

# Robert Gruber

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Springfield College  
Humanities and Social Sciences Department  
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## Employment

Associate Professor of Philosophy, Springfield College	2024-present
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Springfield College	2018-2024

## Education

Ph.D. Philosophy - University of Massachusetts Amherst (2018)  
Dissertation: *The Mismatch Problem for Act Consequentialism*  
B.S. Philosophy - University of Wisconsin Madison (2011)  
B.S. Mathematics - University of Wisconsin Madison (2011)

## Areas of Specialization

Ethics (Normative and Applied), Environmental Ethics

## Areas of Competence

Philosophy of Sport, Philosophy of Religion, Logic

## Publications

“Animals, Distributive Justice, and Desert” <i>Res Publica</i> , forthcoming	2024
“Actual Utility, the Mismatch Problem, and the Move to Expected Utility” <i>Philosophical Studies</i> 174:3097-3108	Dec 2017

## Works in Progress

“Control and the Mismatch Problem” (Under review, R&R at *The Journal of Ethics*)  
“Harmless Torturers, Approximation, and Cautious Act Consequentialism” (Under review at *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*)  
“Measuring the Effectiveness of Student Explanations on Understanding” (SOTL project)  
“A Division in Theories of Welfare”

## Courses Taught

### *At Springfield College:*

Honors Seminar in Philosophy - The Good Life (x3)  
Philosophy of Sport (x8)  
Environmental Ethics (x5)  
Existentialism (x4)  
Introduction to Healthcare Ethics  
Philosophy of Religion  
Introduction to Philosophy (x10)  
Conflict of Ideals (x8)  
Springfield College Seminar (for first year students)  
Ethics  
Big Questions (Honors Colloquium)  
Logic (Honors Colloquium)  
Philosophizing about Animals (Honors Colloquium)  
Making Meaning in the Universe  
What is Happiness? (Honors Independent Study)  
Love and Rage in Liberation Movements (Honors Independent Study)

### *At Smith College (as associate instructor):*

Valid and Invalid Reasoning (Fall 2017, with Jay Garfield and Jim Henle)

### *At UMass Amherst:*

Introduction to Philosophy (online course)  
Climate Ethics (x2)  
Medical Ethics  
Perspectives on Climate Change (x2)  
Philosophy of Religion  
Introduction to Ethics (x2)

## Presentations

### *Presentations about research:*

“Should We Prioritize the Welfare of Animals over the Welfare of People?”

Eastern American Philosophical Association Conference (refereed)	Jan 2023
Virginia Commonwealth University - Speaker Series (invited)	Oct 2021
Springfield College Humanities and Social Sciences Colloquium	Oct 2021
“The Ethics of Collective Action”	
OLLI Speaker Series, Berkshire Community College (invited)	Apr 2023
Springfield College Humanities and Social Sciences Colloquium	Oct 2020
“Control, Collective Action, and a Solution to the Mismatch Problem”	
Eastern American Philosophical Association (refereed, online)	Jan 2021
Wisconsin Philosophical Association Conference (refereed, online)	Aug 2020
UMass Amherst Philosophy Homecoming Conference (invited)	Oct 2019
“Physics, Philosophy, and Psychology: Play is more than everyone thinks.” (Co-Presented with Rick Paar, Ph.D. and James O’Brien, Ph.D.)	
Association for the Study of Play Conference, Harrisonburg VA	Mar 2019
“Harmless Torturers, Accumulation, and a Solution to the Mismatch Problem”	
Eastern American Philosophical Association Conference (refereed)	Jan 2019
“Evaluating the Uncooperativeness Solution to the Mismatch Problem”	
Central American Philosophical Association Conference (refereed)	Feb 2018
“The Mismatch Problem for Expected Utility Act Consequentialism”	
Central American Philosophical Association Conference (refereed)	Mar 2017
“Evaluating Kagan’s Expected Utility Solution”	
Syracuse University Graduate Conference (refereed)	Apr 2016
Intermountain West Graduate Philosophy Conference (refereed)	Mar 2016
<i>Presentations about teaching:</i>	
“How to Engage Students in Readings”	
Springfield College CETLS Summer Conference	May 2023
“Teaching Intellectual Risk-Taking”	
Springfield College CETLS Summer Conference	May 2018

“Discussing Individual Moral Obligation and Climate Change in the Classroom”  
UMass Center for Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning    Nov 2017

“Rachels on Active and Passive Euthanasia”  
Baystate Franklin Medical Center    Mar 2017

## Professional Service

### Chaired Conference Sessions

“Philosophizing for Animals”  
Eastern American Philosophical Association Conference, Montreal    Jan 2023

“Skepticism and Anxiety in Harry Frankfurt’s ‘The Reasons of Love’”  
Central American Philosophical Association Conference, Chicago    Feb 2022

Referee for *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, and *Routledge* (hardback monograph program)

Participant in CIC New Currents in Teaching Philosophy Institute    Jul 2023

Member of the Ethics Service at Baystate Franklin Medical Center    2015 - 2020  
(The Ethics Service meets bi-monthly to discuss ethical issues that have arisen, or could arise, in the hospital. The Ethics Service is also used to help resolve disputes when formal ethics consultations are requested.)

## College Service

Chair of Springfield College Core Curriculum Committee    2023 - 2024  
Senate Representative for Humanities and Social Sciences Department    2022 - 2024  
Co-Organizer of Philosophy and Religion Spring Forum Speaker Series    2019 - present  
Member of Honors Program Advisory Committee    2018 - present  
Faculty Advisor for Spanish Minor    2023 - present  
Outside Reader on PsyD Dissertation Committee    2022 - present  
Department Liaison for the Core Curriculum    Fall 2021  
Member of Wellness Passport Committee    2020 - 2021

Member of Boyer Scholarship Model Task Force	2021 - 2022
Member of School Faculty Development and Status Committee	2019 - 2020
Faculty Search Committee Member	
Interdisciplinary Social Scientist Search	2023
Biology Professor Search	2020
Math Professor Search	2019
Philosophy Department Curriculum Development (at UMass Amherst)	2017
Residential Academic Programs Instruction (at UMass Amherst)	2016
First Year Seminar Development (Perspectives on Climate Change, at UMass)	2015