

Tucker S. Sigourney

updated May 2026

Expertise

Specializations: ethics, philosophy of action, philosophy of mind, Thomas Aquinas

Competences: philosophy of religion, free will, Aristotelian and medieval metaphysics and epistemology, Aristotle, Kant, Plato

Employment

The Human Flourishing Program, Harvard University
Postdoctoral Fellow, 2025 –

Midlands Technical College
Adjunct Professor of Humanities, 2022 – 2025

Florida State University
Graduate Assistant, 2017 – 2024

Education

Ph.D. in Philosophy, Florida State University, spring 2024

Dissertation: *Charity as a Foundation of Ethics* (passed with distinction)

A defense of the place of charity (the virtue of love) as a central organizing concept in ethical theory, drawing from Thomas Aquinas to build and defend a schematic ethics of charity and then applying it to issues in normative ethics.

Committee: Andrea Westlund, Mark LeBar, John Schwenkler, John Kelsay

M.A. in Philosophy, Florida State University, spring 2020

B.S. in Physics, Grove City College, fall 2016

B.A. in Philosophy, Grove City College, spring 2016 (highest departmental honors)

Publications

For Yourself Alone: On the Specificity of the Reasons to Love Someone

European Journal of Philosophy, forthcoming

An argument that the central reason to love someone is simply who she is, and that this follows from an understanding of giving an account of love's reasons on which it is an attempt to answer questions of the form "why do you love me?"

Forgiveness and Correction

Journal of Ethics 28.4 (2024): 695 – 717

A suggestion that it is helpful to frame the unconditional forgiveness discussion in terms of the question "How should I answer wrongdoing?", and of the interplay that question brings out between forgiveness and fraternal correction.

Famine, Affluence, and Aquinas

Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy 25.2 (2023): 307 – 322 (with Marshall Bierson)

An argument for theories of property that can accommodate the right of those in need to have what they need, noting that such theories also yield a parallel obligation to give from one's abundance to the poor.

The Charity Account of Forgiving

American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly 96.3 (2022): 403 – 434

An account of forgiving (drawing from Aquinas) as an act of love by which enemies are made friends, with arguments that other contemporary views do not capture what forgiving centrally is.

In Progress

Against Voleficence (under review)

A brief argument against the view that what love pursues are the beloved's ends (rather than her good).

On Objections From Respect to (Unconditional) Forgiveness (under review)

A catalogue of objections to (unconditional) forgiveness from norms of respect, arguing that none of them successfully establishes a generally applicable consideration against forgiving.

In Defense of Making Babies (under review)

An argument that one coherent good reason to have a child is that the child would be finally valuable.

A Brief Clarification of *Sub Specie Boni*

An articulation and defense of the Guise of the Good Thesis in a social-scientific context.

Thomas Aquinas on the Logic of Neighbor-Love

An interpretation of Thomas Aquinas's views on the ways in which love of neighbor may be grounded in love of self or of God.

Puddleglum's Stand

An examination of an argument structure in which one endorses a practical conclusion despite uncertainty about its factual grounds.

Some Mechanisms of Redemption

An account of one way in which redemption—drawing good from evil—could work, applied to the problem of evil.

Forgiving is Changing a Relationship

An argument that what forgiving most fundamentally and directly changes is not a normative or a psychological landscape, but a relationship.

Presentations

Major Presentations

“Measuring Flourishing”

Building a Culture of Life & Dignity (De La Salle Oaklands College), 2026

“In Defense of Making Babies”
Virtue Ethics Conference (Christopher Newport University), 2026
“Remembering Tragedy” (with Bob Bishop)
Virtue Ethics Conference (Christopher Newport University), 2024
“Forgiveness and Correction”
Society of Christian Philosophers (Mountain-West Conference), 2022
“Ideal Theory and the Rules of Setting Rules”
Florida Philosophical Association, 2019
“Happy Lies: Praiseworthy Cases of Self-Deception”
Florida Philosophical Association, 2018
“Disagreement Among Experts”
University of Florida / Florida State Graduate Conference, 2018

*Minor Presentations*¹

on forgiveness and correction
The Human Flourishing Program, 2026
on Kierkegaard’s *Works of Love*
The Morningside Institute, 2026
on forgiveness
Seeker’s Mind Podcast, 2026
on charity as a foundation of ethics
The Human Flourishing Program, 2026
on the guise of the good
The Human Flourishing Program, 2026
on forgiveness and Respect
The Human Flourishing Program, 2026

