

Curriculum Vitae

J. Steve Miller, Ph.D.

CONTACT INFORMATION

James Stephen ("Steve") Miller
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EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Kennesaw State University. I've taught the first-year seminar, Tomorrow's World Today, the transfer seminar, Critical and Creative Thinking, and an honors seminar. 2013–present. I now teach "Introduction to Religion" and "Trends in Religious Studies: Death, Dying and the Afterlife" in the Interdisciplinary Studies Department.

Vice President, Wisdom Creek Press, LLC, www.wisdomcreekpress.com, 2008–present.

Founder and President, Legacy Educational Resources, www.character-education.info, 1995–2020.

International Youth Worker Developer and Webmaster, Reach Out Youth Solutions, Dunajska Luzna, Slovakia, and Atlanta, GA (1993–2001).

Minister of Youth, Fayetteville, Georgia (1986–1991)

Co-Pastor, Fellowship Bible Church, Dalton, Georgia (1980–1985)

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Intercultural Studies at Columbia International University, with a concentration in Worldview Studies. Spring 2018. Dissertation title: "Deathbed Experiences as Evidence for the Existence of God and Heaven."

Southwestern Seminary, M.Div., Fort Worth, Texas (1982–1983)

Trinity Seminary, Deerfield, IL, studies in Philosophy of Religion (1981–1982)

University of Georgia, studies in Philosophy, Psychology of Religion, Ethics, Deductive Logic, and Religion (1978–1979)

Columbia International University, B.A., Columbia, SC (1976–1980)

Dalton State University, Dalton, Georgia, studies in Liberal Arts (1975–1976)

TEACHING AWARDS AND HONORS

2018–2019 Outstanding Part-Time Teaching Award, Kennesaw State University

2018–2019 Outstanding Part-Time Teaching Award, Interdisciplinary Studies Department, Kennesaw State University

2015–2016 Outstanding Part-Time Teaching Award, University College, Kennesaw State University

2015 Invitation to "President's 4.0 Luncheon" (by a student from my First-Year Seminar class)

BOOKS, ARTICLES AND RESOURCES

- “Deathbed Visions: Glimpses of the Afterlife?” Chapter in Lee Strobel, *Seeing the Supernatural*.
- Co-Editor of the Afterlife Apologetics Web Project at the website of the “Evangelical Philosophical Society.”
- *Is Christianity Compatible with Deathbed and Near-Death Experiences? The Surprising Presence of Jesus, Scarcity of Anti-Christian Elements, and Compatibility with Historic Christian Teachings*. (Wisdom Creek Press, 2023)
- *Deathbed Experiences as Evidence for the Afterlife: A Groundbreaking, Scientific Apologetic, Evaluating Studies of Extraordinary Deathbed Visions, Terminal Lucidity, After Death Communications, and Children’s Experiences at Death*. (Wisdom Creek Press, 2021)
- *Why Brilliant People Believe Nonsense: A Practical Text on Critical and Creative Thinking*, J. Steve Miller and Cherie K. Miller (Wisdom Creek Academic, 2015)
- *Faith That’s Not Blind: A Brief Introduction to Contemporary Arguments for the Existence of God* (Wisdom Creek Academic, 2016)
- *Richard Dawkins and His God Delusion* (Wisdom Creek Press, 2013)
- *Near-Death Experiences As Evidence for the Existence of God and Heaven* (2012, Wisdom Creek Press)
- *The Contemporary Christian Music Debate* (Tyndale House Publishers, 1985)
- *Erkundung der Ewigkeit* (2014, Verlagsgruppe, Random House, Bertelsmann)
- Russian and Croatian editions of above book by Centrepolygraph Publishers (Moscow) and Znanje Publishers (Croatia)
- *Christelijke muziek in beroering* (1994, Stichting Ecovata)
- *Moderne christliche Musik* (1995, Asaph Verlag)
- *Debate de la Musica Cristiana Contemporanea* (Editorial Unilit)
- *Muzica Crestina Contemporana* (Impact Media, 2001)
- споры о современной христианской музыке (2001)
- Wrote life skills and character education curriculum that has been used in every state and 30 countries at www.character-education.info
- Wrote articles on writing and youth work for *The Creative Penn*, *Southern Writers*, *Youthworker Journal*, *Group*, *ProBlogger*

SPEAKING

- “Visions as Evidence in Afterlife Apologetics from Plato to Nicaea to Now.” Paper presented at the 2025 Southeast Regional Meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society and Evangelical Philosophical Society.
- “Carpe Diem! Fifty Years of Near-Death Research Invites Christian Philosophic/Apologetic/Theological Assessment.” Paper presented at the 2024 meeting of the Evangelical Philosophical Society.
- “Afterlife Apologetics: Near-Death and Deathbed Experiences,” eight interviews on related topics with Dr. Sean McDowell, February 2021–2025.
- “Near-Death Experiences” interview on “Pondering Christianity” website.
- “Near-Death Experiences” interview on Skeptiko.

