

# Vaughn Papenhausen

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## EDUCATION

|                                                                                                                    |                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| The Ohio State University                                                                                          | August 2019 – April 2025 |
| Columbus, OH                                                                                                       |                          |
| PhD in Philosophy                                                                                                  |                          |
| Dissertation: “Xanax for the Philosopher’s Soul: How to Stop Worrying About Nihilism” (advisor Tristram McPherson) |                          |
| Haverford College                                                                                                  | May 2018                 |
| Haverford, PA                                                                                                      |                          |
| B.A. in Philosophy, with honors; minor in German                                                                   |                          |
| IES Abroad Berlin                                                                                                  | Spring 2017              |
| Berlin, Germany                                                                                                    |                          |
| Semester abroad, in partnership with Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin                                                |                          |
| North Central State College                                                                                        | 2012 – 2014              |
| Mansfield, OH                                                                                                      |                          |
| Associate of Technical Studies in Electro-Mechanical Engineering Technology, with honors                           |                          |

## AREAS OF INTEREST

|                |                                                                     |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Specialization | Metaethics, AI Safety                                               |
| Competence     | Normative Ethics, Engineering Ethics, AI Ethics, Chinese Philosophy |

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

|                                                            |            |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| “Can Nihilism Be Bad? Rethinking the Self-Defeat Argument” | April 2025 |
| Ohio Philosophical Association                             |            |
| “Explaining the Explanatory Arguments for Hedonism”        | April 2024 |
| Kentucky Philosophical Association                         |            |

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

|                    |                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Primary instructor |                                                                                                                 |
| Engineering Ethics | OSU, Fall 2026 ( + async)<br>OSU, Fall 2025 ( + async)<br>OSU, Summer 2024 (async)<br>OSU, Summer 2022 (online) |
| Computing Ethics   | OSU, Spring 2026                                                                                                |

|                               |                 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| The Future of Humanity        | OSU, Fall 202   |
|                               | OSU, Spring 202 |
|                               | OSU, Fall 202   |
| Death and the Meaning of Life | OSU, Spring 202 |
| Introduction to Ethics        | OSU, Fall 202   |
|                               | OSU, Fall 202   |
| Asian Philosophies            | OSU, Summer 202 |
|                               | OSU, Spring 202 |

### Teaching assistant

|                                      |                                   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Moral Philosophy                     | OSU, Spring 202                   |
| Asian Philosophies                   | OSU, Fall 2021 (online            |
| Engineering Ethics                   | OSU, Spring 2021 (online          |
| Death and the Meaning of Life        | OSU, Fall 2020 (online            |
| Happiness, Virtue, and the Good Life | Haverford, Fall 2017 – May 201    |
| Intermediate German                  | Haverford, Fall 2017 – Spring 201 |
| Conducted in German                  |                                   |
| Introductory German                  | Haverford, Spring and Fall 201    |
| Conducted in German                  |                                   |

### AWARDS, HONORS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

|                                          |                        |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Honorable Mention, William H. Fink Award | 2020 – 202             |
| The Ohio State University                |                        |
| University Fellowship                    | Fall 2019 – Summer 202 |
| The Ohio State University                |                        |
| Cum Laude                                | 201                    |
| Haverford College                        |                        |
| Departmental Honors in Philosophy        | 201                    |
| Haverford College                        |                        |
| Chesick Scholar                          | 2014 – 201             |
| QuestBridge Match Scholar                | 2014 – 201             |
| Dean's List                              | 2012 – 201             |
| North Central State College              |                        |

## SERVICE

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|                                                |            |
|------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Treasurer, Ethics and Aesthetics Reading Group | 2022 – 202 |
| Coordinator, Graduate Student Workshop         | 2021 – 202 |

## LANGUAGES

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|         |                                                                   |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| English | Native                                                            |
| German  | Conversational — speak, read, and write (C1, but out of practice) |

## GRADUATE COURSEWORK

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|                                                              |            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 8300 Open Society Liberalism (Piers Turner, audit)           | Fall 202   |
| 8300 AI Ethics (Tristram McPherson, audit)                   | Spring 202 |
| 8300 Social Change (Sahar Heydari Fard, audit)               | Spring 202 |
| 5010 Teaching Philosophy (Tristram McPherson)                | Spring 202 |
| 8700 Pragmatism (Robert Kraut)                               | Fall 202   |
| 8200 Plato (Allan Silverman)                                 | Spring 202 |
| 8800 Topics in Mind: Abstract Concepts (Richard Samuels)     | Spring 202 |
| 8650 Philosophy of Science (Chris Pincock)                   | Spring 202 |
| 5193 Independent Study: AI Safety (Richard Samuels)          | Fall 202   |
| 5300 Advanced Ethics: Well-Being (Eden Lin)                  | Fall 202   |
| 8200 Mathematics in Kant's Critical Philosophy (Lisa Shabel) | Fall 202   |
| 8700 Metaphysics: Carnap, Quine, Sellars (Richard Kraut)     | Summer 202 |
| 8500 Philosophy of Mathematics: Number (Stewart Shapiro)     | Spring 202 |
| 8300 Metaphysics of Normativity (Tristram McPherson)         | Spring 202 |
| 5500 Advanced Logic (Neil Tennant)                           | Spring 202 |
| 5261 Phenomenology and Existentialism (Tamar Rudavsky)       | Spring 202 |
| 8750 Moral Epistemology (Declan Smithies)                    | Fall 201   |
| 8300 Philosophy of Emotion (Justin D'Arms)                   | Fall 201   |
| 8100 First Year Seminar (Chris Pincock, Abe Roth)            | Fall 201   |
| 5840 Philosophy of Cognitive Science (Richard Samuels)       | Fall 201   |