

# Chase B. Wrenn

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## Areas of Specialization and Competence

Specialization      Epistemology, Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Mind  
Competence          Metaphysics, Philosophy of Science, Logic, Pragmatism

## Academic Positions

2005–present      Mind and Brain Program Director. Department of Philosophy. University of Alabama.  
2001–present      Assistant Professor. Department of Philosophy. University of Alabama.  
2000, 2001          Instructor. Department of Social Science. St. Louis Community College, Forest Park.  
1999                  Instructor. Department of Philosophy. University of Missouri - St. Louis.  
1998, 2000          Instructor. University College. Washington University in St. Louis.  
1997–2001          Teaching Assistant. Department of Philosophy. Washington University in St. Louis.

## Education

Ph.D.                Philosophy. Washington University in St. Louis. May 2001.  
Dissertation: *Truth and the Normativity of Naturalistic Epistemology*  
Committee: Roger Gibson (Chair), Robert Barrett, Joe Ullian, Alison Wylie, John Clark,  
Ryan Balot  
M.A.                Philosophy. Washington University in St. Louis. May 1998.  
B.A.                Philosophy. University of Alabama. May 1996.

## Publications

- “Why there are no Epistemic Duties.” Forthcoming in *Dialogue: The Canadian Review of Philosophy*.
- “Inter-world Probability and the Problem of Induction.” Forthcoming in *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*.
- “Epistemology as Engineering?” Forthcoming in *Theoria*.
- “Pragmatism, Truth and Inquiry.” *Contemporary Pragmatism*, vol. 2 n. 1 (June 2005), pp. 95–113.
- “Truth and Other Self-effacing Properties.” *Philosophical Quarterly*, vol. 54 n. 217 (October 2004), pp. 577–586.
- “Hypothetical and Categorical Epistemic Normativity.” *The Southern Journal of Philosophy*, vol. 42 n. 2 (Summer 2004), pp. 273–290
- “Naturalistic Epistemology.” *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, <http://www.utm.edu/research/iep/n/nat-epis.htm>. 2003.
- “Being and Knowledge: A Connoisseur’s Guide to Republic V.476e ff.” *Apeiron* v. 33 n. 2 (June 2000), pp. 87–108.

## Papers in Submission or Preparation

- “A Puzzle About Rational Desire.” Submitted to *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*.

## Refereed Conference Presentations

- “Rationality for Ostriches, Wishful Thinkers and Other Deviants.” American Philosophical Association, Central Division, Chicago, IL: 2005. Also presented to the Alabama Philosophical Society, Mobile AL: 2004.
- “Moderate Rationalism’s Problem with Induction.” American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, San Francisco, CA: 2005.
- “Why There are no Epistemic Duties.” Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology. New Orleans, LA: April, 2004. Also presented to the Alabama Philosophical Society. Orange Beach, AL: 2003.
- “How not to be an Epiphenomenalist.” Society for Philosophy and Psychology. Pasadena, CA: 2003.
- “Truth and Other Self-effacing Properties.” Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology. Atlanta, GA: 2003.
- “Hypothetical and Categorical Epistemic Normativity.” American Philosophical Association, Central Division. Chicago, IL: 2002. Also presented to the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, March 2002, Midsouth Philosophy Conference, February 2002, Alabama Philosophical Society, October 2001, and the Tennessee Philosophical Association, November 2001.
- “Is it Rational to Pursue the Truth?” Value-free Science: Ideal or Illusion (Conference sponsored by University of Alabama at Birmingham Center for Ethics and the Sciences). Birmingham, AL: 2001. Also presented to the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, New Orleans, LA: 2001.
- “Inter-world Probabilities and the Problem of Induction: A Critique of Laurence Bonjour.” Central States Philosophical Association. Lincoln, NE: 2000.
- “Discovery, Justification, and the Coherence of Feminist Empiricism.” American Philosophical Association, Central Division. Chicago, IL: 2000.
- “Giving up the Given: Conditional Commitments and the Pragmatics of ‘Seems’” (with T. W. Zawidzki). Pragmatism and Semantics International Colloquium. Prague: 2000
- “Pragmatism, Truth, and Inquiry.” American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division. Boston, MA: 1999. (Awarded the APA Eastern Division’s William James Prize)
- “Rhetorical Considerations Governing Socrates’ Argument Against the Lovers of Sights and Sounds (Republic 476e ff.)” Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology. Lexington, KY: 1999. Also presented at Philosophical Collaborations 1999: Knowledge and Normativity. Carbondale, IL.
- “Explaining Mathematical Objectivity.” Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology. New Orleans, LA: 1998.
- “Epistemology Distilled.” Alabama Philosophical Society. Mobile, AL: 1996.

