

Ron Mourad

Professor of Religious Studies
Albion College, 611 E. Porter St.
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. University of Chicago, 2002 (Philosophy of Religion)

- Doctoral Dissertation: “The Knowledge of Necessity: Transcendental Arguments and Theological Method”
- Dissertation Committee: Franklin I. Gamwell (advisor), Paul J. Griffiths and David Tracy (readers)
- Doctoral Examinations:
 1. Philosophy of Religion: Classical
 2. Philosophy of Religion: Contemporary
 3. Metaphysics and Religious Thought
 4. Modern and Contemporary Religious Thought: Enlightenment to the Twentieth Century

M.A. University of Chicago, 1995 (Divinity)

B.A. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1994 (Religious Studies), *summa cum laude*; senior thesis accepted with distinction

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Professor of Religious Studies, Albion College, Fall 2012-present

- Chaired Faculty Personnel Committee
- Served on Faculty Steering Committee, Textual Analysis Mode Subcommittee, Historical and Cultural Analysis Mode Subcommittee, Global Studies Category Subcommittee, Faculty Committee on Diversity, Academic Status and Petitions Committee
- Taught a wide range of religious studies and interdisciplinary courses

Chair, Religious Studies Department, Albion College, Spring 2008-2014, Fall 2023-present

- Evaluated faculty annually
- Managed departmental budget
- Led departmental assessment program
- Led collaborative curriculum revision efforts

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Albion College, 2020-2022

- Led the Academic Affairs division, including:
 - managed and built an efficient administrative enterprise
 - championed and embodied scholarly excellence
 - inspired and led the faculty
 - collaborated effectively with other senior leaders
 - represented Albion, its academic programs, and educational mission to external and internal constituencies
- Secured resources to support the academic mission by developing a strong and sustainable financial plan aligning budget allocations with institutional priorities

- Collaborated with Institutional Advancement to identify gift opportunities and work with donors
- Built a culture of academic excellence through continual improvements to the quality of academic programs
- Recruited and retained strong faculty, particularly faculty of color
- Implemented strategic academic vision
- Developed and strengthened instruments to measure faculty performance and ensure faculty success
- Assessed and strengthened processes around promotion and tenure systems and managed salary compression as new faculty were recruited
- Served on the president's leadership team, contributing to strategic discussions and representing the voice of the faculty
- Collaborated with faculty governance
- Oversaw preparation of all required Academic Affairs files and publications (faculty personnel files, contracts, and appointment letters; the Faculty Handbook; the Deanery, etc.)
- Served as HLC Academic Liaison Officer and chaired HLC Accreditation Steering Committee
- Fostered a culturally and racially diverse student body and faculty

Director, Albion Humanities and Arts Labs, Albion College, 2014-2015

- Led strategic planning for two-year grant-funded Lab program
- Implemented program, supported faculty and student participants, reported progress to Mellon Foundation

Associate Professor of Religious Studies, Albion College, Fall 2007-Spring 2012

- Chaired Curriculum and Resources Committee and Faculty Committee on Diversity
- Served as faculty representation to the Albion College Board of Trustees

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Albion College, Fall 2001-Spring 2007

- Served on Curriculum and Resources Committee
- Served on Course Change Committee

Peer Reviewer, *Journal of Religion*, 2002-present; *Sophia*, 2008-present; *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*, 2008-present

Editorial Assistant, *Journal of Religion*, 1999-2000

Research Assistant, University of Chicago Divinity School, 1999-2000

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- *Jeanne Guyon: Selected Writings*, Classics of Western Spirituality, translated, edited, and introduced with Dianne Guenin-Lelle (Paulist Press, 2012)
- *The Prison Narratives of Jeanne Guyon*, translated, edited, and introduced with Dianne Guenin-Lelle (Oxford University Press, 2011)
- *Transcendental Arguments and Justified Christian Belief* (University Press of America, 2005)

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- "Choosing to Believe," *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion* (February 2008); reprinted in *Ethics of Belief: Essays in Tribute to D.Z. Phillips*, edited by Eugene Thomas Long and Patrick Horn (Springer Publishing, 2008)
- "Religiosity, Religious Doubt, and the Need for Cognition: Their Interactive Relationship with Life Satisfaction," *Journal of Happiness Studies* (2006), co-author

- “Argumentative Justification and Religious Experience,” *Journal of Religion* (July 2005)
- “Proper Function and Justified Christian Belief,” *Journal of Religion* (October 2001)
- “Credibility and Warrant in Theology: An Epistemological Synthesis,” *American Journal of Theology and Philosophy* (May 2000)