- “Near-Death Experiences” Apologetics 315.
- “Christian Apologetics,” Youth Group at LifeBridge Church, Kennesaw, Georgia, Feb.–March 2019.
- “Sharpening Our Arguments,” Ratio Christi, Kennesaw State University, Spring 2018.
- "Maximizing Critical Thinking in the Classroom," Spring 2018, for the Center for Excellence in Teaching, Signature Series for faculty.
- “Near-Death Experiences and Deathbed Experiences as Evidence for the Existence of the Afterlife,” Ratio Christi, Kennesaw State University, Fall 2017.
- “Christian Apologetics,” Adult Small Group at LifeBridge Church.
- “Idea-Driven Leadership,” Collegiate Leadership Summit, KSU, March 2017.
- “Maximizing Critical Thinking,” Symposium for Part-Time, Adjunct, and Contingent Educators, Summer 2016.
- “From Instructing to Inspiring, As We Teach Critical Thinking” (Librarian’s Conference, AABIG, at Mercer University, Summer 2016)
- "Maximizing Critical Thinking in the Classroom" (KSU's Research on Teaching and Learning Summit, 2014)
- Guest Lecturer at Kennesaw State University (New Media Class on "Search Engine Optimization")
- SoCon, annual KSU social media conference ("Social Media for Authors," "Why Social Media Might NOT Work for Certain Businesses")
- Bob Davison Lecture Series, Dalton Regional Library (“Writing and Publishing in a Digital Age”)
- Flevo Festival, Holland (“History of Christian Music Styles in Times of Transition”)
- Youth Worker Conference, Moscow (“Music, Youth, and Historical Tension”)
- Character Education Conference, St. Louis, Missouri (“Teaching with People Stories”)
- KSU’s Annual Conference on Literature (“Teaching Literature to Change Lives”)
- Youth Worker Training (Slovakia and Romania)
- Southern Company, Atlanta ("Personal Finance")
- Character Education Mentor and leader of Seniors at Kennesaw Mountain High School
- Georgia Writers Association (“Getting Published Without a Platform”)
- Teen Leadership Retreat on Personal Finance (Cherokee Chamber of Commerce)
- Artists Seminar, Holland (“The Problem of Evil”)
- Cherokee Chamber of Commerce (Business Seminar on Personal Finance)

BOOK AWARDS

Why Brilliant People Believe Nonsense

- 2015 Best Books Award (Los Angeles) Finalist
- 2016 Nominated for Georgia Author of the Year (The oldest book award in the Southeastern United States)

Near-Death Experiences

- 2013 Georgia Author of the Year Award for best religious work
- 2013 Eric Hoffer Award (established "as a means of opening a door to writing of significant

merit. It honors the memory of the great American philosopher Eric Hoffer by highlighting salient writing...")

SIGNIFICANT SKILLS

Research, writing, publishing, speaking, teaching, organizing, people skills, counseling, energy.

STUDENT COMMENTS FROM END OF SEMESTER EVALUATIONS AT KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

"The course allowed me to develop my critical thinking abilities."

"Excellent course content and teaches you valuable life lessons."

"Great mentor and teacher."

"Very interactive."

"Very passionate about his work, very thorough, great guy, he's funny so the class isn't boring, and I respect him completely."

"The class was excellent, would strongly recommend!"

"Professor Miller is an excellent teacher. He knows how to include the class in different discussions without our opinions clouding the purpose of the discussion."

"Very good at including other cultures and viewpoints."

"He has a lot of knowledge behind his research and is very relatable."

"Engages with students, helps improve habits to be better in college and outside of school, pushes students to go out and beyond."

"Professor Miller really caused us to think and the content was extremely applicable to our lives and college careers."

"...the best teacher I have ever had."

"Open to feedback, unbiased/open-minded, relaxed."

"Mr. Miller was a great professor. He challenged us, while also creating an extremely chill class environment which made class more comfortable which created more honest and deep discussions as a class. He utilized class discussion which I loved. He treated us with the utmost respect and went out of his way to know us as individuals and I really appreciated that. He gave helpful feedback and was great at communicating with us through email."

"Was clearly passionate about teaching and learning and just knowledge in general."

"There is not a number high enough for how much I enjoyed professor Miller. I have talked about him so much this semester, as he is the absolute best instructor I have ever had. He is so intelligent yet so eager to learn from everything. It is so refreshing to have a teacher that truly cares about what we have to say. Through the class, he has always been immediately available to all of us. He treats us with a level of respect that really NO one ever has. I have never met someone who is so kind, open minded, intelligent, and just an all-around great guy."

"Motivational speaker, a good role model."

"Very animated, very productive, always available and checks emails. Great personality."

INTERESTS

Research, Writing, Teaching, Family, Wilderness Adventures, Racquetball, Learning, Music,

Caregiving for the Elderly