

Michael Barnwell

EMPLOYMENT

Niagara University, Lewiston, NY.

Professor of Philosophy (Fall, 2018 – present)
Associate Professor of Philosophy (Fall, 2011 – Spring, 2018)
Assistant Professor of Philosophy (Fall, 2005 – Spring, 2011)

EDUCATION

Yale University, New Haven, CT.

Ph.D. Dual degree in Philosophy and Religious Studies (December, 2005)
M.Phil. Philosophy and Religious Studies (December, 2004)
M.A. Philosophy (December, 2003)
M.A. Religious Studies (December, 2003)
M.Div. *Summa Cum Laude* (May, 1999)

Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC.

B.A. Psychology, *Summa Cum Laude* (May, 1993)

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Medieval Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion, Philosophy for Business

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Ethics, Ancient Philosophy, Modern Philosophy, Agency & Free Will

BOOKS

The Problem of Negligent Omissions: Ancient and Medieval Action Theories to the Rescue (Leiden, Netherlands: Brill, 2010).

Reviewed in: *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly*, *Modern Schoolman*, *Review of Metaphysics*, *Journal of Religion*, *The Thomist*

BOOK CHAPTERS

“Gratuitous Evils and Anselm,” in *Claiming God: Essays in Honor of Marilyn McCord Adams*, eds. Christine Helmer and Shannon Craigo-Snell (Cascade Books of Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2022).

“Fatherhood & the Meaning of Life,” in *Fatherhood and Philosophy: The Dao of Daddy* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2011).

“Effectiveness of ‘Analysis Assignments’ and Pop Quizzes: Encouraging the Reading of, Interest in and

Ability to do Philosophy” in *Case Studies in Active, Integrative Learning: Teaching Innovations That Make a Difference* (Cambria Press, 2011).

ARTICLES

“Self-determination vs. Freedom for God and the Angels: A Test Case of Anselm’s Theory of Free Will,”
Invited paper for *The Saint Anselm Journal*, 14, no. 1, Fall 2018

“The Root of Sin is Still Undiscovered: A counter-reply to Jensen,” *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 93, 1 (Winter 2019): 147-160.

“Why Can’t the Devil Get a Second Chance: A Hidden Contradiction in Anselm’s Account of the Devil’s Fall,” *The Saint Anselm Journal*, 13, 1 (Fall 2017): 39-56.

“Soul-Making Theodicy and Compatibilism: New Problems and a New Interpretation,” *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion* 82, 1 (2017): 29-46.

“The ‘Harder Problem’ of the Devil’s Fall is Still a Problem: A Reply to Wood,” *Religious Studies* 53, 4 (2017): 521-543.

“The Problem with Aquinas’s Original Discovery,” *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 89, 2 (Spring 2015): 277-291.

“Aquinas’s Two Different Accounts of *Akrasia*,” *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 84, 1 (Winter, 2010): 49-67.

“De Casu Diaboli: An Examination of Faith and Reason Via a Discussion of the Devil’s Sin,”
The Saint Anselm Journal 6, 2 (Spring, 2009).

“Trolley Cases and Being ‘In the Realm,’” *Southwest Philosophical Studies*, 32 (2010): 29-35.

“Voluntary Inconsideration, Virtual Cognition, and Francisco Suárez,” *Southwest Philosophical Studies*, 31 (2009): 9-14.

“The Effectiveness of ‘Community Pop Quizzes’ for Fostering the Learning of Philosophy in Small Group Communities,” *Proceedings of Niagara University’s 8th Annual International Conference on Teaching & Learning* (January, 2009 – not copyrighted). [Also included above as a forthcoming book chapter.]

“Effectiveness of ‘Analysis Assignments’ versus Pop Quizzes for Promoting Interest in and Ability to do Philosophy,” *Proceedings of Niagara University’s 7th Annual International Conference on Teaching & Learning* (January, 2008 – not copyrighted).

INVITED BOOK REVIEWS

Review of *Moral Dilemmas in Medieval Thought: From Gratian to Aquinas* by M. V. Dougherty for the journal *Ethics* (January, 2013).

