

Max DuBoff

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maxduboff.com

Area of Specialization

Greco-Roman philosophy

Areas of Competence

Applied ethics (incl. biomedical ethics, philosophy of sex, technology ethics, and philosophy of death); normative ethics; philosophy of religion; feminist philosophy

Employment

Fairfield University (2026-)

Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy

Bowdoin College (2025-2026)

Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy

Education

Yale University (2019-2025)

PhD in Philosophy and Classics, 2025

Dissertation: *Epicurus's Ethics: Pleasure, Deliberation, and the Goal of Life*

Committee: Brad Inwood (supervisor), Phillip Mitsis (external), Verity Harte, Timothy Clarke

MA in Philosophy, 2023

MPhil in Philosophy and Classics, 2023

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey – New Brunswick (2015-2019)

BA in Philosophy and Classics, 2019, *summa cum laude*

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Forthcoming, "Epicurean Sex," *Apeiron* [[online ahead of print publication](#)]

Forthcoming, "Death of an Egoist: An Epicurean Approach to Fatal Self-Sacrifice," *Ancient Philosophy*

Invited Publications

Forthcoming, "Enjoying Epicurean Blessedness," in *A Companion to Living Philosophy*, Wiley-Blackwell, edited by Lydia Amir

2023, lead author, "B'rit shalom: a Jewish ritual alternative to newborn male circumcision," with

Dena Davis, *International Journal of Impotence Research* 35, no. 3, Child Genital Cutting and Surgery special issue, 324-327

Under Review

“Pain and the Foundations of Pleasure: Plutarch against Epicurus (*Non Posse* 1089d-f)”

“The Argument of PHerc. 1667: An Objection to Stoic *Phronēsis*?”

Papers In Progress

“Epicurean Pleasure: *Pathos* as a Criterion of Truth and Action”

“Perfection and Pleasure: Why Epicurus Was a Hedonist”

“Epicurus on Pain and the Perfect Life” (presented, 2026 Central APA)

“Epicurean Deliberation: Beyond a Hedonistic Calculus”

“Reasons-Responsiveness and Fear of Death: Epicurus vs. Lucretius” (presented, 2024 Pacific APA)

“Sexual Attraction” (participated in Papers in Progress Workshop, 2026 Eastern APA)

Paper developing a normative framework for clinical trials and regulatory approval of novel male contraceptives (jointly co-authored with Christopher ChoGlueck)

University Teaching Experience

Fairfield:

Fall 2026 and Spring 2027, PHIL 1101 Introduction to Philosophy

Bowdoin:

Spring 2026, PHIL 1442 / REL 1142 Philosophy of Religion

Spring 2026, PHIL 2357 / GSWS 2357 Reproductive Ethics

Fall 2025, PHIL 2111 Ancient Philosophy

Fall 2025, PHIL 2223 Logic

Yale, Instructor of Record:

Spring 2025 and Spring 2022, HUMS 411 Life Worth Living

Spring 2023, PHIL 432 / WGSS 433 Reproductive Ethics

Fall 2022, GREK 110 Introductory Ancient Greek

Summer 2022, PHIL S183 Philosophy of Technology: Internet Ethics

Yale, Teaching Assistant:

Fall 2024, PHIL 256 Philosophy of Religion (instructor: John Pittard)

Fall 2021, PHIL 125 Introduction to Ancient Philosophy (instructor: Brad Inwood)

Summer 2020, PHIL S161 Philosophy and Cognitive Science of Consciousness (instructor: Joanna Lawson)

Guest Instructor:

Spring 2026 and Spring 2025, The Good Death: A History, Yale University, lecture on the development of modern bioethics and its impact on how we die (instructor: Deborah Strehle)

Spring 2026, Epicurus and His Critics, Bowdoin College, seminar on why Epicurus was a hedonist

