

# Aaron Brice Cummings

History & Liberal Studies Departments  
(Adjunct Instructor)  
East Texas A&M University

Jindal School of Management  
(Learning Specialist)  
University of Texas at Dallas

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## EDUCATION

**Ph.D. History of Ideas | The University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, TX (2023)**

Major Fields: Continental Philosophy & American Intellectual History

Minor Field: Modernist Literature

Dissertation: *Existential Baudelaire in Fondane, Benjamin, & Sartre*

(This dissertation won the UT Dallas Arts & Humanities school's [Frank R. Rossiter Award](#))

**M.A. English as a Second Language | University of Texas Rio Grande Valley,\* Edinburg, TX (2015)**

Thesis: [Eavesdropping on the Past: An Oral History Exploration of English and Spanish in Contact in Texas' Rio Grande Valley, 1904-1945](#)

**M.A. Theological Studies | Dallas Baptist University, Dallas, TX (2012)**

Concentration: History of Religion

Research Capstone: "The Missionary Role in Slavery as Practiced in the Choctaw Republic"

## BOOK

[Baudelaire's Bitter Metaphysics: Anti-Nihilist Readings by Fondane, Benjamin, & Sartre](#) (Lexington Books, an imprint of Rowman & Littlefield / Bloomington Academic, 2024)

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"Creativity as a Problem for Historiography: Renewing Hermeneutic Methodologies" (Society for United States Intellectual History Conference; Detroit, Michigan; 8 November 2025 [upcoming])

["The Bystander Problem in Philosophy: Postwar Poetic Bovarysme in Eliot and Fondane"](#) (Fin-de-Siècle Modernisms: The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual USC Comparative Literature Conference; University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC; 1 March 2025).

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\*May 2015 alumnus of UT Pan American; in August 2015, UTPA merged with UT Brownsville to form UT Rio Grande Valley.

- ["Saving 'Existential Language' for Philosophy: Fondane's Critique of Heidegger's Hölderlin"](#) (North Texas Philosophical Association; University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, Texas; 30 March 2024)
- ["'An Even Worse Utopia': Reactionary Pessimism from New Orleans to Buenos Aires, 1840-1865"](#) (Society for United States Intellectual History Conference; Denver, Colorado; 9 November 2023)
- ["Dewey and Nietzsche: Truth Aware of Itself as a Problem"](#) (Center for Dewey Studies Conference; Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois; 14 October 2023)
- "Check Your Syllabus: Writing Policies about Generative AI for Syllabi and Assignments." Sarah Moore; co-author Aaron Cummings. Presented as a Professional Writing Panel Discussion at South Central Modern Language Association (presented in absentia by Sarah Moore, Corpus Christi, Texas, 13 October 2023).
- "Baudelaire, Fondane, and the Abyssal Crisis of Democracy" (Society for United States Intellectual History; Boston, Massachusetts; 5 November 2022)
- "Crying through Metamodern Oscillations: Suffering Selves in Benjamin Fondane's Poetry" (South Central Modern Language Association; Memphis, Tennessee/Virtual; 14 October 2022)
- "Existentialism and Hyperbole: Benjamin Fondane" (Research, Arts, & Writing Conference; University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, Texas; 6 March 2021)
- "Walter Benjamin's Revolutionary Retrieval: The Unexpected Anti-Fascist Afterlives of Charles Baudelaire" (Research, Arts, & Writing Conference; University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, Texas; 22 February 2020)
- "Practical Outcomes from Confusing Ourselves with Humanities Research" (Festival of International Books and Arts; University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Edinburg, Texas; 4 March 2016)

## COURSES TAUGHT

### **Philosophy**

From Question to Creation: The Practice and Production of Knowledge – Topic: Existentialism  
(adjunct instructor, East Texas A&M University,<sup>†</sup> Spring 2025)

Seminar in Critical Inquiry – Topic: *Plato's Republic*  
(adjunct instructor, East Texas A&M University, Fall 2024)

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<sup>†</sup> In November 2024, the Texas A&M System renamed Texas A&M University – Commerce as *East Texas A&M University*.