Review of *Aquinas’s Ethics: Metaphysical Foundations, Moral Theory, and Theological Context* by

Rebecca Konyndyk DeYoung, Colleen McCluskey, and Chrstina Van Dyke for the journal *Speculum* (April, 2011).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “Thomas Aquinas and Freedom in Heaven,” Workshop in honor of Rev. Dr. Marilyn McCord Adams at the Rutgers Center for Philosophy of Religion (February 16-17, 2018).
- “Turn & Talk Write! A Strategy to Improve Deep Comprehension and Critical Thinking” at *Niagara University’s 17th Annual International Conference on Teaching and Learning* (January 2018).
- “Self-determination vs. Freedom for God and the Angels: A Test Case of Anselm’s Theory of Free Will,” invited presentation for the Institute of Saint Anselm Studies Satellite Session at the American Catholic Philosophical Association National Meeting (November 18, 2017).
- “Why Can’t the Devil Get a Second Chance: A Hidden Contradiction in Anselm’s Account of the Devil’s Fall,” at *The Sixth Saint Anselm Conference*, Saint Anselm College (April 2017).
- “Transferring Critical Thinking Outside the Classroom (And Civic Engagement Too!)” at *Niagara University’s 16th Annual International Conference on Teaching and Learning* (January 2017).
- “Visual Argument Maps to Aid Learning Both Philosophical Method and Content” at *Niagara University’s 16th Annual International Conference on Teaching and Learning* (January 2017).
- “Anselm’s Sinning Angel: Why the ‘Harder Problem’ Still Isn’t Solved,” Regent’s Lecture of the University of Buffalo Philosophy Department (February, 2016).
- “Improving Critical Thinking Through Team-Based Collaborative Discussion” at *Niagara University’s 15th Annual International Conference on Teaching and Learning* (January 2016).
- “Soul-Making Theodicy & Compatibilism: What’s Going On?” Regent’s Lecture of the University of Buffalo Philosophy Department (September, 2015).
- “Learning Ancient Philosophy by Rewriting and Performing Plato’s Dialogues” at *Niagara University’s 13th Annual International Conference on Teaching & Learning* (January 2014).
- “The Problem with Aquinas’s Original Discovery,” *American Catholic Philosophical Association National Meeting* (November 2013).
- “The Problem with Aquinas’s Original Discovery,” *Western NY-Western PA Regional Meeting of the American Catholic Philosophical Association* (Spring 2013).
- “The Employment of the Proposed Core Common Writing Rubric for Peer- & Self-Evaluation of Student Papers” at *Niagara University’s 12th Annual International Conference on Teaching & Learning* (January, 2013).
- “The Effectiveness of Collaborative versus Private Review of Previous Class Notes” at *Niagara University’s 10th Annual International Conference on Teaching and Learning* (January, 2011).

- “The Effectiveness of ‘Interactive Lecture Quizzes’ (ILQ’s) for Learning Course Material,” Poster Presentation at *Niagara University’s 9th Annual International Conference on Teaching & Learning* (January, 2010).
- “De Casu Diaboli: An Examination of Faith and Reason Via a Discussion of the Devil’s Sin,” *The Fourth Saint Anselm Conference*, St. Anselm College (April, 2009).
- “Trolley Cases and Being ‘In the Realm,’” *New Mexico-West Texas Philosophical Society Annual Meeting*, Houston, TX (March, 2009).
- Comments on Justin Ho’s “Can the Condition of Being Terminally Ill Coerce Someone into Enrolling in Research,” *New Mexico-West Texas Philosophical Society Annual Meeting*, Houston, TX (March, 2009).
- “The Effectiveness of Community Pop Quizzes (CPQ) for Fostering the Learning of Philosophy in Small Group Communities,” *Niagara University’s 8th Annual International Conference on Teaching & Learning* (January, 2009).
- “Journaling, Small Learning Communities, and Learn & Serve Participation for Fostering the Learning of Theoretical Ethics,” Poster Presentation at *Niagara University’s 8th Annual International Conference on Teaching & Learning* (January, 2009).
- “Aquinas’s Two Different Accounts of *Akrasia*,” *Western NY-Western PA Regional Meeting of the American Catholic Philosophical Association* (October, 2008).
- Invited comments on Kimberly Blessing’s “Acting with Cartesian Resolve,” *The Creighton Club: NY State Philosophical Association* (October, 2008).
- “Voluntary Inconsideration, Virtual Cognition, and Francisco Suárez,” *New Mexico-West Texas Philosophical Society Annual Meeting*, El Paso, TX (April, 2008)
- “Voluntary Inconsideration, Virtual Cognition, and Francisco Suárez,” *Society of Christian Philosophers – Eastern Division*, Niagara University (April, 2008).
- “Effectiveness of ‘Analysis Assignments’ versus Pop Quizzes for Promoting Interest in and Ability to do Philosophy,” *Niagara University’s 7th Annual International Conference on Teaching & Learning* (January, 2008).
- “Francesco Suarez, the Problem of Voluntary Inconsideration, and Virtual Phenomena,” *Western NY-Western PA Regional Meeting of the American Catholic Philosophical Assoc.*, Canisius College (November, 2007).
- “Virtual Deliberation in Suarez: A Key to Solving Negligent Omissions,” Cornell Summer Colloquium in Medieval Philosophy (June, 2007).
- “Aristotle’s *Akratic* Reconsidered,” *Western NY and Northern PA Regional Meeting of the American Catholic Philosophical Assoc.*, Canisius College (April, 2007).
- “Virtual Deliberation in Suarez” at the Cornell Summer Medieval colloquium (invited and

