

JONATHAN R COHEN

Current Positions: Visiting Professor of Philosophy, Bates College, Lewiston ME
Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, University of Maine Farmington

Research Interests: Nietzsche, Ancient Greek Philosophy, Jewish Philosophy

Publications:

Books: *In Nietzsche's Footsteps*, a philosophical travel memoir (8th House, 2018)

Science, Culture, and Free Spirits: A Study of Nietzsche's Human, All-Too-Human (Prometheus Books, 2010)

Papers:

"Nietzsche's Musical Construction of Time" in *Nietzsche on Time and History*, ed. Manuel DeVries, (deGruyter, 2008)

"Some Jewish Reflections on Locke's *Letter Concerning Toleration*", *CrossCurrents* 56:1 (Spring 2006), 58-78

"Philosophy is Education is Politics: A Reading of the Dramatic Interlude in the *Protagoras*," *Ancient Philosophy* 22:1 (Spring 2002), 1-20

"Fasting, Breakfast, and the Relationship Between Body and Soul," *The Maine Scholar* 14 (Autumn 2001), 251-253

"Nietzsche's Fling With Positivism," in *Nietzsche, Epistemology, and Philosophy of Science*, Babette Babich, ed., Boston Studies in the Philosophy of Science, (Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers), 1999, 91-97

"Born to Affirm the Eternal Recurrence: Nietzsche, Buber, and Springsteen," *Philosophy in the Contemporary World* 3:3 (Fall 1996), 1-12

"What's Bad About Death Is What's Good About Life," *Maine Scholar* 9 (Autumn 1996), 217-225

"Nietzsche's Elitism and the Cultural Division of Labor," in *Rending and Renewing the Social Order*, Yeager Hudson, ed., *Social Philosophy Today* 12, (Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen Press), 1996, 389-400

"The Roots of Perspectivism," *Int'l Studies in Philosophy* 28:3 (Summer 1996), 59-75

"*Rex Aut Lex*," *Apeiron* 29:2 (June 1996), 145-161

"No Sour Grapes for Nietzsche," *Int'l Studies in Philosophy* 25:2 (Summer 1993), 145-149

"If Rabbi Akiba Were Alive Today...or The Authenticity Argument," *Judaism* 37:2 (Spring 1988), 136-142

Invited contributions:

“Nietzsche’s Second Turning,” in *Nietzsche's Free Spirit Works*, ed. Dennis and Rowthorn, a special edition of *Pli: The Warwick Journal of Philosophy*, Volume 25 (2014), 35-53

“How One Becomes What One Is,” in *Roads Taken*, ed. Spellman and Epp, (Truman State University Press, 2014), 163-173

“We Read a Book and Then We Talk About It,” in *Teaching Matters*, ed. Britt (University of Maine Farmington, 2013), 91-96

Invited reviews:

Nietzsche as Philosopher, expanded edition, by Arthur Danto, in *Journal of Nietzsche Studies* 40 (Autumn 2010), 81-82

Nietzsche's Philosophy of Science, by Babette Babich, in *International Studies in Philosophy* 35:4 (2003)

Nietzsche’s Dangerous Game: Philosophy in the Twilight of the Idols, by Daniel Conway, in *Ethics*, January 1999, 475-476

Other Selves: Aristotle on Personal and Political Friendship, by Paul Schollmeier, in *Canadian Philosophical Reviews*, Summer 1995, 141-143

Submitted blog post: “Constructing Our World, Constructing Ourselves: Nineteenth Century German Philosophy”, Blog of the American Philosophical Association, 11-27-19

[https://blog.apaonline.org/2019/11/27/syllabus-showcase-jonathan-r-cohen-](https://blog.apaonline.org/2019/11/27/syllabus-showcase-jonathan-r-cohen-constructing-our-world-constructing-ourselves-nineteenth-century-german-philosophy/)

[constructing-our-world-constructing-ourselves-nineteenth-century-german-philosophy/](https://blog.apaonline.org/2019/11/27/syllabus-showcase-jonathan-r-cohen-constructing-our-world-constructing-ourselves-nineteenth-century-german-philosophy/)

Presentations:**Invited keynote addresses:**

“Why Did Nietzsche Change his Mind about Science (Twice)?” to the “Nietzsche and Science” conference of the Friedrich Nietzsche Society (UK), Emmanuel College, Cambridge Univ, Cambridge, Eng, 9/8/01

