

# Alex M. Plato

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## Education

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**Ph.D. Philosophy** (December 2014), *Saint Louis University* (August 2008 – December 2014)

- Dissertation: “Anscombe on Double Effect and Absolutism: An Inquiry into Modern Moral Philosophy and Traditional Morality”
- Committee: Gregory Beabout (Director), Jack Marler, William Charron
- External Reader: R. Douglas Geivett (Biola University)
- **Area of Specialization:** Moral Philosophy
- **Areas of Competence:** Philosophy of Action, Philosophy of Religion, Epistemology, Philosophy of Mind, The History of Philosophy.

**M.A. Philosophy of Religion and Ethics** with Highest Honors, *Biola University, Talbot School of Theology* (August 2003 – May 2007)

**M.A. Coursework in New Testament Studies (30+ hours)**, including a thesis-length, independent research project entitled: “A Summary and Evaluation of The Methodology of N.T. Wright”, *Biola University, Talbot School of Theology* (August 2003 – May 2006)

**B.S. Interdisciplinary Studies:** Areas of Liberal Arts Emphasis: Philosophy, Literature, Music, Education, Theological Studies (*summa cum laude*), *Corban University* (August 1997 – May 2002)

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## Faculty Appointments

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Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Franciscan University of Steubenville (January 2015 – present)

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## Teaching and Research Experience

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### Undergraduate Courses Taught

- PHIL 205: *Introduction to Ethics*, 5 sections, Saint Louis U., 2010-2012
- PHIL 105: *Historical Introduction to Philosophy: Self and Reality*, 4 sections, Saint Louis U., 2009-2010, Fall 2013
- PHIL 325: *Philosophy of Religion*, Saint Louis U., Spring 2013
- PHIL 338: *Business Ethics*, Saint Louis U., Fall 2013
- PHIL 214: *Ethics*, Lindenwood U., Spring 2014)
- PHIL 466: *Elizabeth Anscombe's Moral Philosophy*, Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, Spring 2014
- PHL 113: *Philosophy of the Human Person*, Franciscan U. Spring 2015
- PHL 212: *Foundations of Ethics*, Franciscan U., Spring 2015

**Instructor of Reading Enrichment**, *Institute of Reading Development*, Summer 2014

- Three intense teacher training programs in May 2014
- Weekly reading enrichment classes for students 4 years old to adult, in two, five-week summer courses.

**43 Great Books tutorial sessions, over 2 school years**, as an Adjunct Professor at *Biola University's Torrey Honors Program* (Spring 2006 – Spring 2007)

- I taught 43 three-hour, Socratic-style, tutorial sessions from texts within a Great Books curriculum, covering the Ancient-Classical, Medieval, and Modern Periods (I repeatedly led some texts listed below): *The Aeneid*, Virgil; *Metamorphoses*, Ovid; *The Annals of Imperial Rome*, Tacitus; *The Divine*

*Comedy: Inferno*, Dante; *The Symposium*, Plato; *King Lear*, Shakespeare; *The Nicomachean Ethics*, *The Metaphysics (book Zeta)*, Aristotle; *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, Locke; *Leviathan*, Hobbes; *The Prince*, Machiavelli; *Declaration/Constitution*; *The Federalist Papers*; *Pride and Prejudice*, Austen; *Christian Scripture: Matthew, Luke, John, Acts, Philippians, Hebrews, 2 Corinthians*, *Jewish/Christian Scripture: Deuteronomy, Leviticus, Job, Ecclesiastes, Proverbs*; *Heresies, Orthodoxy*, Chesterton; *On the Unity of Christ*, Cyril of Alexandria; *Pensees*, Pascal; *On the Origin of Species*, Darwin; *Apologies*, Justin Martyr; *Meditations*, Marcus Aurelius

**6 Great Books tutorial sessions, over 1 school year** as a Substitute Tutor at *Biola University's Torrey Honors Program* (Fall 2005, Fall 2007)

- Led 6 three-hour, Socratic-style sessions, on texts from a great books curriculum: *Abraham Lincoln: His Speeches and Writings*, Abraham Lincoln; *The Institutes, Book I*, John Calvin; *Hebrews*, Christian Scripture; *Ezra, Nehemiah*, Jewish/Christian Scriptures.