scheduled, but unable to present due to severe illness onset the night before, June, 2006)

“Importance of Suarez’s ‘Voluntariness in alio’ for solving problems of Negligence,” *The Significance of Francisco Suarez*, Franciscan Univ. of Steubenville (March, 2006).

“Are There Sins of Negligent Omission in Aquinas?” presented at *Western NY and Northern PA Regional Meeting of the American Catholic Philosophical Assoc.*, Niagara Univ. (Nov., 2005).

"The Role of Anselm's *Affectiones* of the Will in Scotus's Action Theory," presented at *The Second Saint Anselm Conference*, St. Anselm College (April, 2002)

"How Did the Devil Sin," presented at *The First Saint Anselm Conference*, St. Anselm College (April, 2000).

REFEREE SERVICE

Referee, *History of Philosophy Quarterly*

Referee, Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group

Referee, *Journal of Academic Ethics*

Referee, *The Saint Anselm Journal*

Referee, *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly*

Referee, Catholic University Press

UNIVERSITY PRESENTATIONS

“Using Artificial Intelligence to Design Assignments and Teach Critical Thinking,” part of NU “Workshop Series: Teaching in the Age of AI” (Oct 2025).

“Discourse on the Importance of Philosophy” Faculty Speech during the Induction Ceremony for Phi Sigma Tau, the International Honor Society of Philosophy (March 2024).

“Paranormal Experience” at University Honors Coffee House event at Orange Cat (October 2023).

“Discourse on Love” for *Love Symposium* at Orange Cat held in conjunction with Dr. St. Hilaire’s REL 215 “Christ and the Human Person classes (November 2016).

“Keynote address” for *Sigma Alpha Sigma, The President’s Honor Society* Tapping Ceremony (April 2016)

“Discourse on the Importance of Philosophy” Faculty Speech during the Induction Ceremony for Phi Sigma Tau, the International Honor Society of Philosophy (October, 2015).

Honored Keynote Speaker at Induction Ceremony for Pi Lamda Theta (Education Honor Society), Spring 2014.

“Faculty Welcome Speech,” Niagara University New Student Convocation (August, 2014)

“Teaching Niagara University Students,” New Faculty Orientation (August, 2014)

Keynote Address as Faculty Inductee for Delta Sigma Epsilon National Honor Society Induction Ceremony, Spring 2013

Teaching & Learning Conversations at the Center for Advancement of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (October 2013 and December 2013).

Faculty Speech at the Niagara University President's Society Induction Ceremony (February, 2011).

"Discourse on the Importance of Philosophy" Faculty Speech during the Induction Ceremony for Phi Sigma Tau, the International Honor Society of Philosophy (October, 2008).

"Effectiveness of 'Analysis Assignments' versus Pop Quizzes for Promoting Interest in and Ability to do Philosophy" as part of the *Fall 2008 Teaching & Learning Conversation* series sponsored by the Committee for College Teaching and Learning (October, 2008).

