

James J. Dillon, Ph.D.

Professor of Psychology

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Academic Achievement

Teacher Certification: Initial Georgia State Certification: April, 2014
Early Childhood Education, Grades Pre-K-5

Clark University, Worcester, Mass., Ph.D., Psychology, 1997
Dissertation: The Differential Effects of Five Teaching Strategies on Children's Understanding of Biology and the Inside of the Body

Clark University, Worcester, Mass., M.A., 1994
Thesis: Symbol Formation: Concretizing the Abstract and Intangible

College of the Holy Cross, B.A., Psychology, *in cursu honoris, magna cum laude*, 1990
Honor's Thesis: Terminally Ill Children's Understanding of Imminent Death

GACE

Basic Skills Assessment	Spring, 2014
Early Childhood Education	Spring, 2014

Professional Activity

- Dillon, J. (2022). *The joy of duty: Human happiness and ethical obligation*. Ethics International.
- Swogger, B., & Dillon, J. (2022). Historical foundations of affectivity and learning research: C.G. Jung's word-association experiments. In P. Fossa & C. Cortés-Rivera (Eds.), *Affectivity and learning: Bridging the gap between neurosciences, cultural and cognitive psychology* (pp. 587-603). Springer.
- Dillon, J. (2021). Occluding the obligational realm: How psychology misconstrues happiness. *The Catholic Social Science Review*, 26, 235-245.
- Dillon, J. (2021). Reassembling the real person: A Jungian and mythical-dramatistic approach to human development. *The Journal of Humanistic Psychology*, 61(5), 786-805. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022167819853072>
- Dillon, J. (2020). Humanistic psychology and the good: A forgotten link. *The Humanistic Psychologist*, 48(3), 244-256.
- Dillon, J. (2019). *Inside today's elementary classrooms: A psychologist's perspective*. Palgrave-Macmillan.
- Dillon, J. (2018). A letter to a new faculty member: How to stay sane in the academy. *The Humanistic Psychologist*, 46(2), 147-158.
- Dillon, J. (2016). *Teaching psychology and the Socratic Method: Real knowledge in a virtual age*. Palgrave Macmillan.

- Dillon, J. (2013). Using Socrates to teach psychology: A humanistic approach to Psychology 101. *The Journal of Humanistic Psychology, 53*(3), 362-385.
- Dillon, J. (2011). Psychology and spiritual life writing. *The Humanistic Psychologist, 39*(2): 137-153.
- Dillon, J. (2010). Primal vision: The psychological effects of creation myth. *The Journal of Humanistic Psychology, 50*(4), 495-513.
- Dillon, J. (2009). Benjamin Franklin: A wonder-based approach to life and learning. *Encounter: Education for Meaning and Social Justice, 22*(4), 1-10.
- Dillon, J. (2008). Reclaiming humanistic psychology from modernity: Problems and solutions. *Journal of Humanistic Psychology, 48*(2), 221-242.
- Dillon, J., Sagarin, J., & Bibace, R. (2008). Change in reasoning about the body through psychological distancing activities. *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology, 29*(4), 254-258.
- Dillon, J. (2006). The tears of Priam: Reflections on *Troy* and teaching of ancient texts. *Humanitas, 19*(1): 126-131.
- Dillon, J. (2006). Irving Babbitt's "New Humanism" and its potential value to humanistic psychology. *The Humanistic Psychologist, 34*(1), 59-73.
- Dillon, J. (2006). Spirituality for humans, not angels. *AHP Perspective*, February/March, 27-29.
- Dillon, J. (2005). Learning psychology: Using the seminar to teach undergraduates. *The Georgia Psychologist, 59*, 4-6.
- Dillon, J. (2005). The development of discernment in St. Ignatius Loyola. In E. Dowling W. Scarlett (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Religious and Spiritual Development* (pp. 45-54). New York: Sage Publications.
- Dillon, J. (2004). Psychological studies on spiritual and religious development. *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion, 13*(1), 239-243.
- Dillon, J. (2003). Bringing counseling to the classroom and the residence hall: The university learning community. *Journal of Humanistic Counseling Education and Development, 42*, 194-208.
- Dillon, J. (2002). The role of the child in adult development. *The Journal of Adult Development, 9*(4), 267-275.
- Dillon, J. (2001). Children's secret lives. *Science & Spirit, 13*(1), 45 & 50.
- Dillon, J. (2000). The spiritual child: Appreciating children's transformative effects on adults. *Encounter: Education for Meaning and Social Justice, 13*(4), 4-18.
- Bibace, R., Dillon, J., & Dowds, B. (1999). *Partnerships in research, clinical and educational settings*. Ablex Press.
- Dillon, J. (1999). The distancing strategy as ethical commitment. In R. Bibace, J. Dillon, & B. Dowds (Eds.), *Partnerships in research, clinical and educational settings* (pp. 105-120). Greenwich, CT.: Ablex Press.
- Dillon, J. (1999). It's the relationship that matters most: Sidney Jourard and his significance to psychological research and education. A. Richards and T. Shumrum (Eds.). *Invitations to dialogue: The legacy of Sidney M. Jourard* (pp. 235-246). Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company.
- Dillon, J. (1999). Tripping on the Cosmic Game. *The Humanistic Psychologist, 27*(2), 246-250.
- Dillon, J. (1999). The new millennium and its discontents. *Georgia Psychologist, 53*(4), 19. (Reprinted in *Psychogram: Virginia Academy of Clinical Psychologists*,