**Teacher and Course Designer**, *Hillcrest Youth Correctional Facility*, Introduction to Music (Fall 2001)

- I initiated, formulated, and taught first music course in the facility's history

**Substitute Lecturer**, *Saint Louis University*, for Gregory Beabout, in his Fall 2012 course, Catholic Social Thought, on *Rerum Novarum*

**Substitute Lecturer**, *Corban University*, Music Theory, Music History (Fall 2000 – Spring 2002)

**Teaching Assistant**, *Biola University* (Fall 2004 – Spring 2007)

- Scott Rae, *Talbot School of Theology*: Business Ethics (Fall 2004, Spring 2005), Church and Society (Fall 2004): grader
- Timothy Mosteller, *Biola University*: Introduction to Philosophy (Spring 2005): grader; tutorial discussion leader for Plato's *Republic* and Descartes' *Meditations*
- R. Douglas Geivett, Epistemology, Christian Apologetics (graduate level), Philosophy of Religion, Christian Apologetics (undergraduate level) (Fall 2005, Spring 2006, Fall 2006, Spring 2007): three lectures in graduate Christian Apologetics, two lectures in undergraduate Christian Apologetics, grading, proctoring exams, leading discussions in epistemology

**Research Assistant**, *Biola University*, R. Douglas Geivett (Fall 2006, Spring 2007)

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## Professional Presentations and Invited Lectures

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**Paper Presentation**, University of Notre Dame, *Sursum Actio*: Symposium in Honor of Peter Damian Mary Fehlner, FI: "The Heart of the Natural Order and Contraception, According to Father Peter Damian Fehlner" (June 7-8)

**Paper Presentation**, Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., *American Catholic Philosophical Association*: "The Five Neglected Characters: A New Interpretation of Anscombe's "Modern Moral Philosophy" (December 2014)

**Bitar Lecture Respondent**, *Geneva College*: two Lectures in Response to Nancey Murphy, 2013 Bitar Lecturer, (March 20-21, 2013)

- Lecture 1: "Human Nature and Christian Aristotelianism: Part 1, Faith and Reason in the Development of a Philosophy of Human Nature"
- Lecture 2: "Human Nature and Christian Aristotelianism: Part 2, Is Non-reductive Physicalism a Form of Christian Aristotelianism?"

**Paper Presentation**, *St. Hilda's College, Oxford University*, Seminar on Double Effect: "An Inquiry into Anscombean Understanding: Inconsistency in Anscombe?" (June 2012)

**Paper Presentation**, *Evangelical Philosophical Society, Far West Conference: “Contra-Contraception”* (Fall 2007)

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## Work-in-Progress

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- “The Heart of the Natural Order and Contraception, According to Father Peter Damian Fehlner” (For inclusion in a projected *Festschrift*)
- “The Five Neglected Characters: A New Interpretation of Anscombe’s “Modern Moral Philosophy”
- “Minimal Absolutism: Anscombe’s Defense of Traditional Morality”
- “Inconsistency in Anscombe’s Account of Double Effect?”
- “Minimalist Double Effect: Anscombe’s Unconventional Modesty”
- “A Defense of the Interpersonal View of Testimony”
- “Skeptics Don’t Bite: A Critique of ‘External World’ Skepticism”
- “Misreading Reid on the Nature of Commonsense: Wolterstorff’s Mistake”
- “How *The Republic*’s Socrates Needs Charity to Complete the Argument”
- “Anscombe on the ‘Value Problem’ in Epistemology: The Disvalue of Ignorance”
- “On Kant’s Refutation of the Ontological Proof: Lessons for Plantinga and Anscombe?”
- “A Forgotten Insight of Adolf Reinach: On Kant’s (Mis)application of A Common Misreading of Hume”
- “Dietrich Von Hildebrand’s Metaphilosophy: Lessons for a Profession without an End”
- “Anscombe Against the Flow: In Praise of Saint Euthyphro”
- “God’s Exile: Anscombe on Evil” (with Donald Bungum)

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## Scholarly Activities & Service