"Voluntary Inconsideration, Virtual Cognition, and Francisco Suárez," as part of the NU Research Council Speaker's Series (April, 2008).

Guest speaker/debater for Campus Ministry's "The Dilemma of War: Is it ever Just?" installment of *Theology on Tap* (November, 2006).

Guest panelist for death penalty discussion held after performance of "Dead Man Walking" by the NU Theatre (November, 2006).

Debating participant in "The Great Debate: Debating the Just War Theory," sponsored by the Niagara University Philosophy Club and Niagara University Philosophy Dept. (March, 2006).

UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Director, University Honors Program (June, 2010 – present)

Promotion & Tenure Committee (2015-2017, 2021-2025)

Co-chair (2016-2017)

Curriculum Committee for College of Arts & Sciences (Spring 2024 – present)

Investigation & Advice Committee (2025-present)

Panelist for Promotion & Tenure Workshops (March 2025, December 2025)

Keynote Speaker for Scholar's Day (March 2025)

Coordinator of President's Innovation in Education Advisory Council (2017-2018)

Coordinator of President's Faculty Book Club (Spring, 2016 – 2017)

Sabbatical Leave Committee (2016-2018, 2020-2022)

Committee for General Education Revision (Fall 2017 – Spring 2019)

Marketing Task Force (Spring 2014 – Spring, 2016)

Member of Innovation and Excellence in Teaching Awards Committee (2017)

Speaker on "Interdisciplinary Education & Setting Yourself Apart" at Mini-open house (April 2017)

Excellence in Teaching Prize Selection Committee (Fall 2014 – 2016)

Chair, 2015-2016

Search Committee for Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs (Fall 2015)

CCTL Committee (Fall 2013 – 2019)

Research Council Peer Reviewer for Summer Stipends (Spring 2015)

NUSGA Leadership Reception Committee (Spring 2015)

Founder & Coordinator, Faculty Book Club on Higher Education (Spring, 2014)
Facilitator for Community Meeting Task Force on Liberal Arts (Spring, 2014)
Common Exam Logic Review for Introductory Students (each semester until Spring 2015).
Investigation and Advice Committee (2013-2014)
Faculty Senate (Fall, 2007 – Spring, 2011).
 Senate General Education Committee (Fall, 2007 – Spring, 2011).
 Chair, Gen. Ed. Subcommittee on Rewriting Course Designations (Fall, 2008 – Spring, 2009).
 Member of Designations Subcommittee (Fall, 2009 – Spring 2010).
Co-director of Philosophy General Education Assessment (Fall, 2006-Spring, 2010).
‘Book Talk Partner’ for CRL 101 student (Fall, 2008; Summer, 2009).
Directed Departmental Assessment by means of Senior Seminar (Spring, 2007).
Active member of search committee for new philosophy faculty member (2006-2010).
 Arts & Sciences Curriculum Committee (Fall, 2006-Spring, 2007).
 Faculty Advisor for the *Philosophy Club* (Spring, 2006 – Spring, 2008).
Middle States Committee on Leadership & Governance (2005-2006).
 Co-chair of implementing assessment criteria for general education/philosophy courses (2006-2007).
Coordinator of revising holdings of Philosophy journals in the library (Fall, 2006).
Rewrote the pamphlet for the philosophy department (Spring, 2006).
Co-chair of the search committee for two new philosophy faculty members (2005-2006).
Assisted in restructuring departmental major and introduction courses (2006).

MISCELLANEOUS CAMPUS, PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Board Member, Lewiston-Porter International Business Academy (2021- present)

Basketball Coach, 716 United and Boys & Girls Club of Niagara Falls Bidy Basketball (2017-2018, 2021-2022)

Coach at Catholic Academy’s Summer Basketball Camp (Summer 2016)

Judge for Campus Programming Board’s *Open Mic Night* (Fall 2006, Fall 2011 and Spring 2015)

Youth soccer coach, Niagara Pioneer Soccer League (Summer 2014)

Chair of a session at the “University of Toronto Colloquium in Mediaeval Philosophy” (Sept. 2010).