25(1), 22-23).

Dillon, J., & Futterman, A. (1998). Faith, doubt, and well-being in later life. *The Journal of Aging and Identity*, 3(3), 153-169.

Futterman, A., Dillon, J., & Haugh, J. (1998). Quest religiosity and the search for meaning in later life. L.E. Thomas and S.A. Eisenhandler (Eds.). *Religion, belief, and spirituality in late life* (pp. 153-177). Springer.

Dillon, J. (1997). Repairing broken faith in early adulthood. *The Living Light*, 33(3), 12-22.

Selected conference papers, posters, and colloquia

Dillon, J. (October, 2022). Oikeiosis and the development of a sense of duty in children and adolescents. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Catholic Social Scientists, Latrobe, PA.

Dillon, J. (October, 2022). Individual history and collective amnesia. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Catholic Social Scientists, Latrobe, PA.

Dillon, J. (October, 2021). Razed liberal: The nature and developmental effects of liberal parenting practices. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Catholic Social Scientists, Steubenville, OH.

Dillon, J. (March, 2015). A few surprising things about today's elementary schools. University of West Georgia College of Social Science Colloquium, Carrollton, GA.

Dillon, J. (February, 2014). The psychological effects of creation myth. University of North Georgia Arts and Letters Conference, Dahlonega, GA.

Bartholomew, F., & Dillon, J. (2011). Listening to students' voices: Assessing what psychology majors have learned. Paper presented at the annual SPARC research conference, Carrollton, GA.

Dillon, J. (2008). Tailoring teaching to student orientation to college. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Boston, MA.

Dillon, J. (2008). Materialism and happiness in ancient Greek thought. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Boston, MA.

Dillon, J. (2007, November). The development of discernment in children. Paper presented at the bi-annual meeting of the Conference on Children's Spirituality, Chattanooga, TN.

Dillon, J. (2002, August). William James and the challenge of religious experience to Psychology's self-understanding. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Chicago, IL.

Dillon, J. (2002, April). Learning from learning communities. Invited speaker at the Georgia Board of Regents' Teaching and Learning with Advanced Technologies Conference, Athens, GA.

Dillon, J. (2001, August). Fairy tales: A valuable methodological resource. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, San Francisco, CA.

Dillon, J. (2000, August). Children's effects on adults' spiritual life. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Washington, D.C.

Dillon, J. (2000, August). Research on children's spirituality. Hospitality suite discussion hour delivered at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Washington, D.C.

Dillon, J. (2000, April). Children, adults, and spirituality: A conversation about spiritual development. Colloquium presented to the Department of Psychology, State University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA.

- Dillon, J. (1999, April). The psychological distancing strategy, education, and human development. Poster presented at the annual conference of the Society for Research on Child Development, Albuquerque, N.M.
- Dillon, J. (1998, October). The development of metaphor. Colloquium presented to the Department of Psychology, State University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA.
- Dillon, J. (1997, February). Toward an ethically-inspired developmental psychology: The distancing strategy as an educational tool. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Eastern Psychological Association Conference, Boston, Massachusetts.
- Bibace, R., & Dillon, J. (1997, April). The Co-existence concept of development. Paper presented at the annual conference of the Society for Research in Child Development, Washington, D.C.
- Dillon, J., & Bibace, R. (1997, April). On the limitations of the forced-choice technique. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Eastern Psychological Association, Washington, D.C.
- Dillon, J. (1996, September). Research participants as partners, not subjects: Concepts and ramifications. Paper presented at the Conference of the New England Psychological Association, New London, Connecticut.
- Dillon, J. (1996, October). The differential effects of four psychological distancing strategies on children's conceptions of biology. Poster presented U.S. Pharmacopoeia Conference, "Children and Medicines: Information Isn't Just for Grownups," Reston, VA.

