

# WILLIAM B COCHRAN

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## Areas of Specialization

Ancient Greek & Roman Philosophy | Ethics (*esp.* Virtue Ethics) | Philosophy of Education

## Areas of Competency

Ethics of Emerging Technologies | Applied Ethics (*esp.* Bioethics) | Buddhism

## Education

**Ph.D., Philosophy**, Northwestern University 2013 - expected June 2020

Dissertation: *Aristotle on Teaching: Scientific Knowledge, Moral Education, and Intellectual Virtue*

Committee: Richard Kraut (Chair), Kyla Ebels-Duggan, Stephen White, Patricia Marechal

**M.A., Classics**, Dalhousie University 2009-2011

Thesis: *The Doctrine of Due Measure in Plato's Statesman*

Supervisor: Eli Diamond. Readers: Wayne J. Hankey, Michael Fournier

**B.A., Classics**, University of King's College 2004-2009

*Magnis cum honoribus* & University Medal in Classics

University of Toronto 2005-2006

King's Foundation Year Program 2004-2005

## Dissertation Summary

Aristotle says that intellectual virtues are “generated and developed mostly by teaching (*didaskalia*),” yet no substantive work has been done to figure out what, on Aristotle’s view, ‘teaching’ consists in. My dissertation fills this gap. First, I defend my interpretation: for Aristotle, teaching is the activity of instilling true accounts, grounded in explanatorily basic principles, in students ready to receive them. I then use this reading to argue, against some prevailing views in Aristotle’s ethics, that (1) habituation does not require teaching, and (2) Aristotle’s practically wise person possesses a philosophical conception of the human good. Finally, I use my interpretation to solve a problem for Aristotelian educational theory. I argue that Aristotle’s educational program, contrary to what critics have claimed, does not rob students of their autonomy.

## Publications

### PEER-REVIEWED

3. “Dewey, Aristotle, and Education as Completion,” in *Philosophy of Education*, vol. 2018 (1): 669-682.

### IN VOLUMES EDITED

2. “The Doctrine of Due Measure in Plato’s *Statesman*,” in *Pseudo-Dionysius XIII*, edited by William Cochran and Emma Whitney (2011): 57-60.
1. “The Mysticisms of Al-Ghazali and Rumi: Similar Lives, Divergent Methods, Same Results” in *Pseudo-Dionysius XI*, edited by Elizabeth Baxter, William Cochran, and Emma Whitney (2010): 38-43.

### OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCHOLARSHIP

Editorial Assistant, *Theory and Practice in Aristotle’s Natural Science*, edited by David Ebrey (Cambridge University Press, 2015).

## Research Fellowships, Grants, Scholarships, & Awards

SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship [CDN \$80,000 = \$20,000/year]	2013-2017
Classics Cluster Research Grant	2013-2014
Joseph Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship [CDN \$17,500]	2010-2011
University Medal in Classics [for best GPA in Classics]	2008-2009

## Teaching Fellowships & Awards

Graduate Fellowship, Brady Scholars Program in Ethics & Civic Life	2019-2020
WCAS/TGS Teaching Fellowship	2017-2018
Graduate Fellowship, Brady Scholars Program in Ethics & Civic Life	2015-2018
Joseph Clyde Murley Prize for Outstanding Performance by a Graduate TA, Classics	2015-2016

## Presentations

### REFEREED

“Aristotle on Enhancing Human Excellence” <i>Great Lakes Philosophy Conference</i> Sienna Heights University	April 2019
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- “Dewey, Aristotle, and Education as Completion” April 2018  
*Philosophy of Education Society Conference*  
 Chicago, IL
- “Plato’s Philosophical Prologues: The Case of Plato’s *Statesman*” April 2018  
*Ancient Philosophy Society Conference*  
 Emory University
- “Promising Children” April 2018  
*Great Lakes Philosophy Conference*  
 Sienna Heights University
- “Aristotle’s Teaching” March 2017  
*Philosophy & Education Graduate Conference*  
 Catholic University of America
- “Does Plato’s Late Metaphysics Kill Socrates?” May 2011  
*Classical Association of Canada Conference*  
 Dalhousie University
- “The Doctrine of Due Measure in Plato’s *Statesman*” October 2010  
*Atlantic Classical Association Annual Conference*  
 Saint Mary’s University

#### COMMENTS

- On Kristina Grob’s “Aspiration vs. Moral Luck: A Murdochian Response” February 2020  
*APA Central Division Meeting, Chicago, IL*
- On Paula McAvoy’s “Steering the sex education discussion” December 2017  
*Practical Philosophy Workshop, Northwestern University*
- On Max Parish’s “Human Nature, the Normativity Objection and the Practical Reason Response: No Cigar” May 2015  
*Northwestern University Society for the Theory of Ethics and Politics Conference*
- On Tomasz Wysocki’s “Intuitions Aren’t on the Rocks” October 2014  
*Central States Philosophical Association Conference, Northwestern University*