“How Can We Know?” for the Dorothy Schwartz Forum of the Maine Humanities Council, Portland, Maine, 10-21-17

Other Invited addresses:

“*Science, Culture, and Free Spirits: The Importance of Nietzsche’s Development for Understanding his Philosophy*” at the University of Southern Maine, Portland, Maine, 3/30/11, and Colby College, 10/6/11

“What Would It Mean to Periodize Nietzsche?” to the inaugural meeting of the “Nietzsche in New York” group, Graduate Center of the City University of New York, New York, NY, 4/9/05

“Jewish Reflections on Locke’s *Letter Concerning Toleration*” to the meeting of the Academy for Jewish Philosophy held in conjunction with the Eastern Division of the American Philosophical Association, Washington, DC, 12/03

Refereed presentations:

“Why Does Nietzsche Like Bizet,” to the “Wagner and Nietzsche” conference organized by University College Dublin and Trinity College Dublin, held at the National University of Ireland, Dublin, Republic of Ireland, 5/28/24

“Nietzsche’s Musical Conception of Time” to the “Nietzsche on Time and History” conference of the Friedrich Nietzsche Society of the UK and Ireland, Peterhouse, Cambridge University, Cambridge, England, 9/17/05

“Why Doesn’t Nietzsche Like Brahms?” to the “Nietzsche and the Arts” conference of the Friedrich Nietzsche Society (UK), Univ of Warwick, Coventry, England, 9/13/03

“How to be a Jewish Nietzschean and a Nietzschean Jew,” to the “Nietzsche and Religion” conference of the Friedrich Nietzsche Society (UK), Univ of Greenwich (England), 9/13/98; also to the U Maine (Orono) colloquium, 10/22/98

“Philosophy is Education is Politics,” to the 20th World Congress of Philosophy, Boston, MA, 8/12/98; also to UMF Faculty Forum, 2/16/99

"Nietzsche's Elitism and the Cultural Division of Labor," to the Int'l Conf of the N. American Soc for Social Philosophy, Colby College, Waterville, ME, 8/11/95

"The Roots of Perspectivism," to "Nietzsche at 150" conference, at the Allerton Conference Center of the University of Illinois, 10/13/94.

"*Rex Aut Lex*," to the Eastern Division of the APA, Atlanta, GA, 12/29/93

Other presentations:

Readings of *In Nietzsche's Footsteps* at the Farmington Public Library (12/13/18), Roxbury NJ Public Library (6/25/19), South Plainfield NJ Public Library (6/26/19), Wilton ME Public Library (9/26/19), Lithgow Public Library (Augusta ME 10/28/19), Colby College (Waterville ME 11/18/19), South Portland ME Public Library (12/5/19)

“Disciples of Dionysus”, as part of the “Noisy, Wild, and Extremely Troublesome: Lectures in the Arts and Humanities” series, UMF, 11/7/18

"A Jewish Spin on 20th Century Philosophy: The Case of Emmanuel Levinas," to the Maine Conference on Jewish Life, Colby College, Waterville ME, 6/14/15

“Why Does Nietzsche Like Bizet,” to the Maine Philosophical Institute, University of Maine Farmington, 4/26/15

“The Importance of the Humanities”, to the Maine Humanities Summit, Governor Hill Mansion, Augusta, Maine, 5/17/13

“‘Wouldn’t It Be Nice’: Why You Need to Take the Beach Boys Seriously”, sponsored jointly by the Philosophy and Popular Culture program and UMF Faculty Forum, 11/20/08; also to Maine Philosophical Institute, 4/26/09

“What’s Bad About Death Is What’s Good About Life,” UMF Faculty Forum, 10/31/96

"Nietzsche as Thinker, Correspondent, and Philosopher," to the Maine Philosophical Institute, Bates College, Lewiston, ME, 5/6/95.

"Born to Affirm the Eternal Recurrence," to "Ecce Nietzsche" conference, University of Southern Maine, 3/16/95; also to UMF Faculty Forum, 2/16/95.

"Four Defining Moments in Jewish History," 10/23 & 30, 11/13 & 20, 1994, Temple Beth El, Portland, ME.