## Invited Presentations

- “Comments on Casey Woodling, ‘On a Confusion about Aboutness’.” Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Charleston, SC, March 2006.
- “Mental Causation.” Guest lecture the University of Alabama Contemporary Issues in Cognitive Psychology Research Group, Fall 2004.
- “Rationality for Ostriches, Wishful Thinkers and Other Deviants.” Southeastern Philosophical Workshop, Oxford, MS: September 2004.

## Invited Presentations (continued)

- “Making Good Policy Arguments.” Guest lecture to University of Alabama Arts and Sciences 102, Spring 2004.
- “Writing Arguments.” Guest lecture to University of Alabama Arts and Sciences 101, Fall 2003.
- “Knowledge as a Theoretical Category.” Guest lecture to University of Alabama Contemporary Issues in Cognitive Psychology Research Group. Fall 2003.
- Commentary on Sven Walter, “Multiple Realizability and Psychophysical Property Identities.” Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, April 2003.
- “What Can You Do For Me? Epistemological Naturalism for Psychologists.” Guest lecture to the University of Alabama Contemporary Issues in Cognitive Psychology Research Group. Spring 2003.
- Commentary on Troy Cross, “What is a Disposition?” Dispositions and Laws of Nature Conference, University of Alabama at Birmingham, February 2003.
- Commentary on Andrew Moser, “Cognitive Norms as Hypothetical Imperatives?” Midsouth Philosophy Conference, February 2002.
- Commentary on Derek Turner, “Consistent and Stable Belief,” Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, March 2002.
- “Epistemological Naturalism: A Nonstandard Formulation of a Standard Defense.” Invited colloquium presented at the University of Mississippi, November 2001.

## Honors and Awards

- Richard M. Griffith Memorial Award, Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, 2003.
- Honorary Colonel in the Alabama State Militia, Commissioned 2003.
- Washington University Dissertation Fellowship, 2000 - 2001
- William James Prize, American Philosophical Association Eastern Division, 1999.
- Meritorious Service in Teaching Award, University of Missouri - St. Louis Students with disabilities Association, 1999.
- Alabama Philosophical Society Undergraduate Essay Award, 1996.
- Iredell Jenkins Philosophical Essay Prize, University of Alabama, 1995 and 1996.
- Phi Beta Kappa, 1996.

## Professional Service

### *University-level Service*

- Director, Department of Philosophy Mind and Brain Track, 2005 to present.
- University of Alabama Premier Awards Committee, 2003 to present.
- University of Alabama Philosophy Club Faculty Adviser, 2002 to present.
- University of Alabama Phi Sigma Tau Honor Society Faculty Adviser, 2002 to present.
- University of Alabama Department of Philosophy Technology Committee (Chair), 2001 to present.
- Affiliated Faculty, Cognitive Psychology Program, University of Alabama, 2002 to present.
- Graduate Admissions Committee, Washington University in St. Louis Department of Philosophy, 2000–2001.
- Departmental *Mind and World* Reading Group Organizer, Washington University, 1999.
- Washington University Philosophy Colloquium Committee, 1997–1998.

### *Service to Professional Organizations*

- President, Alabama Philosophical Society, 2006.

## Professional Service (continued)

- Member of Program Committee, Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, 2006.
- Vice President, Alabama Philosophical Society, 2005.
- Recruitment Committee Co-Chair for Philosophy, Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, 2004.
- Secretary-Treasurer, Alabama Philosophical Society, 2004.

### *Service as Article Referee*

- *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science*. 2006 to present.
- *Synthese*. 2005 to present.
- *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*. 2004 to present.
- Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy  
(<http://www.utm.edu/research/iep/>), 2003 to present.
- American Philosophical Quarterly. 2001 to present.
- Conference Referee, Central States Philosophical Association, 2000.
- Article Review Board, Dictionary of Philosophy of Mind.  
(<http://www.artsci.wustl.edu/philos/MindDict/>), 1997 to present.
- Conference Referee, National Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, Washington University in St. Louis. 1996–1998.

### *Other Service*

- Invited discussant, Hans Reichenbach Conference on the Philosophy of Science, Washington University in St. Louis, October 2001.

## Grants and Sponsored Research

- *Mind and Metaphysics* NEH Summer Seminar Participant. St. Louis, MO, 2006.
- “Epistemic Duties.” University of Alabama Research Advisory Committee grant, Summer 2002.