#### CAMPUS TALKS

- “Discussion-Based Teaching: Eliciting Conversation and Navigating Controversy” Nov. 2018  
*Searle Center for Teaching and Learning (with Lorien Elleman)*
- “Privacy & Technology” February 2017  
*Brady Tea, Brady Scholars Program in Ethics & Civic Life*

“Well-Being, Wilt Chamberlain, and Welfare Reform” <i>Brady Tea, Brady Scholars Program in Ethics &amp; Civic Life</i>	May 2016
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“Cooper, Hadot, and Receiving Philosophy as a Way of Life” <i>University of Michigan-Northwestern Classical Receptions Workshop</i>	April 2014
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## Teaching Experience [at Northwestern, unless otherwise specified]

### INSTRUCTOR

Future Tense: The Ethics of What Will Be (First Year Seminar)	Spring 2018
Aristotle and His Successors ( <i>University of Illinois at Chicago</i> )	Spring 2018
Introduction to Ancient Civilizations ( <i>Saint Mary's University, Halifax, NS</i> )	Summer 2012

### CO-INSTRUCTOR

The Civically Engaged Life (Brady Senior Seminar)	Fall 2019 - Winter 2020
Philosophy and the City (Brady Senior Seminar)	Fall 2017 - Winter 2018

### MENTOR

Tenth Cohort, Brady Scholars Program in Ethics & Civic Life	2019-2020
Eighth Cohort, Brady Scholars Program in Ethics & Civic Life	2015-2018

### TEACHING ASSISTANT

#### *Classical Philosophy, Literature, & History*

Ancient Athens: Drama, Democracy, Civilization (Wallace)	Winter 2016
History of Philosophy – Ancient (Wynne)	Fall 2015
Rome: Culture and Empire (Wynne)	Spring 2015
History of Philosophy – Ancient (Ebrey)	Winter 2015
Roman Legions and the Barbarians (Mitchell, <i>Dalhousie</i> )	Winter 2012
Magic, Religion, & Philosophy (Fournier, <i>Dalhousie</i> )	Winter 2011 & 2012
Classical Mythology (O'Brien, <i>Dalhousie</i> )	2009-2010

#### *Ethical Theory & Applied Ethics*

Religion & Bioethics (Advanced Undergrad, Traina)	Fall 2019
Introduction to Moral Philosophy (Zimmer)	Spring 2017
Ethical Problems and Public Issues (Sheldon)	Winter 2017
Philosophy and Ethics for Kinesiologists (online, <i>Dalhousie</i> )	Winter 2012
Technology & Engineering: From Industrial to Cybernetic Age, (Frappier, <i>King's</i> )	Winter 2012

### *Non-Western Philosophy & Religion*

Introduction to Buddhism (Buckelew)	Spring 2020
Introduction to Eastern Religions (Austin, <i>Dalhousie</i> )	Winter 2011
Islam (Intermediate, Treiger, <i>Dalhousie</i> )	Fall 2011
Buddhism (Intermediate, Austin, <i>Dalhousie</i> )	Fall 2010

### GUEST LECTURER

Aristotle Unit (6 lectures) (for P. Marechal, History of Ancient Philosophy)	Fall 2019
“Aristotle: Form & Matter; The Four Causes”	
“Aristotle on Knowledge”	
“Aristotelian Psychology”	
“Aristotle on The Goal of Human Life”	
“Aristotle on the Virtues of Character”	
“Aristotle: <i>Akrasia</i> , Self-Control, Virtue, Vice”	
“The Four Principles of Bioethics” (for C. Traina, Religion & Bioethics)	Fall 2019
“Three Classic Moral Theories” (for C. Traina, Religion & Bioethics)	Fall 2019
“On Justice as an Aim of Higher Education” (for S. Goldberg, What is College For?)	Fall 2017
“On Aristotle’s <i>Categories</i> ” (for D. Ebrey, History of Philosophy - Ancient)	Winter 2015
“On Plato’s <i>Euthyphro</i> ” (for E. Diamond, Philosophy on Trial, <i>Dalhousie</i> )	Fall 2011

### WRITING COACH

Introduction to Environment, Sustainability, and Society ( <i>Dalhousie</i> )	Fall 2011
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### **Pedagogical Training**

Graduate Digital Humanities Pedagogy Workshop, Northwestern	Fall 2017
Teaching Certificate Program, Searle Center for Teaching and Learning, Northwestern	2016-2017
American Association of Philosophy Teachers Seminar on Teaching and Learning	Summer 2016

