

# Nathan Kellen

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## Education

Ph.D, Philosophy, University of Connecticut 2014-  
Dissertation: *Pluralisms about Truth and Logic*  
Committee: Michael P. Lynch (Chair), Jc Beall

M.A. Philosophy, University of Connecticut, 2014

B.A. Philosophy, University of Minnesota, *summa cum laude* 2012  
Honours Thesis: *Understanding Obligation in Scanlon's Contractualism: A Tripartite Theory*  
Advisor: Michelle Mason

## Areas of Specialisation

Logic (esp. philosophy of logic), Truth, Moral Philosophy

## Areas of Competence

Philosophy of Mathematics, Philosophy of Language, Political Philosophy, History of Analytic Philosophy  
(esp. Frege, Wittgenstein), Ancient Philosophy (esp. Plato)

## Non-Academic Publications

1000-Word Philosophy (Contributor)  
Online site dedicated to 1000 word introductions to philosophical topics.  
“Alethic Pluralism” (forthcoming); others TBA

## Presentations

“Logical Pluralism, Alethic Pluralism and Intuitionistic Logic”  
14th Annual Philosophy of Logic, Math and Physics Graduate Conference (University of Western Ontario)  
(June 2014)

“Alethic Pluralism and Intuitionism”  
VIII Annual Mark L. Shapiro Graduate Conference in Philosophy (Brown University) (Nov. 2013)

“Does Socrates Practise Philosophy in the *Lysis*?”  
Minnesota Philosophical Society Student Conference (Apr. 2012)

## Teaching Experience

As a Teaching Assistant:

**PHIL 1102: Philosophy and Logic** - A completely formal introduction to philosophy and logic. Includes propositional and first-order classical, FDE and  $\mathcal{K}_3$ , with trees as the primary proof technique. 80 students; Spring 2014 (Instructor of Record: Dave Ripley)

**PHIL 1104: Introduction to Social Ethics** - An introduction to ethics course including modules on living the “good life”, justice (incl. Rawls), abortion, affirmative action and love. 80+ students; Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Fall 2013 (Instructor of Record: Paul Bloomfield)

## Service

UConn Language, Epistemology and Metaphysics Research Group - Director (Summer 2014-)

UConn Logic Group Neo-Logician Workshop - Assistant Organiser (Spring 2014)

UConn Philosophy Graduate Student Association - President (F 2014-)

UConn Philosophy Graduate Student Association - Webmaster (F2013-S2014)

UConn Wittgenstein Group - Founder/Chair (2013-)

UConn Ethics Reading Group - Secretary (S 2014)

## Graduate Coursework

Audited courses are marked with asterisks.

### *University of Connecticut*

#### Spring 2014

**Neo-logicism in the Philosophy of Mathematics (Marcus Rossberg)** - A seminar on the neo-logicist programme in the philosophy of mathematics, including historical and contemporary developments. Covers the major benefits and opposition to the neo-logicists, including the Bad Company Objection, the Caesar Problem and metaontology.

**Cut-Free and Bilateralist Approaches to Paradoxes (Dave Ripley)** - Seminar exploring the substructural logics which are cut-free in order to handle semantic paradoxes. Work is split evenly between straight philosophical logic approaches to said logics, as well as using the bilateralist movement in the philosophy of language to offer philosophical explanations of these logics.

**Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* (Crawford Elder)** - A close reading of Kant's master work, the *Critique of Pure Reason*. Includes questions such as: is the world which science studies in some way mind- or theory-dependent? Is Kant an idealist? What answers does Kant provide for non-idealist epistemology?

**Reverse Mathematics\* (Damir Dzhafarov, Maths Department)** - A graduate level introduction to topics in reverse mathematics, including results regarding the five major subsystems of  $\mathcal{Z}_2$ , and results not provable in any of those systems.

**Fall 2013**

**Mathematical Logic (Reed Solomon, Maths Department)** - A graduate level introduction to mathematical logic, intended for mathematics graduate students. Includes modules on ordinals, computability and the incompleteness theorems.