(instructor: Emily Austin)
 Fall 2025, Latin Didactic Poetry, Harvard University, seminar on Epicurean philosophy of sex
 (instructor: Peter Osorio)
 Fall 2025, The RNA World, Bowdoin College, co-designed a seminar on the ethics of clinical trials,
 focusing on risk, consent, and autonomy (instructor: Maria Sterrett)
 Fall 2025, Lucretius's *De Rerum Natura*, Bowdoin College, seminar on Epicurean and Stoic
 philosophy (instructor: Barbara Weiden Boyd)
 Spring 2025 and Spring 2022, Life Worth Living, Yale University, plenary lecture on the good life as
 portrayed in Disney films (convener: Matthew Croasmun)
 Fall 2024, Philosophy of Religion, Yale University, lecture on religious pluralism (instructor: John
 Pittard)
 Fall 2023, Directed Studies, Yale University, seminar on Lucretius's *On the Nature of Things* 1 and 3
 (instructor: Mordechai Levy-Eichel)
 Spring 2021, Introduction to Early Modern Philosophy, Brown University, lecture on Anne Conway
 (instructor: Justin Broackes)
 Spring 2021, Life Worth Living, Yale University, introduction to Jewish texts and Jewish philosophy
 (instructor: Joanna Lawson)

Refereed Conference Presentations

"*Antiparatattesthai*: Why Some Pain Is Consistent with a Perfect Epicurean Life," APA Central
 Division Meeting, February 2026, comments by Emily Fletcher and Clerk Shaw
 "Epicurean Sexuality," APA Eastern Division Meeting, January 2025, comments by Tim O'Keefe
 "Why Our Matter Matters: Innovation on Epicurean Philosophy of Death in *DRN* 3.964-971,"
 Hellenistic Philosophy Society panel at APA Pacific Division Meeting, March 2024
 "Vasectomy and the Right Not to Reproduce," Reproductive Justice Graduate Conference, Yale
 University, March 2023
 "Philosophy of Suicide: Two Approaches" (co-presentation with Moya Mapps), Filling in the
 Blanks: A Workshop on Interdisciplinarity, Yale University, April 2022

Non-Refereed Presentations

"Sexual Attraction," APA Eastern Division Meeting Papers in Progress Workshop, January 2026
 Yale *Meno* Seminar, June 2025 (co-presentation with Brad Inwood)
 "Epicurean Sexuality," Yale Classics Works in Progress Series, December 2024
 Yale *Charmides* Seminar, June 2024 (co-presentation with Raphael Woolf)
 Comments on Phillip Mitsis, "Why Do Fools Fall into Hate?" Conference on Later Stoicism, Yale
 University, April 2024
 "Reevaluating Epicurus's Ethics: The Goal and the Limit of Pleasure," NYU Ancient Philosophy
 Works in Progress Series, February 2024
 Yale *Parva Naturalia* Seminar, June 2023 (co-presentation with Christopher Shields)
 "Suicide in Epicureanism," Working Group in Ancient Philosophy, Yale University, February 2022
 "Suicide in Epicureanism," Greco-Roman Lunch, Yale University, December 2021
 Yale *Protagoras* Workshop, June 2021 (co-presentation with Rachel Barney)

Pedagogy Development

Fairfield Philosophy Teach-in, October 2026

The Examined Algorithm (APA-AAPT mini-conference on AI in the classroom), August 2026
 American Association of Philosophy Teachers Worksop-Conference, July 2026
 Teaching Triangle peer observation program, Baldwin Center for Learning and Teaching, Bowdoin College, March 2026 and November 2025
 Reading group on *Distracted* by James Lang, Baldwin Center for Learning and Teaching, Bowdoin College, February 2026
 Pedagogy Matters Conference, Bates College, August 2025
 Course (re)Design Institute, Bowdoin College, August 2025
 Life Worth Living Network Course Development Fellowship, Summer 2025
 Yale Life Worth Living Pedagogy Seminar, Fall 2024 and Fall 2021
 Life Worth Living Network Pedagogy Workshop, University of British Columbia, June 2024
 Yale Center for Teaching and Learning workshops, including: Antiracist Pedagogy, Classroom Teaching Observation, Equitable Assessment and Alternative Grading, Gender in the Classroom, How We Learn, Mental Health in the Classroom

Public-Facing Work

“Who’s Afraid of Potential Life?” (on Jewish abortion ethics), *ARC: Religion, Politics, Et Cetera*, October 2026
 “[The Population Panic, Then and Now](#),” *ARC: Religion, Politics, Et Cetera*, March 2026
 “[Asexuality and Epicureanism](#),” *Blog of the APA*, November 2024
 Co-host, *Bruchim Podcast* (on Jewish bioethics, especially circumcision), 2023-present (two seasons)
 Director of Education, Bruchim (Jewish non-profit focused on circumcision), 2021-present