Niagara University “Day of Service” participant (June 2009).

‘Standard Setting’ participant for “Introduction to Philosophy” Proficiency Exam for Excelsior College (Albany, NY; September 18-19, 2008).

Chair of a session at the *New Mexico-West Texas Philosophical Society Annual Meeting*, El Paso, TX (April, 2008)

Chair of a session at *Society of Christian Philosophers – Eastern Division* conference, Niagara University (April, 2008).

Participant in “Relay For Life” Cancer Fund-Raising Event (March, 2008).

Teaching PHI 206 Ethics with an optional Learn & Serve component (each Spring, 2008 - 2010).

Chair of the “Philosophy” Session Niagara University Honors Program “Undergraduate Research Conference.” In addition, I was the faculty sponsor for 3 of the 4 presentations in the session (April, 2007).

Participated in a NUCAP-sponsored picnic with the Philosophy Club for the residents of Rivershore, a home for the developmentally disabled (April, 2007).

Served as the “Faculty Member Locked in Jail” to raise money for cancer during the “Relay For Life” Cancer Fund-Raising Event sponsored by NUSGA (March, 2007).

Special Faculty Guest for the “Dining for Success Etiquette Dinner” sponsored by the Office of Career Development (February, 2007)

Male faculty model in the “Dress for Success Fashion Show” sponsored by the Office of Career Development (February, 2007)

Chair of a session at the “International Conference Promoting Business Ethics,” Niagara Falls, NY (October, 2006).

Sorted Shoes from ‘Cave of the Winds’ with COPC staff (August, 2006)

AWARDS, HONORS GRANTS & RECOGNITION

Honorary Inductee to *Sigma Alpha Sigma, The President’s Honor Society*, April 2016
Selected as Keynote Speaker

Honored Keynote Speaker at Induction Ceremony for Pi Lamda Theta (Education Honor Society), Spring 2014.

Winner of the Excellence in Teaching Prize for Niagara University, Fall 2013

Featured in “Faculty Spotlight” video for Niagara University website

Participated in Photo Session for New Admissions Materials

Chosen as Faculty Inductee for Delta Sigma Epsilon National Honor Society, Spring 2013
Delivered Keynote Address

Summer Research Stipend awarded by the NU Research Council: 2007, 2009, 2012, 2014, 2017, 2019
CCTL Grants for classroom-based research into teaching and learning awarded by College Committee on Teaching and Learning, 2007-2019

Academic Research Download: Spring 2008, Fall 2009

Selected for Athletic Academic Influential Faculty Award, 2006

Prize Teaching Fellowship at Yale (for outstanding teaching of undergraduates), 2004-2005

Prize Robert M. Leylan Dissertation Writing Fellowship, 2004-2005

John F. Enders Summer Fellowship (for prospectus/dissertation research), Summer, 2003 and '04

John Perry Miller Summer Fellowship (for study of Latin in Rome), Summer, 2002

Berkeley Travel Scholarship (for study of Latin in Rome), Summer, 2002

Yale University Teaching Fellowships, 2001-2004

A. Bartlett Giamatti Memorial Graduate Fellowship in the Humanities, 1999-2001

Hooker-Dwight Fellowship for Graduate Studies, 1999

Oliver Ellsworth Dagget Prize, 1999

Mary Cady Tew Prize, 1997

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Niagara University

Introduction to Philosophy; Ethics; Ancient Philosophy; Medieval Philosophy, Modern Philosophy; Philosophy of Religion; Philosophy for the Business World, Directed Study on the Ontological Argument; Directed Study on the Analogy and Univocity of Being; Directed Study on Duns Scotus's Proof for God's Existence, Directed Study on the Kalam Cosmological Argument, Directed Study on the Problem of Akrasia & Stoicism (student paper accepted for publication as a result).

Yale University Summer School Instructor (full lecturing, teaching, and grading responsibilities)

Introduction to Ethics

Yale University Teaching Fellow

Nietzsche, James Kreines

Introduction to Ancient Philosophy, Tad Brennan

Death, Shelly Kagan

Introduction to Ethics, Shelly Kagan

History of Christian Doctrine, 451-1650, Marilyn McCord Adams