**Metaethics (Paul Bloomfield)** - A survey of metaethical theories, focusing on the debate between realists and nonrealists about morality. Includes historical and contemporary approaches to various positions, such as naturalism and nonnaturalism, error theory, expressivism and constructivism. Also serves as an introduction to the debate between internalists and externalists about moral reasons.

**Topics in Normative Ethics (Hallie Liberto)** - Seminar focusing on four different topics in normative ethics: the doctrine of doing and allowing, the doctrine of double effect, the numbers problem and promises.

**Spring 2013**

**Classical Eastern Philosophy (Joel Kupperman)** - A survey of classical Eastern philosophy, including Indian philosophy (*The Upanishads*, *Dhammapada* and *Bhagavad Gita*), Chinese philosophy (*The Analects*, Zhuangzi and *Daodejing*) and Japanese philosophy (*Zen Flesh*, *Zen Bones*).

**Wilfrid Sellars (Austen Clark, Lionel Shapiro)** - A survey of eminent 20th century philosopher Wilfrid Sellars' thought, including most of his major works in the philosophy of language, philosophy of mind and philosophy of science.

**Truth (Michael P. Lynch)** - A survey of the major theories of truth, including correspondence, coherence, deflationist and pluralist theories of truth. Includes both historical and contemporary advocates of most positions.

**Fall 2012**

**Freedom From Detachment (Jc Beall)** - Philosophical logic seminar dedicated to an ongoing project that asserts that our language is detachment-free, i.e. doesn't validate modus ponens. Involves a survey of dialetheism, transparent-truth and truth paradoxes (esp. Liar, Curry).

**History of Analytic Philosophy (Samuel Wheeler)** - A survey of the history of analytic philosophy, esp. philosophy of language and metaphysics, starting with Frege and going through Davidson. Includes Carnap, Quine, Kripke, Lewis, Tarski and others.

**Logic (Jc Beall)** - Required graduate coursework in formal logic and its methods, including classical logic, modal logic and non-classical logics through first-order.

***University of Minnesota*****Spring 2012**

**Philosophy of Logic (Roy T. Cook)** - An attempt to answer the question, "What is Logic?", including logical pluralism. Included survey of non-classical logics, esp. intuitionistic, paracomplete and paraconsistent logics. Discussion of Gödel's incompleteness theorems and their implications for the philosophy of logic.

**Modal Logic (Roy T. Cook)** - Axiomatic and semantic treatment of propositional and predicate modal logics including provability logic GL (from Boolos' *The Logic of Provability*); problems of interpreting modal languages.

**Valuing Persons (Michelle Mason)** - Ethical theory seminar examining the topic of person-focused evaluative attitudes and their implications for contemporary ethical theories, including Kantian, consequentialist and virtue theories.

#### Fall 2011

**History of Ancient Philosophy (Sandra Peterson)** - A survey of ancient philosophy, particularly Plato and Aristotle, including contemporary scholarship on their works. Primary texts included *Apology*, *Hippias Minor*, *Lysis*, *Charmides*, *Philebus*, *Dissoi Logoi*, *Topics* and *Metaphysics*.

**Foundations of Mathematics: Structuralism and Neo-Logicism\* (Geoffrey Hellman and Roy T. Cook)** - Philosophy of mathematics course on the foundations of mathematics, especially structuralism (Shapiro, Hellman) and neo-logicism. Also included historical survey of other positions including Frege and Dedekind.

**The Formation of Modern Ethics in Kant and Adam Smith\* (Matthias Rothe, German Department)** - Seminar comparing and contrasting the ethical theories of Kant and Adam Smith (in *Theory of Moral Sentiments*) as well as their formation from ancient ethical theories, especially Aristotle and the Stoics.

#### Spring 2011

**Moral Emotions (Michelle Mason)** - Ethical theory seminar examining the emotions and their normative affect on morality. Examines a wide range of moral emotions (e.g. resentment, respect, blame) and normative theories (e.g. Kantian, contractualist).

#### Fall 2010

**First-Order Classical Logic (Roy T. Cook)** - Required graduate coursework in formal logic. Study of syntax and semantics of sentential and first-order logic, including deductive systems and metatheory. Included proofs of propositional and first-order soundness, completeness and compactness, as well as Löwenheim-Skolem.