Kyle Whitaker

robertkwhitaker.com

Professional Summary

Strategic, careful thinker and effective communicator with more than seven years' experience teaching, training, mentoring, researching, and presenting work in a higher education setting. Expert in disagreement and skilled argumentation, with understanding of how to assess expertise and navigate complex informational terrain with stakeholders who are guided by differing value sets and interests. Accomplished speaker and published writer, skilled at synthesizing complex information and delivering it in a succinct, clear, and compelling way to diverse audiences. Seeking a role applying logical problem solving skills and the ability to help diverse teams understand one another in an organization that values clarity and collaboration.

Relevant Skills

- Effective verbal and written communicator and discussion facilitator, with demonstrated ability to mitigate conflict and build consensus
- Critical thinker and problem solver with expertise in teaching others to quickly get to the heart of an issue to connect and resolve conflict
- Accomplished researcher with ability to develop specialized, evidence-based methods of inquiry
- Ability to thoughtfully balance stakeholder interests to make difficult decisions in a principled, fair way that promotes inclusion and psychological safety
- Strong emotional intelligence and ability to foster ethical interaction in accordance with professional norms and adapt to rapidly changing social situations

Work History

- Lecturer, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, 2021-2022
  - Effectively delivered online distance education about controversial and timely issues in medical ethics and philosophy.
  - Navigated complex administrative terrain and pandemic-related obstacles to fairly handle student issues, achieving very strong evaluation scores.
- Visiting Assistant Professor, Marquette University, 2018-2021
  - Developed and delivered curricula for thirty-two university courses in philosophy and theoretical and applied medical ethics and assessed attainment of educational outcomes in accordance with organizational objectives.
  - Designed and implemented an engaging online learning environment utilizing innovative collaborative technology to ensure student success.
  - Led more than 500 students from diverse backgrounds to vulnerably question their assumptions about the meaning and purpose of their lives alongside their peers, and assess complex ethical dilemmas in order to build their character and encourage their civic responsibility.
- Lecturer, Carthage College, 2016-2018
  - Created four university courses, including two upper-level courses new to the department, in the areas of critical thinking and logic, knowledge, the mind, and history of philosophy.
  - Helped advertise the philosophy department and explain its impact to potential new majors and students in other departments, resulting in increased enrollment.
  - Facilitated cross-disciplinary dialogue about complex issues and trained students to effectively communicate stances on the nature of mind and the possibility of knowledge.
  - Taught more than 50 students in smaller-scale settings to think logically and examine the nature of thought and belief in order to enable them to form justified beliefs, recognize and evaluate truth claims, and speak persuasively.
- Lecturer, Marquette University, 2015-2018
  - Developed and delivered curricula for thirteen university courses in the areas of human nature, history of philosophy, and bioethics, resulting in student evaluation scores consistently 10% higher than the university average.
  - Spent 8+ hours per week public speaking, tailoring content to socially and educationally diverse audiences and fielding questions extemporaneously.

- ○ Scheduled learning activities and ensured that students met deadlines to ensure their academic and personal success.
  - ○ Trained more than 300 students to become more responsible and ethical communicators by teaching them to critically examine their assumptions, practice methods of inquiry, and develop their writing skills.
- PhD Candidate, Marquette University, 2017-2020
  - ○ Completed an approximately three-year qualitative research project on disagreement, involving complex conceptual analysis, clear analytical writing, and argumentative rigor, culminating in a successfully defended doctoral dissertation.
  - ○ Completed numerous professional writing and speaking projects, including a published article in a peer-reviewed international professional journal, three published book reviews in the areas of political discourse, metaphysics, and religion, and more than a dozen original research presentations at professional conferences.
  - ○ Provided collaborative critical feedback on scholarly work for colleagues, resulting in improved publications and acknowledgement in a published book on ethics and religion.
  - ○ Led committees to organize, plan, launch, and facilitate graduate conferences, and served on a joint faculty/graduate student committee responsible for selecting department course offerings.
- Podcaster, 2020-Present (https://pastorandphilosopher.buzzsprout.com/)
  - ○ Created original audio and video content in areas ranging from public philosophy to religious scholarship to political action to race relations while co-hosting an engaging, informative, and humorous bi-weekly program, in which I interviewed numerous influential guests with large social impact.
  - ○ Managed the podcast project, keeping my teammates organized and on schedule.
  - ○ Assisted in audio and video production, resulting in a clean and engaging user experience.
  - ○ Assisted in marketing our content via social media and other forms of advertising, resulting in a steadily increasing listener base and a growing community of patrons who regularly invest in the show.
- Independent Writer, 2020-Present (https://robertkwhitaker.medium.com/)
  - ○ Created compelling and informed-but-accessible written content in the areas of disagreement, public discussion, trust, expertise, politics, and religion in order to make the relevance of philosophical study plain to a popular audience.

Education
- Marquette University, PhD in Philosophy, 2013-2020
- Marquette University & Murray State University, Masters-level coursework in History of Philosophy and English Literature, 2010-2013
- Murray State University, BA in Applied Ethics & Psychology, 2005-2009

Technical Skills
- Facility with Microsoft Office & Google Workspace
- Basic Web Design (WordPress, Squarespace)
- Intermediate Sound (Audacity, Descript) & Video (DaVinci Resolve, OBS Studio) Editing

Service & Leadership
- Anonymous peer reviewer for international philosophy journal.
- Elected director and assistant director of graduate student government association for Marquette University's philosophy department for two years.
- Mentor for junior graduate students and teachers at Marquette University.