Refereeing

Journal of Medical Ethics; *International Journal of Impotence Research*; Georgetown University Press

Professional and Departmental Service

Moderator, “AI in Intro to Philosophy & and General Education Courses,” The Examined Algorithm (APA-AAPT mini-conference), August 2026
 Program Committee, American Association of Philosophy Teachers 2026 Workshop-Conference (Communications and Marketing Subcommittee)
 Organizer for two invited talks, Bowdoin Philosophy, Fall 2025 and Spring 2026
 Chair, “The Motive of Duty, Emotional Motives, and the Kantian Criterion of Summonability” and “An Impossibility Result for Value Superiority,” APA Eastern Division Meeting, January 2026
 Graduate Teaching Representative, Yale Philosophy, Spring 2025
 Chair, “What We Owe to the Dead,” APA Eastern Division Meeting, January 2025
 Chair, “Predicating vs. Predicating Accidentally” (in Aristotle’s *Categories*), APA Pacific Division Meeting, March 2024
 Co-Organizer, Yale Working Group in Ancient Philosophy, 2021-2024
 Graduate Elected Speaker Organizer, Yale Classics, 2022-2023
 Admissions and Recruitment Co-Coordinator, Yale Classics, 2020-22
 Undergraduate Liaison, Yale Classics, 2021-2022
 Graduate Prospectives Committee, Yale Philosophy, 2020-22
 Organizer of Yale reading groups on philosophy of suicide (Spring-Fall 2022) and feminist philosophy (Summer 2023)

Languages (Reading)

Ancient Greek, Latin, French, German, Italian, Hebrew

Mentorship and Community Engagement

Examiner for Bowdoin undergraduate theses on ordinary language philosophy and on causation in medical trials, Spring 2026

Panelist for Bowdoin Women in Science faculty panel on research ethics, Spring 2026

Independent study on introductory Logic, Spring 2026

Supervisor for three undergraduate Learning Assistants for Logic, Fall 2025

Reader and secondary advisor for a Yale undergraduate thesis on animal ethics, Spring 2023

Mentor, Yale Philosophy Grad-Undergrad Mentorship Program, 2021-2023

Mentor, Ethics Bowl team, Wolcott High School, Connecticut, Fall 2019

Supervisor for expanded term paper to fulfill Yale's Senior Requirement in Philosophy, Spring 2023

Letters of recommendation for a Fulbright Scholarship, law school, medical school, a study abroad fellowship, secondary school teaching, summer internships, and return from medical leave

Manuscript Preparation Research Assistantships

Paul Franks, *Oxford Handbook of Jewish Philosophy*, Fall 2023

Brad Inwood, *Later Stoicism 155 BC to AD 200: An Introduction and Collection of Sources in Translation*, Fall 2020-Winter 2021

References

Brad Inwood

William Lampson Professor of
Philosophy and Classics
Yale University
brad.inwood@yale.edu

Phillip Mitsis

Alexander S. Onassis Professor of Hellenic Culture
and Civilization and Professor of Classics
New York University
phillip.mitsis@nyu.edu

Matthew Stuart

Professor of Philosophy
Bowdoin College
mstuart@bowdoin.edu

Emily Austin

Professor of Philosophy, Wake Forest University
Visiting Professor of Philosophy, Bowdoin College
eaustin@bowdoin.edu

Graduate Coursework

Special Field Exams:

Ancient philosophy of death, with Brad Inwood

Greco-Roman medicine (especially gynecology), with Jessica Lamont

Ancient Philosophy:

Choice and the Voluntary in Aristotle; Plato's *Gorgias*; Seneca: *Letters on Ethics*; Plato's *Protagoras*; *Nicomachean Ethics* 9*; Later Greek Stoicism*; Plato's *Sophist**; Early Greek Philosophers*; Lucretius*

Philosophy:

Philosophy Proseminar; Philosophy of Law: Normative Jurisprudence; Causation in Early Modern Philosophy; Moral Emotions; Feminist Philosophy

Classics:

Classics Proseminar; Latin Survey (two terms); Greek Survey (two terms); Horace's *Odes*: Poetics and Meaning; Judaism in the Roman Empire: Philo of Alexandria and Jewish Apologetics*; Greco-Roman Medicine*

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