Teaching

Primary Instructor

Contemporary Ethical Issues (12 sections), fall 2022 – spring 2025, Midlands
Technical College
Logic (2 sections), spring 2023 – spring 2024, MTC
Topics in Philosophy, spring 2024, college-style seminar for advanced high school
students
Introduction to Philosophy, summer 2023, MTC

Minor Courses

AI and Flourishing (one-week seminar), summer 2026, Flourishing Fellows
Vivarium at Oxford University
AI and Flourishing (one-week course), spring 2026, Università Campus Bio-Medico
di Roma

¹ “Minor” (here and in the teaching section) means brief or relatively casual.

Till We Have Faces (reading group), spring 2026, Flourishing Fellows Program at Harvard University

Assistant

Bioethics (Tracie Mahaffey) (3 sections), spring 2023 – spring 2024, Florida State University (FSU)

Introduction to Philosophy (Edward Hinchman) (2 sections), fall 2021 and 2022, FSU

Ethical Issues (Zina Ward) (2 sections), fall 2020 and spring 2021, FSU

Introduction to Philosophy (John Roberts), spring 2020, FSU

Ethical Issues (Matthew Taylor), fall 2019, FSU

Ethical Issues (Sarah Vincent), spring 2019, FSU

Introduction to Philosophy (John Schwenkler), fall 2018, FSU

Reasoning and Critical Thinking (Michael Bishop) (2 sections), spring 2018 and 2022, FSU

Introduction to Philosophy (Nathaniel Stein), fall 2017, FSU

General Physics I and II (tutor and course assistant for various professors) (4 sections), fall 2014 – spring 2016, Grove City College

Coursework

Ethics and Political Philosophy

DIS: Love in Ethics (Andrea Westlund)

Ideal Theory (Simon May)

DIS: Aristotle's Ethics (Mark LeBar)

Ethics Core (Mark LeBar)

Mind and Action

Mind in Action (Al Mele)

Relational Autonomy (Andrea Westlund)

Free Will (Al Mele)

Moral Responsibility (Randy Clarke)

Autobiography (Andrea Westlund)

Intentions and Intentional Actions (Al Mele)

Psychology and Neuroscience (John Schwenkler)

Self-Deception (Al Mele)

Moral Psychology (Marcela Herdova)

Metaphysics, Epistemology, and Language

Judgment, Assertion, and Epistemic Agency (Ted Hinchman)

Meaning (Ted Hinchman)

Describing Action (John Schwenkler)

Values and Knowledge (Zina Ward)

Metaphysics and Epistemology Core (Stephen Kearns)

History

Carnap and Quine (Jack Justus)

Aristotle's Metaphysics (Nathaniel Stein)

DIS: Irwin's *Development of Ethics* (Mark LeBar)

General

Latin for Reading Knowledge (Trevor Luke)
Philosophical Writing (Simon May)
Modern Logic (Piers Rawling)

Service

Organizer (with Jonathan Teubner), Flourishing Fellows Program and Oxford Vivarium, Harvard (2025 – 2026)
Treasurer, Philosophy Graduate Student Association, FSU (2019 – 2020)
Organizer (with John Schwenkler), Werkmeister Conference, FSU (2019)

Honors, Programs, Memberships

“Aquinas on Evil”, Thomistic Institute workshop at Mt. St. Mary College, summer 2023
“Aquinas’s Five Ways and Where They Lead”, Lumen Christi Institute seminar at the University of Chicago, summer 2022
“Aquinas on Human Action and Virtue”, Thomistic Institute workshop at Mt. St. Mary College, summer 2019
Recipient of the Frederick S. Kring Psychology and Philosophy Scholarship Award (for undergraduate work), 2015
Member of the OΔK honor society
Member of the Mortar Board honor society
Member of the ΦΣΤ philosophy honor society
Member of the ΣΠΣ physics honor society

References

Andrea Westlund (dissertation advisor)
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Mark LeBar (dissertation committee)
Professor of Philosophy
Florida State University
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John Schwenkler (dissertation committee)
Professor of Philosophy
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
jschwenk@illinois.edu

Matthew Stilwell (teaching supervisor)
Chair of Humanities
Midlands Technical College
stilwellm@midlandstech.edu

Tyler VanderWeele (postdoctoral supervisor)
Director of the Human Flourishing Program
Harvard University
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Brendan Case (postdoctoral supervisor)
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Harvard University
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