"Jewish Mysticism," University of Southern Maine Philosophy Colloquium, 12/13/00; also at Temple Beth El, Portland, ME, 12/5/93

"The Free Spirits of *Human, All-Too-Human*," to the Maine Philosophical Institute, Colby College, Waterville, Maine, 5/1/93

Research Award: UMF Trustee Professor, 2017-18

Memberships: American Philosophical Association (Eastern Div.)
Friedrich Nietzsche Society (UK)
North American Nietzsche Society
Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy

Service to the Profession:

Journal Referee:

- Cambridge University Press (2014)
- *Journal of Nietzsche Studies* (2017 & 2008)
- *Southern Maine Review* (2004)
- *Ancient Philosophy* (2003).

Director, Maine Philosophical Institute, 1995-1996 (included organizing and moderating annual MPI meeting at UMF, 5/5/96); also did publicity for 2009 meeting

Courses taught at Bates:

Philosophies to Live By (PHIL 150, two sections)

Ancient Greek Philosophy (CMS/PHIL 271)

Philosophy in the Modern Age (PHIL 272)

Nietzsche's Philosophy of Music (PHIL 350BA)

Courses Taught at UMF:

Critical Thinking (PHI 100)

Contemporary Moral Problems (PHI 101)

Introduction to Philosophy (PHI 102) – “Truth and the Good Life”

Introductory Readings in Philosophy (PHI 103)

Philosophies to Live By (PHI 105)

Philosophy of Education (PHI 110, formerly PHI 306)

Truth, Lies, and BS (PHI 115)

What is the Good Life? (Ancient Greek Philosophy) (PHI 120)

Self, Knowledge, and Society (Early Modern Philosophy) (PHI 140)

Music and Philosophy (PHI 180 and INT 277) (both solo and team-taught)

Logic and its Limits (PHI 200, formerly HON 210)

Ethics (PHI 201)

Constructing Our World, Constructing Ourselves (19th C German Philosophy) (PHI 220)

Existentialism (PHI 222, formerly PHI 150)

Consciousness and Reality (20th C European Philosophy) (PHI 240, formerly PHI 160)

Nietzsche Seminar (PHI 377)

Philosophy of Music (PHI 377)

Plato on Love, Death, and the Soul (PHI 377 and HON 377)

Nietzsche's Philosophy of Music (PHI 377 and HON 377)

Jewish Thought (PHI 387)

Nietzsche & Wagner (PHI 387; team-taught concurrently with MUS 377, Wagner & Nietzsche)

Philosophy and Literature (ENG 387 & PHI 387) (both solo and team-taught)

Directed Studies in Phil (PHI 397): 20th C Phil, Phil & Poetry, Enlightenment Phil of Religion, Phil of Government, Aesthetics of Argument, Kierkegaard, Hegel's *Phenomenology*, Existential Knowledge Claims, Nietzsche, Philosophy of Music II, Women in Philosophy, Jewish Mysticism

First-Year Writing Seminar (ENG 100)

First-Year Seminars (FYS 100): “One Nation Under Allah: Issues in the Relation of Church & State”, “Plato on Love”, “The Eternal Recurrence”, “Life's Big Questions”

Western Thought: Ancient to Medieval (HON 101)

Directed Studies in Honors (HON 497 & 498): Ancient Philosophy and Literature, Nietzsche as Misogynist, Marginalized Voices in Philosophy, Friends Lovers and Freedom

Philosophy, Music, and Art in the Nineteenth Century (INT 277) (team-taught)

Readings in Liberal Education (LIA 100)

Teaching Awards: UMF Distinguished Faculty of the Year (5-10 yrs service), 2003

Other Teaching Positions:

Visiting Professor of Philosophy, Bowdoin College, 2022-2023
Visiting Professor of Philosophy, Colby College, Fall 2019
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Swarthmore College, 1991-1992
Instructor, University of Pennsylvania, 1989-1991
Teaching Assistant, University of Pennsylvania, 1988-1990
Instructor, Center for the Advancement of Academically Talented Youth (JHU), 1985-1988
Teaching Assistant, Johns Hopkins University, 1984-1985

University Service (at UMF): Associate Provost (2014-2017)

Program Administration: Director of General Education (2004-2008)
 Reading Revolutions Lecture Series (Fall 2005)
 Campus Coordinator, Woodrow Wilson Fellowship (1993-96)

