

Russell Wright Helder

PhD Candidate

Joint Program in Ancient Philosophy ✉ rwh@russellhelder.net
Department of Philosophy (913) 428-0466
University of California, Berkeley

EDUCATION

PhD Candidate, Philosophy · UC Berkeley, 2019–present: to be completed
by December 2026

MA with Distinction, Philosophy · Georgia State University, 2019

BSA, Chemistry & BA, Classics · The University of Texas at Austin, 2016

AREAS OF RESEARCH

Areas of Specialization · Ancient Greek philosophy, especially Aristotle's
ethics and moral psychology

Areas of Competence · Early modern philosophy, especially eighteenth cen-
tury moral philosophy; contemporary ethics; philosophy of science

LANGUAGES

- Ancient Greek (teaching experience)
- Latin (tutoring experience)

TEACHING

Graduate Student Instructor (UC Berkeley)

- 1 Philosophy 100: Philosophical Methods (Spring 2026)
Intended to improve the student's ability to read and write philosophy, with special emphasis placed on developing analytic skills. Students meet one-on-one with the Graduate Student Instructor every week to discuss the Instructor's feedback on their written assignments.
- 2 Philosophy 100 (Fall 2025)
- 3 Philosophy 2: Individual Morality and Social Justice (Spring 2025)
An introduction to some central issues in moral and political philosophy. Students meet with the Graduate Student Instructor every week in small discussion sections.

- 4 Philosophy 25A: Ancient Philosophy (Fall 2024)
An introduction to ancient Greek philosophy, focusing mainly on the thought of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. Students meet with the Graduate Student Instructor every week in small discussion sections.
- 5 Philosophy 25B: Modern Philosophy (Spring 2023)
An introduction to 17th- and 18th-century philosophy, including Descartes, Elisabeth, Spinoza, Locke, Conway, Leibniz, Hume, and Kant. Students meet with the Graduate Student Instructor every week in small discussion sections.
- 6 Philosophy 100 (Fall 2022)
- 7 Greek 15: The Greek Workshop, Part I (Summer 2022)
The first six weeks of a ten-week intensive introductory language course for students with little or no previous experience in Ancient Greek. In the first six weeks, students cover both semesters of elementary Greek. Students meet with the Graduate Student Instructor daily in small review sessions.
- 8 Philosophy 161: Aristotle (Spring 2022)
A concentrated study of Aristotle's philosophy, including logic, theory of explanation, natural philosophy, psychology, metaphysics, and ethics. Students learn how to read Aristotle's dense prose and form their own judgments about controversial matters of interpretation. Students meet with the Graduate Student Instructor every week in small discussion sections.
- 9 Philosophy 25A (Fall 2021)
- 10 Philosophy 25A (Summer 2021)
- 11 Philosophy 100 (Spring 2021)
- 12 Philosophy 25A (Fall 2020)

Instructor of Record (Georgia State University)

- 1 Philosophy 1010: Critical Thinking (Spring 2019)
Aims to help students improve their critical thinking skills of identifying and evaluating arguments, and to thereby help students succeed in their other college courses. Instruction focuses on leading students through in-class exercises, preparing students for written 'Standardize & Evaluate' exams.
- 2 Philosophy 1010 (Fall 2018)
- 3 Philosophy 1010 (Summer 2018)

Other Teaching Positions

- 1 Tutor (Fall 2016–Spring 2018)
Tutored middle-school students, high-school students, college students, and postgrad-

uate students in Latin, chemistry, and academic writing, as well as general study skills and ACT preparation.

- 2 Writing Across the Curriculum consultant for Philosophy 4030: Piety and the Gods in Ancient Philosophy (Georgia State University, Spring 2018)
Gave feedback on rough drafts of all student papers.
- 3 Supplemental Instruction leader for Philosophy 1010: Critical Thinking (Georgia State University, Fall 2017)
Led small, student-led review sessions for Philosophy 1010.

SERVICE

Equity Task Force · Department of Philosophy, UC Berkeley, 2019–2021. Researched and co-authored ‘Best Practices Guide for Respectful Classroom Participation’

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Ralf F. Munster Fellowship · Department of Philosophy, Georgia State University, 2018. Awarded to an outstanding first-year graduate student

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Plato, Meno 70a1–73c5

- Invited. Seminar on Plato’s *Meno*, Yale University (June 9–13, 2025). Co-presented with Verity Harte

Practical Nous of Universal Minor Premises: A New Interpretation of Nicomachean Ethics 6.11

- The Fifth Annual Rackham Interdisciplinary Workshop in Ancient Philosophy, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (April 12, 2024)
- American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, San Francisco, CA (April 9, 2023)

De Motu Animalium II: Involuntary and Non-Voluntary Movement

- Invited. Seminar on Aristotle’s *De motu animalium*, Yale University (June 12–16, 2023). Co-presented with M.M. McCabe

A Bridge to Nowhere: Ensembles in Equilibrium Statistical Mechanics

- The 22nd Annual Conference of the International Society for the Philosophy of Chemistry, University of Bristol, UK (July 18, 2018)

Virtue and Wealth in Adam Smith: What's the Difference?

- Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN (March 23, 2018)