

**Patrick Norton**  
**CURRICULUM VITAE**

March 2026

Email: [patricknorton@ucsb.edu](mailto:patricknorton@ucsb.edu)

Phone: (503) 419-8090

**EDUCATION**

Ph.D. Philosophy, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2026

*My dissertation is completed and approved by my committee. I will defend and graduate in spring 2026.*

M.A. Philosophy, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, 2011

B.S. Philosophy (Honors), Portland State University, 2007

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

AOS: Early Modern Philosophy

AOC: Ethics, History of Philosophy, History and Philosophy of Science, Perception, Cognitive Science

Dissertation: *A New Interpretation of Locke's Theory of Abstraction*

Dissertation Committee: Thomas Holden (Chair), Voula Tsouna, E. Sonny Elizondo

My research focuses on Locke's theory of abstraction and Berkeley's and Hume's critiques of abstractionism. In my dissertation, I present a new interpretation of Locke's theory of abstraction and defense of abstractionism against Berkeley's and Hume's critiques. My future research will inquire into how early modern theories of concept empiricism relate to accounts of concepts in contemporary cognitive science.

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

Excellence in Teaching Award, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2024

*This is a rare and prestigious university-wide teaching award which is won by only 1/250 eligible instructors each year. I was nominated for this award again in 2025 (this award can be won only once).*

R.W. Church Fellowship, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2023, 2024, 2025

Department of Philosophy Fellowship, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2016

Department of Philosophy Graduate Research Award, University of Minnesota, 2009, 2010

Graduated with Departmental Honors in Philosophy from Portland State University, 2007

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE AS SOLE INSTRUCTOR**

- Philosophy 163 – Locke  
(Instructor of Record, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2023)
- Philosophy 141 – History of Ethics  
(Instructor of Record, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2024)
- Philosophy 007 – Biomedical Ethics  
(Instructor of Record, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2025)
- Philosophy 004 – Introduction to Ethics  
(Instructor of Record, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2026)

- Philosophy 120W – Introduction to Ethics (online)  
(Instructor of Record, Minnesota State University, Mankato, 2011 - 2026)
- Philosophy 100W – Introduction to Philosophy  
(Instructor of Record, Minnesota State University, Mankato, 2011)
- Philosophy 1110 – Introduction to Philosophy (online)  
(Instructor of Record, Riverland Community College, 2024 - 2026)
- Philosophy 1140 – Health Care and Medical Ethics (online)  
(Instructor of Record, Riverland Community College, 2026)

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE AS TEACHING ASSISTANT**

- Philosophy 20A – History of Philosophy from Thales to Aristotle  
(Teaching Assistant, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2020 - 2022)
- Philosophy 20B – History of Philosophy from Medievals to Rationalists  
(Teaching Assistant, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2020 - 2025)
- Philosophy 20C – History of Philosophy from the Empiricists to Kant  
(Teaching Assistant, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2019 - 2023)
- Philosophy 001 – Introduction to Philosophy  
(Teaching Assistant, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2018 - 2019)
- Philosophy 003 – Critical Thinking  
(Teaching Assistant, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2017 - 2024)
- Philosophy 1002W – Introduction to Philosophy  
(Teaching Assistant, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, 2011)
- Philosophy 3001W – General History of Western Philosophy: Ancient Period  
(Teaching Assistant, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, 2010)
- Philosophy 3601W – Scientific Thought  
(Teaching Assistant and Grader, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, 2009 - 2010)
- Philosophy 1001 – Introduction to Logic  
(Teaching Assistant, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, 2008 - 2009)

### **PAPERS IN PREPARATION**

“A Defense of Lockean Abstractionism”

“The Debate over Locke’s Theory of Abstraction: Breaking the Impasse”

“The Case for the Range Interpretation of Locke’s Theory of Abstraction”

### **PAPERS DEFENDED**

“Similarity Judgements in Hume’s and Locke’s Theories of Concept Empiricism” (Defended at Qualifying Examination, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2019)

“Is There a Mistaken Assumption about Perception in Descartes’ *Meditations*?” (Defended at M.A. Examination, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, 2011)

## **REFERENCES**

Thomas Holden

Professor, University of California, Santa Barbara (Chair of my Dissertation Committee)  
[tholden@philosophy.ucsb.edu](mailto:tholden@philosophy.ucsb.edu) (805) 893-5452

Voula Tsouna

Professor, University of California, Santa Barbara (Member of my Dissertation Committee)  
[vtouna@philosophy.ucsb.edu](mailto:vtouna@philosophy.ucsb.edu) (805) 893-3990

E. Sonny Elizondo

Professor, University of California, Santa Barbara (Member of my Dissertation Committee)  
[eselizondo@philosophy.ucsb.edu](mailto:eselizondo@philosophy.ucsb.edu) (805) 893-7488

Stephen Zylstra

Lecturer, University of California, Santa Barbara  
[szylstra@philosophy.ucsb.edu](mailto:szylstra@philosophy.ucsb.edu) (805) 565-6169

Damien Barnes

Lecturer, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo  
[dbbarnes@calpoly.edu](mailto:dbbarnes@calpoly.edu) (805) 756-2041

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

American Philosophical Association