TEXAS STATE VITA

I. Academic/Professional Background

A. Name and Title

Name: Dr. Jeff Gessas Title: Assoc Professor of Instruction

B. Educational Background

Degree	*Year*	*University*	*Major*	*Thesis/Dissertation*
PHD	2021	University of North Texas	Philosophy	
BA	2012	Texas State University	Political Science	

C. University Experience

Position	*University*	*Comments*	*Dates*
Assistant Professor of Instruction, Philosophy and Religion Studies	Texas State University. San Marcos, TX, United States		September 1, 2024 - Present
Lecturer, Philosophy and Religion Studies	Texas State University. San Marcos, TX, United States		September 1, 2021 - September 1, 2024
Teaching Fellow, Philosophy and Religion	University of North Texas. Denton, TX, United States		June 2014 - May 2021
Teaching Assistant, Philosophy and Religion	University of North Texas. Denton, TX, United States		September 1, 2013 - May 5, 2014

II. TEACHING

A. Teaching Honors and Awards:

Award / Honor Recipient: Graduate Assistant Tuition Scholarship, University of North Texas.
2013 - 2021

Award / Honor Nominee: Outstanding Teaching Fellow Award, University of North Texas.
September 2020

Additional Comments: I was nominated by my department for the university-wide Outstanding Teaching Fellow Award

B. Courses Taught:

Texas State University:

PHIL 1305 - PHIL & CRIT THNKNG

PHIL 1320 - ETHICS & SOCIETY

PHIL 3323 - ENVIRONMENTAL ETH

PHIL 4360J - ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

PHIL 4388 - PROBLEMS IN PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 5323 - ENVIRONMENTAL ETH

PHIL 5323 - ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

PHIL 5360J - ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

PHIL 5388 - PROB IN PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 5395 - INTERN IN APP PHIL

SUST 5398 - PROFESSIONAL PROJECT

SUST 5399A - THESIS

University of North Texas:

Phil 1050 - Introduction to Philosophy

Phil 1400 - Contemporary Moral Issues

Phil 2050 - Introduction to Logic

Phil 2310 - Introduction to Ancient Philosophy

Phil 4700 - Environmental Ethics

C. Directed Student Learning (i.e. theses, dissertations, exit committees, etc.):

Supervisor / Chair, Master's Thesis, "TBD", Status: In Progress. (August 19, 2026 - Present). Sustainability Studies, Texas State University.
Student(s): Kacey Hensley, Graduate, MA.

Supervisor / Chair, Master's Thesis, "TBD", Status: In Progress. (August 19, 2026 - Present). Sustainability Studies, Texas State University.
Student(s): Zipporah Omage, Graduate, MA.

Member, Master's Thesis, "Ecological Literacy in Youth Sports: Animal Mascots & Waste Management", Status: Completed. (August 28, 2025 - November 21, 2025). Sustainability Studies, Texas State University.
Student(s): Julia Ruth, Graduate, MA.

Supervisor / Chair, Applied Research Project, "The Equitable Microgrid", Status: Completed. (November 2023 - April 19, 2024). Sustainability Studies, Texas State University.
Student(s): Cara Johnson, Graduate, Masters.

Member, Exit Exam, Status: Completed. (August 22, 2022 - December 5, 2022). International Studies, Texas State Unviersity.
Student(s): Jessie Tang, Graduate, Masters in International Studies.

D. Courses Prepared and Curriculum Development:

Environmental Leadership Graduate Certificate, Curriculum Development, Texas State University. Proposed: 2024 - Present.

Environmental Justice, New Course, Texas State University. Approved: January 2024 - May 2024.

Additional Comments: Stacked Graduate and Undergraduate class, cross listed with Sustainability Studies

E. Teaching Grants and Contracts

3. Funded Internal Teaching Grants and Contracts:

Williams, Justin Wayne, Dussler, Marcus R, Gessas, William Jeffrey. White Shaman Pilgrimage - Course Development, The Meadows Center for Water And the Environment, Texas State University. (Funded: May 2025). Sponsored Research.

Additional Comments: The Meadows Center funded a trip for Rob Dussler, Jeff Gessas, and me to travel to the White Shaman Panel and the McDonald Observatory. The trip was designed as a field workshop to develop a course that follows the pilgrimage rout depicted on the White Shaman Pictograph in the Lower Pacos Canyonlands. We are in the process of further developing the concept of this journeying course model and are considering developing a Study America course based on our field work.

III. SCHOLARLY/CREATIVE

A. Works in Print (including works accepted, forthcoming, in press):

1. Books:

d. Chapters in Books:

Refereed:

Callicott, B., Gessas, W. J., & Torres, J. (Accepted / In Press). Plato's Ecological Insights and His Environmental Ethics. In Y. Suzuki & J. Torres (Eds.), *Green Antiquity: Comparing Environmental Thought in Early China and Ancient Greece*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Gessas, W. J. (2023). The Standing Rock Water Protectors: Indigenous sovereignty as a refutation to extractive settler colonialism. In M. A. Raja & N. T. C. Lu (Eds.), *Routledge Companion to Literature and Social Justice* (pp. 540–554). Routledge Taylor & Francis Group.