### **Service to the Profession**

Session Chair, Great Lakes Philosophy Conference, Sienna Heights University	April 2019
Session Chair, Submitted Symposium, APA Central Division Meeting, Chicago	Feb. 2018
Session Chair, Great Lakes Philosophy Conference, Sienna Heights University	April 2018
Session Chair, Plato’s Late Dialogues Conference, Northwestern University	March 2016
Assistant Organizer, Classical Association of Canada Conference	Spring 2011

## Departmental Service

### AT NORTHWESTERN

T.A. Coordinator, Philosophy Graduate Student Association	2017-2018
Vice President, Philosophy Graduate Student Association	2017-2018
By-Laws Drafting Team, Philosophy Graduate Student Association	Summer 2017
Coordinator, Philosophical Greek Reading Group	2014-2016
Coordinator, Ancient Philosophy Workshop	2014-2016
Department Representative (Philosophy) to GSA/GLAC	2014-2015

### AT DALHOUSIE

Vice President—Internal, Dalhousie Classics Graduate Student Society	2010-2011
Assistant Office Administrator, Dalhousie Classics Department	2010-2011
Department Librarian, Dalhousie Classics Department	2010-2011

## Languages

Ancient Greek	reading competency (and teaching competency: introductory-advanced)
Latin	reading competency (and teaching competency: introductory-intermediate)
French	reading & speaking competency
German	beginner-level reading & speaking

## Memberships

APA	American Philosophical Association
AAPT	American Association of Philosophy Teachers

## Graduate-Level Coursework [\* = audit. At Northwestern unless otherwise specified]

### ANCIENT GREEK & ROMAN PHILOSOPHY

Metaphysics of Goodness in Plato & Aristotle (Chris Shields)*	Spring 2017
Plato's <i>Phaedo</i> (David Ebrey)*	Spring 2016
Plato's <i>Philebus</i> (Gabriel Richardson-Lear, <i>University of Chicago</i> )*	Winter 2016
Aristotle's <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> (Richard Kraut)	Winter 2015
Plato's <i>Ethics</i> (Richard Kraut)	Spring 2015
Matter in Aristotle's Natural Science (David Ebrey)	Spring 2014
Stoicism (J.P.F. Wynne)	Winter 2014
Skepticism: Ancient & Modern (Baron Reed)	Fall 2013
Aristotle's <i>Ethics</i> (Eli Diamond, <i>Dalhousie</i> )*	Fall 2010
Plato's <i>Dialogues</i> (Eli Diamond, <i>Dalhousie</i> )	2009-2010
Proclus, Plotinus, and Boethius on Providence (W.J. Hankey, <i>Dalhousie</i> )	2009-2010

### ETHICS & VALUE THEORY

Inarticulacy & Reasonable Commitments (Kyla Ebels-Duggan)*	Spring 2016
Kant's Moral Theory (Kyla Ebels-Duggan)*	Spring 2015
Desires (K. Ebels-Duggan)	Winter 2015
Rawls and His Critics (Proseminar, Charles Mills)	Fall 2014 - Winter 2015
Ethics of Interaction, (Stephen White)	Fall 2014
Philosophy and Literature (Richard Kraut)	Fall 2014
Post-Kantian Ethics (Mark Alznauer)	Fall 2013
Philosophy of Education (Kyla Ebels-Duggan)	Fall 2013

### GREEK & LATIN LANGUAGE

Philosophical Greek: Plato's <i>Protagoras</i> (J.P.F. Wynne)	Winter 2016
Philosophical Greek: Plato's <i>Phaedo</i> (J.P.F. Wynne)	Winter 2015
Philosophical Greek: Plato's <i>Symposium</i> (J.P.F. Wynne)	Winter 2014
Latin Literature: Lucretius (J.P.F. Wynne)	Spring 2014
Latin Literature: Seneca (John Schafer)	Winter 2014
Advanced Greek: <i>Symposium &amp; Hippolytus</i> (Leona MacLeod, <i>Dalhousie</i> )	2009-2010

### OTHER

The Science of Rational Belief & Group Decision Making (Matt Kopec)	Spring 2015
Classics in the Philosophy of Language (Proseminar, Fabrizio Cariani)	Winter-Spring 2014

## REFERENCES CONTACT INFORMATION

### **Richard Kraut**

Charles and Emma Morrison Professor in the Humanities  
Department of Philosophy & Department of Classics  
Northwestern University  
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### **Kyla Ebels-Duggan**

Associate Professor  
Department of Philosophy  
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### **Stephen White**

Associate Professor  
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### **Patricia Marechal**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Philosophy & Department of Classics  
Northwestern University  
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### **Mark Sheldon** (Teaching Reference)

Distinguished Senior Lecturer Emeritus in Philosophy  
& in the Medical Ethics and Humanities Program  
Feinberg School of Medicine & Department of Philosophy  
Northwestern University  
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