontology: A Feminist Phenomenology of Online Community and Selfhood,” 2024.

Rafaela Tapia, “On Epistemologies of Ignorance in the Trump Era,” 2019.

Robert Stanton, “On the Function of Privacy within Democratic Culture,” 2017.

Curt August Ries, “On Recognition of the Other as Love,” 2010.

UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENT SERVICE

Member, Flourishing Courses Workgroup, Office of the Provost, University of Oregon, 2025.

Pre-Law Adviser, Department of Philosophy, University of Oregon, 2015-present.

Faculty Advisor, *Ex Animo*: University of Oregon Undergraduate Philosophy Journal, 2020-present.

Faculty Advisor, University of Oregon Philosophical Society, 2017-present.

Member, Undergraduate Studies Committee, Department of Philosophy, University of Oregon, 2017-2019, 2021-present.

Faculty Advisor, “Thinking Media”: First-Year Interest Group, University of Oregon, 2018-2025.

Member, Faculty Committee, Department of Philosophy, University of Oregon, 2015-present.

Faculty Leader, Advancing Your Academic Success course for Pre-Freshman, GEO London Centre, London, UK, Summer, 2024.

Distinguished Teaching Awards Committee, University of Oregon, 2024.

Member, Policy Review Committee, Department of Philosophy, University of Oregon, 2023-2024.

Chair, Undergraduate Studies Committee, Department of Philosophy, University of Oregon, 2019-2021.

Member, Curriculum Committee, Department of Philosophy, University of Oregon, 2019-2021.

Member, GE Placement Committee, Department of Philosophy, University of Oregon, 2019-2021.

Participant, “Living Ethically at the University of Oregon” meeting to develop proposed outcomes and criteria for general education satisfying courses, 2018.

Chair, Department Head Nominating Committee, Department of Philosophy, University of Oregon, 2016.

Member, Policy Committee, Department of Philosophy, University of Oregon, 2015-2016.

Faculty Advisor, “Justice Matters” First-Year Interest Group, University of Oregon, 2013-

2017.

Faculty Advisor, "Thinking Images" Freshman Interest Group, University of Oregon, 2009-2012, 2018.

Faculty Advisor, Undergraduate Philosophy Club, Oregon State University, 1999-2000.

Member, Organization Committee to establish Peace, Conflict and Community Interdisciplinary Masters Degree Program in Conflict Resolution, University of Oregon/Portland State University, Spring, 1995.

Chair, Graduate Philosophy Club, University of Oregon, 1992-1996.

PUBLICATIONS

"On *Lost in Translation*: A Pessimistic Critique of Consumerism", *The Journal of Speculative Philosophy*, Vol. 36, No. 1, 2022, pp. 34-50.

"The Unbearable Lightness of *Casablanca*: In Defense of a Committed Cosmopolitanism", *The Journal of Speculative Philosophy*, Vol. 28, No. 4, 2014, pp. 422-437.

PRESENTATIONS

"*Up in the Air*: Value, Meaning, and the 'Downward Perspective'" International Society for Philosophy in Film Symposium, London, England, UK, August 2025.

"*Ride the Pink Horse*: Noir at the Border," Association for Philosophy and Literature Conference, Frankfurt, Germany, August, 2025.

"AI and the Self" (Co-authored with Ramón Alvarado), American Philosophies Forum Conference, Austin, TX, 2025.

"Border Noir," International Society for Philosophy in Film Symposium, London, England, UK, August 2024.

"Hell Is Artificial Other People: The Dangers of Subjectified and Subjectifying AI", invited lecture for *Experts Dialogue in the Hall*, Episode 1, University of Oregon, Nov. 2023.

"The Grown/Made Distinction and Human and Artificial Subjectivity in Duncan Jones's *Moon*," International Society for Philosophy in Film Symposium, London, England, UK, August 2023.

"Representations of Lost Agency in *Film Noir*," International Society for Philosophy in Film Symposium, London, England, UK, August 2022.

"A Pessimistic Critique of Consumerism," American Philosophies Forum Conference, online, April 2021.

"On Pseudo-Truth (or Fascist Bullshit)," American Philosophies Forum Conference, Atlanta, GA, April 2019.

"Becoming Analog Avatars of Digital Persons: Some Observations/Speculations on Subjectivity and Agency in the 21st Century," American Philosophies Forum Conference, Atlanta, GA, April 2017.

"*Film Noir* and the 'Lost Individual': A Mid-Century American Assemblage in Dialogue with Mid-Century American Social Theory," American Philosophies Forum Conference, Key West, FLA., April 2016.