Glazebrook, P., & Gessas, W. J. (2020). Standing Rock: Water protectors in a time of failed policy. In *The Wonder of Water: Lived experience, policy, and practice* (pp. 171–196). Toronto, Canada: University of Toronto Press.

2. Articles:

a. Refereed Journal Articles:

Gessas, W. J. (Accepted / In Press). A Biocultural History of the San Marcos Springs. *Transdisciplinary Journal of Ecology and Humanities*, *1*(1).

10. Other Works in Print:

Guest Editor for Special Issue of Journals:

Gessas, J., & Glazebrook, P. (2021). *Settler Colonialism: A Special Issue*. *Environmental Ethics* (4th ed., Vol. 42). Denton, TX, United States: Center for Environmental Ethics. Retrieved from https://www.pdcnet.org/collection-anonymous/browse?fp=enviroethics&fq=enviroethics%2FVolume%2F8958%7C42%2F https://www.pdcnet.org/collection-anonymous/browse?fp=enviroethics&fq=enviroethics%2FVolume%2F8958%7C42%2F

Additional Comments: The Journal is listed as the Winter 2020 issue, but this is because the primary editor, Gene Hargrove, wanted to list it as a regular volume rather than a non-numbered issue and the journal was behind due to the pandemic. Work was completed and the journal was published in Summer of 2021.

B. Works Not in Print:

1. Papers Presented at Professional Meetings:

Gessas, J. (Author), Briggle, A. (Author), Conference of the Society for Philosophy and Technology, "Field Philosophy as Liberatory Praxis: A decolonial, dialogical approach to field philosophy," Society for Philosophy and Technology, College Station, TX. (May 21, 2019).

Williams, J. W., Gessas, W. J., World Congress of Philosophy Annual Meeting, "Art of Metaphorical Communication and Boundary-Crossing in Field Environmental Philosophy," World Congress of Philosophy, Sapienza University, Rome, Italy. (August 2024).

Gessas, J., International Association for Environmental Philosophy, Annual Conference, "The Coloniality of Nature: The Grand Coulee Dam and the Darker Side of Modernity," IAEP (International Association for Environmental Philosophy), Online. (October 16, 2021).

Additional Comments: The paper is nearly complete, and I will be submitting it for publication in the next couple months.

Gessas, J., International Association for Environmental Philosophy, Annual Conference, "Environmental Philosophy after Standing Rock," IAEP (International Association for Environmental Philosophy), Online. (October 11, 2020).

Gessas, J., American Philosophical Association Eastern Conference, "Decolonial Solidarity: Turning Towards a Critique of Settler Colonial Privilege," IAEP (International Association for Environmental Philosophy), Philadelphia 201 Hotel, Philadelphia, PA. (January 9, 2020).

Lewis, T. (Presenter), Gessas, J. (Presenter), Opoien, J. (Presenter), The Studio-D Project International & Interdisciplinary Event, ""Stress (the) Test," Education as Experimentation: Possibilities Beyond Outcome-Based Learning," Department of Philosophy and Religion and Department of Art Education & Art History, University of North Texas, Environmental Sciences Building, Denton, TX, United States. (June 17, 2017).

Gessas, J., 47th North Texas Philosophical Association Conference, "Ecological Insights in Plato," Department of Philosophy and Religion, University of North Texas, Environmental Science building, Denton, TX, United States. (April 5, 2014).

2. Invited Talks, Lectures, and Presentations:

Gessas, W. J., Balcones Canyonlands chapter meeting, "Leopold, Intrinsic Value, and the Devil's Hole Pupfish," Texas Master Naturalists, Concordia University Student Activity Center, Austin, TX, United States. (September 20, 2025).

Gessas, W. J., Katherine Anne Porter School Graduation 2025, "Katherine Anne Porter School Graduation Commencement Speech," Katherine Anne Porter School, Wimberley First Baptist Church, Wimberley, TX, United States. (May 23, 2025).

Additional Comments: Katherine Anne Porter School is a Liberal Arts Charter School servicing grades 9-12 in Wimberley, Texas.

Gessas, W. J. (Moderator), Williams, J. W. (Panelist), Thompson, S. A. (Panelist), Earth Day San Marcos, "What is Engaged Ecology?," Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, San Marcos, TX, United States. (April 20, 2024).

Gessas, W. J., "Engaged Ecology and Environmental Justice," Philosophy Dialogue Series, San Marcos Public Library, San Marcos, TX, United States. (April 17, 2024).

Gessas, J., Texas Master Naturalist 2023 Annual Meeting, "Environmental Ethics - Intrinsic Value in Nature," Texas Master Naturalists, McAllen Convention Center, McAllen, TX, United States. (October 14, 2023).

Gessas, J., ΦΣT Talk of the Times, "Two Concepts of Decolonization," Texas State University Philosophy Dialogue Series, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX, United States. (October 6, 2023).