Committees: Liberal Studies Council (2020-2022)
 Honors Council (2020-2021)
 Academic Leadership Council (*ex officio*, 2004-2008 & 2011-2017)
 Summer Registration Committee (*ex officio*, 2014-2017)
 Orientation Committee (*ex officio*, 2014-2017)
 Interdisciplinary and General Education Committee (*ex officio*, 2004-2008)
 First-Year Experience Council (2004-2008)
 General Education Task Force (Summer, 2007)
 Enrollment Management Task Force (Fall, 2006)
 First-Year Seminar Faculty Development Workshops (Summer 2005 & 2006)
 Gardner-Barefoot visit organizing committee (Summer 2005)
 Remnant Trust Steering Committee (Spring 2005)
 Four-Credit Proposal Task Force (Summer, 2004)
 First-Year Seminar Planning Group (2003-2004)
 Campus Technology Committee (2000-2002)
 Comparative Cultural Perspectives Subcommittee (Summer 1998)
 Chaired Academic Culture discussion series (Spring 1997)
 Library Advisory Committee (1996-98)
 Sabbatical Leave Committee (1995-97)
 Academic Dismissal Committee (1995-96)
 – authored "How to Succeed at College," distributed to all first-year students
 Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Course Numbering Standards (Chair) (Summer 1995)
 Honorary Degree Committee (1992-95)

Miscellaneous: Coordinator of Philosophy Reading Group (2015-present)
 Participant in Learning Communities project (Spring 2012)
 Participant in panel discussion of situation in Israel-Palestine (11/9/11)
 Participant in panel discussion of upheaval in Egypt (2/11/11)
 Pre-Law Advisor (1999-2008)
 Co-Advisor: UMF Religion and Philosophy Club (1995-2000)
 Co-ordinated speakers series for Remnant Trust books (Fall 2005)
 Participant in UMF Forum on Free Speech/Harassment (4/26/01)

Interviewed for League of Women Voters' study of U Maine System (4/14/98)
Editorial Board for *Apropos* (journal of student writing in Humanities) (1997-98)
Education Search Committee: Foundations & Middle School (Sprg 1997)

Campus Presentations:

A personal response to the Pittsburgh killings, at Religious Diversity panel (10/31/18)
On Nietzsche's philosophy of music, conclusion of Trustee Professorship (4/25/18)
On liberal arts education, and on philosophy, for Upward Bound (7/8/16)
Faculty Forum Panel: Israel-Palestine, 11/9/11
Faculty Forum Roundtable Discussion: Philosophy and Poetry, 3/2/11
On *Magna Carta*, for Remnant Trust (video), Fall 2005
On justifying war, for the "Waging War/Waging Peace" teach-in, 5/1/03
On Hasidism, for the "One Book, One Campus" program (reading *The Chosen*), 4/9/03
On religious roots of Israeli-Palestinian conflict to Poli Sci Club & Global Society, 12/6/00
On Judaism to Prof Lekes's "Death and Dying" class (several times), Prof Maybury's "Positive Psychology" class (Fall '13), Prof Beck's HON 101 class (Spring '13), Prof Hardy's FYS Spirituality, Prof. Dunlap's "Perspectives on Human Services" class (Spring '96), Student Life Diversity Committee (Fall '94), Prof Kalau's "The Handicapping Experience" class (Fall '92), and to Prof. Lively's "World Religions" class (several times).
Faculty Debates on Core Curriculum Proposal (Fall 1992)

Divisional Service (UMF):

Program Coordinator, Dept of Philosophy & Religion (2009-pres)
Chair, Division of Humanities (2011-2014 and Fall 2003)
Curriculum Committee representative (Spring 2020 and 1994-95)
Chair, Philosophy Search Committee, (1995, 2006, 2007-08, 2009, 2011)
Subcommittee to develop Honors in Major proposal (Spring 2007)
General Education Committee representative (2002-2003)
Chair, American Literature Search Committee (1999-2000)
Core Committee representative (1996-97)
Religion Position Search Committee (1994-1995 & 2016-2017)
Other Divisional search committees (many, *passim*)

Education:

Ph.D., Philosophy, University of Pennsylvania, 1991
Dissertation: *Science, Culture, and Free Spirits: A Study of Nietzsche's Human, All-Too-Human*
(advisor: Alexander Nehamas)
M.A., Jewish Philosophy, Jewish Theological Seminary, 1988
M.A., Philosophy, Johns Hopkins University, 1984
A.B., Philosophy, Harvard University, 1980, *cum laude*
Senior Thesis: "Overman and Higher Men", *magna cum laude*
(advisor: Martha Nussbaum)