University Teaching Experience

- 2008-present Professor of Psychology, University of West Georgia
- 2002-2008 Associate Professor of Psychology, University of West Georgia
- 2003-2008 Adjunct Professor (Theology Program), Spring Hill College
- 1998-2002 Assistant Professor of Psychology, University of West Georgia
- 1994-1997 Visiting Instructor of Psychology, College of the Holy Cross

Directed Student Learning

Theses & Dissertations Directed

- Leslie Gouger, *Exploring Children's Religious Lives*, MA Thesis, 2007.
- Valerie Cleveland, *Radical Recovery: An Integrative Approach for Treating Addiction*, MA Thesis, 2010.
- Richard Sears, *The Psychology of Dehumanization*, MA Thesis, 2011.
- Paul Nelson, *Acts Against Judgment: The Psychological Experience of Violating One's Basic Principles*, MA Thesis, 2015.
- Noah Cochran, *Consulting Characters: Inner Dialogue and Decision-Making*, MA Thesis, 2017.
- Mark Rich, *Psychology and the Sacred: Exploring the Practices that Animate our Lives*, MA Thesis, 2018.
- Andrea Laubstein, *Toward a Yogic Pedagogy*, MA Thesis, 2018.
- Elena Mayfield, *Institutional Deprivation and Its Effects on Child Development*, Undergraduate

Honor's Thesis, 2018.
Andrea Stover, *Levels of Love: Toward a Developmental Model of Romantic Love Relationships*, Doctoral Dissertation, 2020.
Louise Grann, *Transcendent Play: An Exploration into How Imaginative Role Play in Video Games Can Facilitate Self-Discovery*, Doctoral Dissertation, 2021.

University Service

Psychology Program Coordinator—2020-2022. Duties include program assessment, course scheduling, academic advising, faculty development, and facilitating program meetings.
Director of Undergraduate Assessment—2010-present. Develops assessment batteries to measure effectiveness of program learning outcomes, coordinates administration of assessments with faculty colleagues, writes annual assessment reports for office of Institutional Research and Assessment.
College of Arts, Culture, & Scientific Inquiry Executive Committee—2022-present. Psychology Program Representative.
College of Arts, Culture, & Scientific Inquiry Committee on Teacher Preparation—2022-present.
Chair, Online Psychology BA Program Development Committee—2022-present. Works with faculty colleagues toward the development of a separate online program in psychology for out-of-state and international students who cannot attend campus in person.
Coordinator, Love and Friendship Learning Community—AY 2021. Worked with two faculty colleagues to develop a program where 25 students take three separate psychology classes together dealing with the theme of love and friendship.
Director, Psychology Undergraduate Psychology Program—2004-2020. Coordinated university-wide articulation of learning outcomes for undergraduate core curriculum, developed assessment batteries for evaluating learning outcomes, and worked to revise the undergraduate core curriculum based upon assessment data.
Faculty Advisor, 2017-2018 African American Male Initiative First Year Program.
Coordinator, Meaningful Life Learning Community—AY 2016.
Coordinator, Undergraduate Psychology Major Advising program—2009-2017.
Coordinator Meaningful Life Learning Community—AY 2007.
University Student Services Committee—1999-2008.
Coordinator of Making Decisions Undergraduate First-Year Learning Community—2000-2006.
Psychology Department Search Committee Chair—2003, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2010.
Chair of Psychology Department 5-Year Program Review Committee—2006 & 2011.
Retention, Progression, Graduation Advisor for Psychology Department—2007-2011.
Summer Orientation Academic Advisor—2008-2011
Member, Tenure and Promotion Committee, College of Arts and Sciences—2009-2010
Chair, Search Committee—Associate Dean College of Arts and Sciences—2010.
Chair, Search Committee—Dean College of Social Sciences—2011.
Member President's Special Commission on Graduation Rates—2011.

Awards & Honors

Georgia Regents' Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Faculty FY14 Award. Presented by University of West Georgia, 2014.

Awarded "First-Year Student Advocate of the Year," Fall, 2001, State University of West Georgia.

Nominated for Governor's Teaching Fellowship, College of Arts & Sciences, State University of West Georgia. (Spring 2001)

Phi Beta Kappa, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA. (1989).

Psi Chi National Honor Society in Psychology, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA. (1988).