Gessas, W. J., Dialogue Series Presentation, "Colonialism and the Environment," Texas State University Philosophy Dialogue Series, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX, United States. (April 19, 2023).

Gessas, J., Hays County Master Naturalists Chapter Meeting, "Intrinsic Value in Nature," Hays County Master Naturalists, San Marcos Public Library, San Marcos, TX, United States. (February 23, 2023).

Gessas, J., Department of Philosophy and Religion Colloquium, "Environmental Philosophy and Settler Colonialism," Department of Philosophy and Religion, University of North Texas, Online. (November 6, 2020).

Gessas, J. (Speaker), Strategies for Ecology Education, "Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Climate Adaptation: The Importance of Environmental Justice," Diversity and Sustainability (SEEDS) UNT Ecological Society, Denton, TX, United States. (April 18, 2014).

4. Workshops:

Gessas, J. (Organizer and Keynote speaker), Intellectual Responsibility and Democracy Symposium, "Non-Violence in the Crisis of Democracy," University of North Texas, Department of Philosophy and Religion, Denton, TX, United States. (December 5, 2016).

Additional Comments: This was a local symposium I organized in coordination with members in the Denton IWW community

5. Other Works not in Print:

c. Other Works Not in Print:

Keynote / Plenary Addresses:

Gessas, W. J., Texas Master Naturalist Annual Conference 2024, "A Biocultural History of the San Marcos Springs," Texas Master Naturalists (Texas A&M), Embassy Suites by Hilton San Marcos Hotel & Conference Center, San Marcos, United States. (October 25, 2024).

C. Scholarly / Creative Grants and Contracts:

2. Submitted, but not Funded, External Grants and Contracts:

Williams, Justin Wayne, Gessas, Jeff, Dussler, Marcus R. Mellon Foundation - Engaged Ecology Initiative, Texas State University, Private / Foundation / Corporate, $499,500.00. Grant.

3. Funded Internal Grants and Contracts:

Williams, Justin Wayne, Gessas, William Jeffrey, Dussler, Marcus R. Biocultural Conservation at the Meadows Center, Department of Philosophy, Texas State University, $3,000.00. (Funded: May 2024). Sponsored Research.

Additional Comments: Departmental funding for research equipment.

D. Scholarly / Creative Fellowships, Awards, Honors:

Fellowship Recipient: Research Fellow at the Meadows Center, The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment.
January 1, 2025 - Present

Award / Honor Recipient: University of North Texas Academic Grant, University of North Texas.
2013 - Present

Award / Honor Recipient: Academic Achievement Scholarship, University of North Texas.
2013 - 2014

IV. SERVICE

A. Institutional

1. University:

Member, Sustainability Studies Faculty Advisory Council - Philosophy. (April 14, 2025 - Present).

Additional Comments: I've replaced Craig Hanks (Chair, Department of Philosophy and Religion Studies) on the Sustainability Studies Faculty

Advisory Council starting this year. In this role, I help facilitate cross-disciplinary collaborations from philosophy with other disciplines and members of the sustainability studies faculty, help organize, list, recruit, teach, and facilitate graduate level courses offered in Philosophy for sustainability studies MA students, and serve on various committees and professional projects for Sustainability Studies

Graduate Advisor, Environmental Leadership, Engagement, and Ethics Graduate Advisor and Coordinator. (August 2024 - Present).

Co-Chair, Engaged Ecology Initiative. (June 1, 2023 - Present).

Organizer, Intellectual Responsibility and Democracy - Interdisciplinary Symposium. (December 5, 2016 - Present).

Organizer, Decolonial Reading Group. (August 2019 - August 2021).

Additional Comments: I formed this reading group to fill a gap in course offerings at the graduate level regarding issues of Decolonization and the Environment. It was quite successful, widely attended by faculty and students (graduate and undergraduate) across many disciplines.

3. Department/School:

Co-Chair, Philosophy and Religion Graduate Student Association (PRGSA). (2018 - 2020).

Graduate Student Representative for Faculty Hiring Committee, Latin(x) Faculty Hire Committee. (October 2019 - February 2020).

C. Community:

Co-Chair, Engaged Ecology Initiative, San Marcos, TX. (June 1, 2023 - Present).

Participant, Texas State Stream Team, San Marcos, TX. (2012 - 2013).

Additional Comments: Stream Team Technical Assistant, Citizen Science Trainer, Community Outreach and Education, Environmental Data Quality Assurance, Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX

Volunteer, Westcave Outdoor Discovery Center, Round Mountain, TX. (2012 - 2013).

Additional Comments: Ecological Educator/Guide, Ecology Tour Guide, Land Management, Environmental Learning Center Service Desk, Westcave Outdoor Discovery Center, Round Mountain, TX

D. Organization Memberships:

Engaged Ecology Initiative (EEI). (2023 - Present).

American Philosophical Association (APA). (2014 - Present).

International Association for Environmental Philosophy (IAEP). (2014 - Present).

International Society for Environmental Ethics (ISEE). (2014 - Present).