

Steven B. Cowan, PhD

Professor of Philosophy and Religion

Assistant Dean, School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences



Biography

Dr. Cowan received his M.A. and Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Arkansas. He also earned an M.Div. from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a B.A. in Sociology from the University of Southern Mississippi. Prior to earning his academic degrees, Dr. Cowan served for six years in the U.S. Army, both as an artillery fire direction specialist and a unit clerk. While in graduate school, he was the bi-vocational pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Fayetteville, Arkansas. After graduate school, he served one year as a Visiting Professor at the University of Arkansas and then as an adjunct instructor at several institutions including Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Birmingham Theological Seminary, and Ouachita Baptist University. In 2006, he was appointed to the faculty of Southeastern Bible College in Birmingham as Associate Professor of Philosophy and Apologetics. He was appointed Associate Professor of Christian Philosophy at Louisiana College in 2011. Dr. Cowan came to LMU in 2014. From 2015 - 2018, he served as Interim Director of LMU's Honors Scholars Program. His hobbies are reading science fiction and military history and playing video games with his son, Oliver.

Teaching and Research Interests

Dr. Cowan's academic and research interests are in the areas of philosophy of religion and metaphysics (especially the metaphysics of free will).

Publications (last five years)

Edited Books

Life After Death: Four Views. London: Bloomsbury, 2026.

Problems in Applied Ethics: An Introduction to Contemporary Debates. London: Bloomsbury, 2026.

Problems in Epistemology and Metaphysics: An Introduction to Contemporary Debates. London: Bloomsbury, 2020.

Problems in Value Theory: An Introduction to Contemporary Debates. London: Bloomsbury, 2020.

Articles and Book Chapters

“Classical Apologetics.” In the *Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Christian Apologetics*. Wiley-Blackwell (forthcoming).

“Dualism, Interim-States, and Physical Resurrection Afterlife” (with Joshua R. Farris). In *Life After Death: Four Views*. London: Bloomsbury, 2026.

“War Can Be Morally Justified.” In *Problems in Applied Ethics: An Introduction to Contemporary Debates*. London: Bloomsbury, 2026.

“Let’s Play GOLF!, or The Free Will Defense Is Dead.” *TheoLogica: An International Journal for Philosophy of Religion and Philosophical Theology* 5:2 (2021): 178-193.

“Or *Abstractum*: Idealism and Abstract Objects.” *Philosophia Christi* 23:1 (2021): 175-185.

“Freedom Is Compatible with Determinism.” In *Problems in Epistemology and Metaphysics: An Introduction to Contemporary Debates*. London: Bloomsbury, 2020.