## Courses Taught

### *Truth and Its Value*

- Fall 2005, University of Alabama  
Upper-level seminar covering correspondence, pragmatist, coherence and deflationary theories of truth, as well as the questions concerning whether truth is a valuable cognitive aim.

### *Mind and Nature*

- Spring 2005, University of Alabama  
Sophomore-level introduction to epistemology and the philosophy of mind focusing on the dual questions ‘What is the place of the mind in nature?’ and ‘What is the place of nature in the mind?’. Texts included Descartes’ *Meditations*, Paul Churchland’s *Matter and Consciousness*, and an introductory epistemology textbook.

## Courses Taught (continued)

### *Symbolic Logic*

- Spring 2004, University of Alabama  
Upper-level advanced logic course using Quine's *Methods of Logic*. Covers truth functions, the logic of terms, general quantification theory, and elementary metalogic.

### *Introduction to the Philosophy of Cognitive Science*

- Spring 2003 and Spring 2005. University of Alabama.  
Junior-level seminar surveying basic issues in the philosophy of cognitive science, especially as they pertain to questions about mental representation and intentionality.

### *Knowledge, Error, and Ignorance*

- Spring 2002 and Fall 2004, University of Alabama.  
Junior-level seminar surveying issues in epistemology. The course focuses on the analysis of the concept of knowledge, the problem of skepticism, debates about the structure of epistemic justification, and issues surrounding epistemological naturalism.

### *Introduction to Deductive Logic*

- Fall 2003, Fall 2004, Fall 2005, Spring 2006 University of Alabama.  
Computer-aided logic course covering elementary formal deductive logic, including sentential and predicate calculi and natural deduction. Text: *Logic Primer*, Colin Allen and Michael Hand.
- Fall 2001, Spring 2002, Fall 2002, University of Alabama.  
Course covered elementary formal deductive logic, including the sentential and predicate calculi and natural deduction. Textbook: Bergmann, Moor, and Nelson, *The Logic Book*.

### *Introduction to Philosophy*

- Spring 2004, University of Alabama  
Survey of philosophy of religion, philosophy of mind, ethics, and political philosophy, with readings from Pojman's *Philosophy: The Quest for Truth*.
- Fall 2003, University of Alabama.  
Course focused on issues in philosophy of religion, ethics, and philosophy of mind. Texts were *Why I am Not a Christian*, *Practical Ethics*, and *Gödel, Escher, Bach*.
- Spring 2003, University of Alabama.  
Course focused on issues in philosophy of religion, ethics, and philosophy of mind. Texts were *Why I am Not a Christian*, *Brave New World*, *Practical Ethics*, and *Gödel, Escher, Bach*.
- Fall 2002, University of Alabama.  
One fourth of a team-taught introductory course. My part was the introduction to the philosophy of mind, centering on the mind/body problem and the problem of personal identity.
- Spring 2000, University College, Washington University in St. Louis.  
Developed and taught a course introducing the philosophy of religion, ethics, the philosophy of mind, and epistemology using Bowie, Michaels, and Soloman, *Twenty Questions: An Invitation to Philosophy*.

## Courses Taught (continued)

- Fall 1998, University College, Washington University in St. Louis.  
Developed and taught a course introducing students to the philosophy of religion, ethics, the philosophy of mind, and epistemology using Louis Pojman, *Philosophy: The Quest for Truth*.

### *Introduction to Ethics*

- Fall 2001, University of Alabama.  
Sophomore level introduction to ethical theory and applied ethics using May, Collins-Chobanian, and Wong, *Applied Ethics: A Multicultural Approach*. Topics covered included Utilitarianism, Kantianism, human rights, hunger and poverty, terrorism and warfare, and technology and ethics.

### *Ethics*

- Summer 2000 and Summer 2001, St. Louis Community College (Forest Park).  
Developed and taught an introductory course in applied ethics using May, Collins-Chobanian, and Wong, *Applied Ethics: A Multicultural Approach*. Topics included basic moral theory, war and violence, gender discrimination, racial discrimination, and worldwide hunger and poverty. The course often employed material drawn from outside the traditional Western canon.

### *Formal Logic*

- Winter 1999, University of Missouri - St. Louis.  
Developed and taught a course in elementary formal logic from truth tables to predicate logic using Bergmann, Moor, and Nelson, *The Logic Book*. Methods taught included both truth trees and natural deduction. There was a student in this class with ADD, and the UMSL Students with DisAbilities Association awarded me a Meritorious Service award for my success in teaching this material to him.