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**Conference Director**, Saint Louis University Graduate Student Conference: The Problem of Evil (keynote speakers: Alvin Plantinga and Paul Draper), *Saint Louis University* (March 2013)

**Assistant Conference Director**, Saint Louis University Graduate Student Conference: Social Epistemology, *Saint Louis University* (Fall 2011)

**Conference Co-Director** of The Talbot Philosophy Society Spring Student Conference, *Biola University* (Spring 2007)

**Graduate Student Representative**, Graduate Student Association, *Saint Louis University* (Fall 2012)

**Philosophical Society Founder / Officer**, The Talbot Philosophical Society, *Biola University* (Fall 2004–Spring 2007)

**Philosophy Club Founder / Director**, The Philosophy Club, *Corban University* (Fall 2001)

**Secretary, Vice President, President, Honor Society**, *Corban University* (Fall 1997 – Spring 2002)

**Honor Society Member**, Honor Society, *Biola University, Talbot School of Theology* (Fall 2003 – Spring 2007)

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## Academic Awards

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**Graduate Assistantship** (a teaching fellowship), *Saint Louis University* (Fall 2009 – Spring 2013)

**Research Assistantship** (with full scholarship and stipend), *Saint Louis University* (Fall 2008 – Spring 2009)

**Dr. Richard L. Caulkins Annual Lectureship**, *Corban University* (Spring 2003)

**Graduate of the Year**, *Corban University* (Spring 2002): a faculty-selection of one student for exceptional academic achievement and outstanding character

**Music Student of the Year**, *Corban College* (Fall 2001 – Spring 2002)

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## Professional Societies

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American Catholic Philosophical Association

American Philosophical Association

Society of Christian Philosophers

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## Graduate Coursework in Philosophy

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### **Moral and Social Philosophy**

- *Biola University*, M.A. work
  - History and Normative Systems of Ethics, David Horner
  - Seminar in Ethical Issues, Scott Rae
- *Saint Louis University*, PhD work
  - Aquinas on Virtue, Eleonore Stump
  - Kierkegaard and MacIntyre on Virtue, Gregory Beabout
  - Plato's Ethics, George Terzis
  - Theories of Justice after Rawls, James Bohman and Dan Habron
  - Kant's First Critique, William Charron
  - Graduate Reading Course: Catholic Social and Political Thought, Gregory Beabout

### **Philosophy of Religion and Philosophical Theology**

- *Biola University*, M.A. work
  - Philosophy of Religion, R Douglas Geivett (Including 3 week of special seminar with Professor Richard Swinburne)
  - Seminar in Philosophical Theology: The Incarnation and Atonement, Garry DeWeese
  - Seminar in Philosophical Theology: God, Time and Foreknowledge, Garry DeWeese
  - The Theology and Philosophy of Science, Garry DeWeese
- *Saint Louis University*, PhD work
  - Wandering in Darkness a Seminar in the Philosophy of Religion on the Problem of Evil, Eleonore Stump

### **Epistemology**

- *Biola University*, M.A. work
  - Epistemology I, Garry DeWeese
  - Epistemology II: Contemporary Issues in Epistemology: Evidentialism, R. Douglas Geivett
  - Directed Study in Meta-epistemology and Meta-philosophy, R. Douglas Geivett
- *Saint Louis University*, PhD work
  - Epistemology of Testimony, John Greco
  - The Epistemology of Skepticism, John Greco
  - Knowledge and Context, John Greco and Joe Salerno
  - Knowledge and Action, Professor John Hawthorne, Oxford University, visiting Professor
  - Hume and Reid, John Greco

### **Metaphysics and The Philosophy of Mind**

- *Biola University*, M.A. work
  - Metaphysics I, Garry DeWeese
  - Metaphysics Seminar: Philosophical Anthropology and The Philosophy of Mind, J.P. Moreland
  - Metaphysics Seminar: The Metaphysics of Human Agency *Audit*, David Hunt
- *Saint Louis University*, PhD work

- Plato and Contemporary Metaphysics, Scott Berman
- Theories of Consciousness in Medieval Philosophy, Susan Brower-Toland

**Logic**

- *Saint Louis University*, PhD work
  - Advanced Logic, John Jacobs