Academic Awards: Bacon Fellowship in Philosophy, Univ. of Pennsylvania, 1990-1991
Friedenwald Prize in Theology, Jewish Theological Seminary, 1988
Lefkowitz Prize in General Studies, Jewish Theological Sem. 1987

Community Service:

Ongoing:

- Delegate to state Democratic convention, 2024, 2022, 2020
- Board member, Beth Israel Congregation (Waterville ME), Oct 2023-present
- Board member, Maine Jazz Camp, Jan 2023-present
- Poll worker, Town of Farmington, Nov 2020-present
- Maintainer, Appalachian Trail, 2016-present (currently east slope of Moody Mtn)
- Co-coordinator of Jewish Union of Franklin County (time immemorial-present): Developed liturgy and lead services for Tashlikh service (for Jewish New Year), Ne'ilah service (close of Yom Kippur), Hanukah observances, wrote abridged Haggadah and led community Passover seder, lead memorial services, arrange for community activities, etc
- Member of Beth Israel Congregation, Waterville ME; Temple Beth El, Augusta ME; and formerly Temple Shalom Synagogue Center, Auburn ME; regular reader of Torah and Haftarah; former co-leader of Temple Shalom Tzafon, a *havurah* which used to meet monthly at the Wilton Congregationalist Church

Past:

- Presentations about Judaism to many classes at Mt. Blue High School, Farmington Area Ecumenical Ministry, and an Elderhostel in Kingfield.
- Presentations about Judaism, nihilism, Nietzsche, existentialism, kabbalah, creation, Passover, and my personal religious views to "Teen Faith" religious education class at Old South Congregational Church, Farmington, many times over the years
- Poll observer, Maine Voter Protection Project, July 2020
- Presentation about Jewish Union of Franklin County at Maine Conference on Jewish Life, at Colby College, Waterville ME, 6/19/16
- Accountant, Franklin County Fiddlers trip to the Maritimes (2014-2015)
- Member of the Board of Temple Shalom Synagogue Center, Auburn, Maine (2007-2011)
- Led discussion of Genesis 1 with Bible study group at Old South, May 2005
- Sessions on Logic for GEAR-UP Teens with Dreams summer camp held at UMF, June 2002
- Adult education lecture series on Jewish Thought at Temple Beth El of Portland, 2001-2002
- Teach Hebrew at informal home-school in Wilton, 1999-2005
- Presentation to Temple Beth Augusta about priesthood, May 1997
- Speaker at ecumenical service for Martin Luther King Day, 1997 & 2002
- Helped maintain Doug Dunlap's segment of the Appalachian Trail, Summers 1996-2005
- Scholar-in-Residence weekends at Temple Beth El, Portland: March '96, May '97, & Jan '05
- Alumni Interviewer for Harvard U., 1996-1999.
- Led several sessions of an adult education class on Jewish History and Jewish Holidays for Temple Beth El of Augusta, Spring 1994.

Other Experience

- Cantor at Congregation Mikveh Israel, 1981-1982 and *passim* thru 1992;
- Leader for high school-age youth group trip to Israel, Summers 1980 and 1981;
- Worked for Environmental Protection Agency, Summer 1979;
- Have traveled extensively in USA, Europe, Canada, and Israel.

Languages: Hebrew, German, French, Ancient Greek, Latin

Family:

Wife: Victoria (BA Vassar '82, MA Bank St Coll. of Educ '87, EdD University of Exeter, '10)
– Math Interventionist, Mallett School, Farmington, ME

Children:

Samuel (11/23/90, New York University '13; m. Amalia Ritter 8/12/18; son Lev Natan 7/8/22)
– Founder and principal, Open Tent (CRM for non-profits using Salesforce platform)

Rosa (1/23/93, Haverford College '15)

– Graphic design and communications for Moving Traditions (Jewish education for teens)

Eli (4/15/96, New England Conservatory of Music '18)

– Freelance musician; albums: *Reunion* (2021) and *The Silent Thief* (2022)

Miriam (5/5/98, Yale University '20)

– *Ketubah* specialist at Kolbo, Brookline, MA & Hebrew school teacher

Awards: Best Daddy in the World (Father's Day 2000, 2001)

Home Address: 146 Sunset Ave., Farmington, ME, 04938, 207-778-4965 (h) 207-491-9498 (m)

References available on request.