Podcast

- *Ultimate Concerns* (www.ultimateconcerns.org), 2016-18
 - “Rejected Prophets” with Jocelyn McWhirter
 - “Computers Made of Meat?” with Dan Arnold
 - “Heaven Only Knows” with Paul Griffiths
 - “Speaking of Theology” with Paul Griffiths
 - “Vasubandhu and Virtual Reality” with Jonathan Gold
 - “American Islamophobia” with Carl Ernst
 - “This Wicked World” with Peter Kaufman
 - “Yoga Remix 1800” with Peter Valdina
 - “Temple Transformations” with Vasudha Narayanan
 - “Who Created ISIS?” with Christopher Davidson
 - “An American Missionary in China” with Charles Bright and Joseph Ho

Online Publications

- Response to “Justification and Truth, Relativism and Pragmatism: Reflections on Indian Philosophy and its Lessons for Religious Studies” by Dan Arnold. *The Religion & Culture Web Forum* (November 2006). The Martin Marty Center for the Advanced Study of Religion.

Encyclopedia Articles

- “Transcendental Arguments” in *The Encyclopedia of Philosophy of Religion* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2020)
- “Jeanne-Marie Bouvier De La Motte Guyon,” in *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*, vol. 10, co-authored with Dianne Guenin-Lelle (De Gruyter, 2015)
- “Jeanne Guyon,” in *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, co-authored with Dianne Guenin-Lelle (2013)

Book Reviews

- Review of Joseph J. Godfrey’s *Trust of People, Words, and God: A Route for Philosophy of Religion* in *The Journal of Religion* (July 2015)
- Review of Robert McKim’s *On Religious Diversity* in *The Journal of Religion* (July 2014)
- Review of Angus Ritchie’s *From Morality to Metaphysics: The Theistic Implications of our Ethical Commitments* in the *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion* (March 2014)
- Review of Kevin Harrelson’s *The Ontological Argument from Descartes to Hegel* in *Teaching Philosophy* (June 2012)
- Review of Patricia Ward’s *Experimental Theology in America: Madame Guyon, Fénelon, and Their Readers* in the *Journal of Religion* (July 2012)
- Review of Alvin Plantinga and Michael Tooley’s *Knowledge of God* in the *Journal of Religion* (October 2010)
- Review of Paul K. Moser’s *The Elusive God: Reorienting Religious Epistemology* in the *Journal of Religion* (October 2009)

- Review of Stephen Davis's *Christian Philosophical Theology* in the *Journal of Religion* (January 2008)
- Review of J. L. Schellenberg's *Prolegomena to a Philosophy of Religion* in the *Journal of Religion* (January 2007)
- Review of William Rowe's *Can God Be Free?* in the *Journal of Religion* (October 2005)
- Review of Paul Helm, *Faith with Reason* in the *Journal of Religion* (April 2002)
- Review of Sue Patterson, *Realist Christian Theology in a Postmodern Age* in the *Journal of Religion* (April 2001)

PAPER PRESENTATIONS

- "Choosing to Believe," Claremont Philosophy of Religion Conference, Claremont, California (2007)
- "Christian Reasons, Secular Reasons," Midwest American Academy of Religion Meeting, Chicago, Illinois (2005)
- "Language Use as a Transcendental-Pragmatic Condition of Experience," National American Academy of Religion Meeting, San Antonio, Texas (2004)
- "University Theology and Public Religion," Midwest American Academy of Religion Meeting, Chicago, Illinois (2004)
- "Justifying the Justification of Christian Beliefs," Midwest American Academy of Religion Meeting, Chicago, Illinois (2003)
- "Theology as a Public Medium," Midwest American Academy of Religion Meeting, Chicago, Illinois (2002)
- "Schubert Ogden's Criteria of Credibility," Martin Marty Center, University of Chicago (2000)

COURSES TAUGHT

Albion College

- Introduction to Western Religions
- Christian Thought
- Faith and Doubt
- God, Evil and Miracles
- Christian Ethics
- Christianity and Social Justice
- Mysticism and Ecstasy
- Race and American Christianity
- Religion and Science
- Religion and Politics

HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND CERTIFICATIONS

Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) Certificate in Effective College Instruction, 2019