- "Toward a Pragmatist Reconstruction of Human Dignity," American Philosophies Forum Conference, Savannah, GA., April 2015.
- "The Unbearable Lightness of *Casablanca*: In Defense of a Committed Cosmopolitanism," American Philosophies Forum Conference, New York, N.Y., April 2014.
- "'Truth is the Good in the way of Belief': A Pragmatist Account of Knowing," invited lecture, Maitripa College Buddhism & Science Symposium, Maitripa College, Portland, OR, October 2013.
- "The Eclipsed Individual: John Dewey and *Film Noir*," keynote address University of Oregon Undergraduate Philosophy Conference, Eugene, OR, May 2013.
- "Agency and One-Dimensional Society: Marcuse and Terry Gilliam's *Brazil*," invited lecture at Emory University, Atlanta, GA, April 2013.
- "On the Value of Philosophy to Film," invited lecture at Emory University, Atlanta, GA, April, 2010.
- "A Commentary on Jim Garrison and James Good concerning Hegel and Dewey on Causality," Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy Annual Meeting, Michigan State University, March 15, 2008.
- "A Commentary on David Reidy on 'Rawls on Peoples, Persons, and Human Rights,'" Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, San Francisco, CA, March 30, 2003.
- "Fanon's Refusal and World (Re)construction," Group Meeting of the Society for the Philosophical Study of Marxism at the Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, New York, N.Y., December 28, 2000.
- "George Santayana and John Dewey on Naturalism and Religion," presented at the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy Annual Meeting, University of Oregon, February, 1999.
- "The Philosophical Bases of Multiculturalism," Confluences Lecture Series in the Program for Ethics, Science and the Environment, Department of Philosophy, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR, November, 1997.
- "What is Multiculturalism?," invited lecture at The University of Oregon Multicultural Center, February, 1996.
- "A Commentary on Georgia Warnke and Joseph Orosco on 'An Integrated Society'," Philosophical Collaborations: A Conference for Faculty and Graduate Student Interaction, University of Oregon, February, 1997.
- "How Can We Learn from the Holocaust?," invited lecture at University of Oregon Hillel House *Lehrhaus* (free university) in conjunction with Ethics After the Holocaust Conference, University of Oregon, May, 1996.
- "Multiculturalism and the Refusal of Recognition: Masters and Slaves in a Post-Colonial Context," The Oregon Humanities Forum, University of Oregon, May, 1995.
- "A Commentary on Maxine Sheets-Johnstone's 'Does Philosophy Begin (and End) in Wonder? or What is the Nature of a Philosophical Act?'," The Northwest Conference on Philosophy, Reed College, November, 1994.
- "Redefining Fascism: Recognizing Systematic Oppression in Contemporary Western Societies," Fascism(s): roots/ extensions/ replays Interdisciplinary Conference, University of Oregon, April, 1992.

PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY

Guest, *Philosophy in Film* Podcast 86, “Casablanca,” July, 2024.

Founder and Editor, filmtank.org, a web-based institution devoted to the philosophical development of cinema and other popular screen culture, 2010-present.

Creator, filmtank.org Film Development Podcast, six episodes, 2015-present.

Invited Speaker, *Philosophy and Film* Series, Hyde Park Picture House, Leeds, UK, August, 2024.

Invited Speaker, *UO Presents* film club Fall Term Film Event, The Art House cinema, Eugene, OR. November, 2023

Co-author, “Thinking Ethics” bi-weekly column on business ethics for the *Eugene Register-Guard* Newspaper, 2020.

Panelist, “The Role of Ethics in Investing”, *Investing in the Age of Climate Change* Symposium, University of Oregon, April 28, 2017.

“Gangsters, Goons, *Femmes Fatale*, and Losers: The Leading Role of a *Noir* Supporting Cast,” Invited Lecture for National Endowment of the Arts supported “Big Read” program, Eugene Public Library, Eugene Oregon, March 11, 2017.

“On *The Big Sleep*, *The Third Man*, *Double Indemnity*, and *The Maltese Falcon*: The Social Meaning of *Film Noir*”, Invited Speaker, Bijou Art Cinemas, March 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2017.

“On the Meaning of Homelessness,” Invited Speaker and Participant, The Homelessness Project, Roosevelt Middle School, Eugene, Oregon, May 19, 2016.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Founder and Co-director, International Society for Philosophy in Film (ISPiF), 2021-present.

Co-organizer, International Society for Philosophy in Film Symposium, “Comedy: Darkness and Light,” London, UK, August, 2025.

Co-organizer, International Society for Philosophy in Film Symposium, “Frontiers and Borders,” London, UK, August, 2024.

Co-organizer, International Society for Philosophy in Film Symposium: “Strange New World: Science Fiction and Philosophy,” London, UK, August, 2023.

Co-organizer, International Society for Philosophy in Film Symposium: “*Film Noir*,” London, UK, August 2022.

Chair of Graduate Committee for Ethics After the Holocaust International Conference, University of Oregon, Spring, 1996.

Organizer, *Consequences of the Holocaust* Interdisciplinary Panel Discussion, University of Oregon, Winter, 1993.

Co-organizer, *Practicing Postmodernisms* Interdisciplinary Conference, University of Oregon, May, 1993.

Organizer, *Faculty Lecture Series*, Department of Philosophy, University of Oregon, 1993 -1994.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

International Society for Philosophy in Film (Founder and Co-Director)

American Philosophies Forum

Association for Philosophy and Literature

American Philosophical Association
Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy
Society for Phenomenology and Existentialist Philosophy
Radical Philosophy Association
Society for the Philosophical Study of Marxism