

Tucker S. Sigourney

updated August 2025

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

Forgiveness and Correction

Journal of Ethics 28.4 (2024): 695 – 717

An illustration of the benefits of framing 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 necessity”—the right of those in need to have what they need—noting that such theories also yield a parallel obligation to give out of 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.

Works in Progress

For Yourself Alone (under review)

An argument that the central reason to love someone is simply who she is.

Against the Partnership View (under review)

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

Forgiveness and Respect

A catalogue of objections to (unconditional) forgiveness from norms of respect, with arguments that none of them successfully establishes a reason not to forgive.

Puddleglum's Stand

An examination of an argument structure in which one endorses a practical conclusion despite uncertainty about its theoretical grounds, with applications in philosophy of religion and metaethics.

Meaning in Immortal Lives

An investigation of the possibility that a life which does not end could still have a meaning, drawing from Aristotle's *Poetics*, with implications for lives that do end.

The Mechanisms of Redemption

An examination of the possibility of redemption—drawing good from evil—and an account of how it could work, applied to the problem of evil.

A Brief Clarification of *Sub Specie Boni*

An argument that the Guise of the Good thesis can only be convincingly articulated within a classical (or nearly classical) moral-psychological framework.

Presentations

“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 Philosophy Graduate Conference, 2018

Teaching

Primary Instructor

Contemporary Ethical Issues (twelve sections), fall 2022 – spring 2025, Midlands Technical College
Logic (two sections), spring 2023 – spring 2024, MTC
Topics in Philosophy, spring 2024, co-op for advanced high school students
Introduction to Philosophy, summer 2023, MTC

Assistant

Bioethics (Tracie Mahaffey) (three sections), spring 2023 – spring 2024, Florida State University (graduate assistant)
Introduction to Philosophy (Edward Hinchman) (two sections), fall 2021 and 2022, FSU
Ethical Issues (Zina Ward) (two 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) (two sections), spring 2018 and 2022, FSU
Introduction to Philosophy (Nathaniel Stein), fall 2017, FSU
General Physics I and II (various professors) (four sections), fall 2014 – spring 2016, Grove City College (tutor and course assistant)

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)

Honors, Programs, and Workshops

“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, 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, 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 (advisor)
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Mark LeBar (committee)
Professor of Philosophy
Florida State University
mlebar2@fsu.edu

John Schwenkler (committee)
Professor of Philosophy
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
jschwenk@illinois.edu

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