Arthur Andersen New Teacher of the Year, Albion College, 2003

Junior Fellow, Martin Marty Center, 2000

Ph.D. qualifying exams passed with distinction, 1999

University of Chicago Divinity School Fellowship, 1994-98

John Motley Morehead Scholarship, 1990-94

Phi Beta Kappa, 1993

FACULTY SERVICE AT ALBION COLLEGE

Search Committees

- Presidential Search Committee (Spring 2020)
- Provost Search Committee (2015)
- Presidential Search Committee (2013)
- Religious Studies Search Committee (Comparative Religion): Chair (2011-12)
- Religious Studies Search Committee (Comparative Religion): Chair (2010-11)
- Religious Studies Search Committee (Asian and Comparative Religion): Chair (2008-09)
- Religious Studies Search Committees (Biblical Studies and Islam): Member (2005-06)
- Ethnic Studies Search Committee: Member (2004-05)
- International Studies Search Committee: Member (2003-04)
- Chaplain Search Committee: Member (2003)

Administrative Committees and Roles

- Shared Governance Committee service listed above under Professional Experience: Faculty Steering, Curriculum and Resources, Faculty Diversity, Faculty Personnel, Academic Status and Petitions, Textual Analysis Mode Subcommittee, Historical and Cultural Analysis Mode Subcommittee, Global Studies Category Subcommittee, Course Change Committee
- Humanities and Arts Labs Director (2014-2015)
- 101 Superior Street Working Group
- Internal Advisory Board, Carl A. Gerstacker Institute for Business and Management: Chair (2015-16); Member (2012-15)
- Daoud Lecture Committee: Chair (2002-07, 2011-13, 2019-20), Member (2007-present)
- Advisory Board of the Human Services Concentration: Member (2003, 2011-16)
- Albion Phi Beta Kappa chapter: Member (2005-present), Vice President (2010-11), President (2011-12)
- Summer Program Task Force: Member (2010-2012)
- Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental Letter Writing Committee: Member (2007-10)
- Advisory Council of the Center for Interdisciplinary Study in Meaning and Value: Member (2001-03)

Campus Presentations

- Faculty Farewell, Commencement, 2017
- Faculty Welcome and Charge, Matriculation Ceremony, 2013
- Breakout Session, "Articulating Albion," Fall Faculty Forum, 2013
- Faith in Transition, Religious Studies Classroom Experience, 2012
- Faculty Welcome to Prospective Students, Visitation Days, 2008
- Class Demonstrations for Prospective Students, Visitation Days, 2003, 2008
- Faculty Lecture on Free Will and Belief, Board of Trustees Meeting, 2008
- Faculty Lecture on Religion and Politics, Alumni Board Meeting, 2006
- Faculty Lecture on Religion and Politics, Ford Institute Director's Luncheon, 2004
- Workshop on Course Development, Faculty Retreat, 2004
- Introduction to Teaching, New Faculty Orientation, 2003

Faculty Advising

- Euphonics, 2004-2010

- Muslim Student Association, 2001-08
- Arab Club, 2003-08
- Student Senate, 2002-03
- FURSCA projects: Erica Dudas, “Responding to the Hermeneutics of Suspicion in Christian Theology,” 2003; Christina Wade, “The Effects of Forceful Takeovers on Religion in India and Greece,” 2005; Sarah Hewitt, “Religious Studies and the Pro-Ana Movement,” 2006; Jon Reynolds, “Christian Apologetics and Kantian Moral Influences,” 2007 and “Evangelicals and Environmentalism,” 2008
- Reader [or Advisor] for honors theses, including: Maddie Page-Wood, 2001-02; Leonard Noel, 2002-03; [Erica Dudas], Kris Gauthier, and Amy Radgowski, 2003-04; [Luke Myc], Matt Milligan, and Christina Wade, 2005-06; [Meredith Whitehouse], [Joel Pier-Fitzgerald], Bre Dell, and Jon Maten, 2007-08; [Jon Reynolds] and [Dianne Marshall], 2008-09; Charlotte Spencer, 2010-11; Dana Brooks, [Tim DeLong], and [Christina Hallam], 2013-14; [Josh Eggan] and Bailey Judson, 2014-15; Olivia Alfano, 2016-17; Troy Trombley, 2018-19

Other Service

- New Faculty Coaching, 2017-18, 2019-20
- Albion Area Lifelong Learners, Instructor in 2008 and 2016
- Prospective Student Recruiting, Visitation Days, 2001 - present
- Religious Studies Forum, Undecided Majors Academic Fair, 2001 - present
- Distinguished Albion Scholars Program Judge, 2003-05
- Albion College Concert Choir Member, 2001-05
- Albion Pro Choral Member, 2003-06