## **History**

History of the United States since Reconstruction: 1877-present

(adjunct instructor, East Texas A&M University, Spring 2025)

History of the United States to Reconstruction: to 1877

(East Texas A&M University, Spring 2024, Fall 2024, & [scheduled for] Fall 2025)

History of Christianity (substitute lecturer, South Texas School of Christian Studies [since renamed Stark College & Seminary], 2014 - 2015)

## **English as a Second Language, First-Year College Writing, Test Prep, & Study Skills**

English as a Second Language Writing Level 3 (Richland College,<sup>‡</sup> Fall 2016 - Spring 2018)

English as a Second Language Grammar Level 3 (Richland College, Fall 2016 – Spring 2018)

Intermediate English as a Second Language (Sharp Educational Services, Fall 2016 – Spring 2018)

Rhetoric and Composition I, a developmental writing class (UT Pan American, Fall 2014 – Spring 2015)

Rhetoric and Composition II, a research and writing class (UT Pan American, Spring 2014)

Reading Absorption / Study Skills for K-12 & Adult (Institute of Reading Development, Summer 2016 & 2017)

Test Prep: GMAT (UT Pan American, Fall 2013 – Spring 2014)

Test Prep: LSAT (Knowsys, Fall 2013 & Summer 2014)

## **STUDENT WORKSHOPS LED & LEARNING COACHED – THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS**

### **Business Communication**

Learning Specialist for the UT Dallas Business Communication Center (since 2018), leading workshops on the following topics:

Business English as a Second Language (every semester since 2018)

Writing Support Groups for Management Science Ph.D. students (every summer since 2019)

Public Speaking (August 2018 – Present, every fall & spring)

Artificial Intelligence and Writing (every semester since Fall 2023)

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<sup>‡</sup> Richland College, then part of the Dallas Community College system, is now part of a unified, multicampus Dallas College.

## **FACULTY WORKSHOPS LED – THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS**

### *Pedagogy*

with Sarah Moore & Kathryn Lookadoo, UT Dallas; “Graduate Success Week: Tense Talks—Tools for Talking when Stakes Are High” (Office of Graduate Education, UT Dallas, 1 November 2024)

Keynote Panel: “AI in the Classroom & the Learning Center,” with Lorna Sylvestre, Mike Sainz, & Sarah Moore (Texas Affiliate of the National College Learning Center Association; Richardson, Texas; 22 February 2024)

with J. McClain Watson, UT Dallas; “Graduate Success Week: Communicating with Graduate Advisors and Other Professors” (Office of Graduate Education, UT Dallas, 2 October 2023)

with Sarah Moore, UT Dallas; ESL portion of co-led session “Teaching in the AI and ChatGPT Era: Policies, Syllabi and Student Learning” (Center for Teaching and Learning, UT Dallas, 9 August 2023)

with Laura Goldstein, “Advocating for Academic Honesty: Positive Support for Second Language Writers and Instructors” (UT Dallas, Center for Teaching and Learning, 28 September 2022)

### *Business English as a Second Language*

“Critical Thinking for Business and Academic Writing”: workshops for M.S., M.B.A., and Ph.D. Students in the Naveen Jindal School of Management (UT Dallas, Fall 2018 – Summer 2023)

## **TUTORING**

Qualitative Research Methods – Phenomenology & Social Epistemology, for Ph.D. students in Management Science or International Management Studies (Spring 2020 – present, UT Dallas Naveen Jindal School of Management)

Graduate-Level Research Writing, for M.S., M.B.A., and Ph.D. students (Fall 2019 – present, UT Dallas Naveen Jindal School of Management)

English as a Second Language workshops & one-on-one interventions, for international graduate students (daily, Spring 2018 – present, UT Dallas Business Communication Center)

European History, for university students, and World History, for middle school students (Fall 2016 – Spring 2017, Varsity Tutors)

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Philosophical Association

Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy

Society for United States Intellectual History

### **SERVICE & VOLUNTEER**

ESL Teacher for a community organization in Murphy, TX (August 2023 – December 2023)

Grad Student Rep. for UTD Arts & Humanities Assoc. of Graduate Students (August 2020 – May 2021)

ESL Teacher for Lutheran Social Services of the South, Hidalgo County, TX (January 2014 – Spring 2014)

ESL Teacher for adult learners in Grayson County, TX (January 2010 – July 2013)

Algebra & Social Studies Tutor for 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students in Greenville, SC (September 2005 – May 2009)

### **ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Kaiser Aluminum, Sherman, TX (2009-2013)

*Maintenance Planner / Continuous Improvement Coordinator* for an extrusion company producing automotive, aviation, and other parts from recycled and remelted aluminum