

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan – Flint
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Social Sciences and Humanities

Aderemi Artis, associate professor of philosophy, with tenure, Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, College of Arts and Sciences, is recommended for promotion to professor of philosophy, with tenure, Department Social Sciences and Humanities, College of Arts and Sciences.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2007	Princeton University, Philosophy, Princeton, NJ
M.A.	2003	Princeton University, Philosophy, Princeton, NJ
B.A.	2000	Davidson College, Philosophy, Davidson, NC

Professional Record:

2014 - Present	Associate Professor of Philosophy, with tenure, University of Michigan-Flint, Michigan
2008 - 2014	Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Michigan-Flint, Michigan
2006 - 2008	Adjunct Professor, DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Since his promotion to associate professor, Professor Artis has continued to excel in the classroom, both virtual and on-campus. His course offerings are extensive and diverse, including 11 different course preparations during his post-tenure period. He has taught the introductory survey of philosophy 16 times since his promotion to associate professor, indicating his commitment to expose new students to the wonders of philosophy and his dedication to present the discipline in creative and engaging ways that resonate with the everyday lives of his students. Professor Artis' courses range across philosophy, ethics, logic, and critical thinking with advanced courses on medieval, early modern, and modern philosophy, as well as topical courses on the philosophy of science, religion, and popular culture. Professor Artis continues to develop innovative ideas for teaching and is currently developing a course on philosophy and the environment.

Professor Artis' courses are well designed and organized with readings and assignments that are engaging, clear, and directly relevant to course content. Professor Artis creates, edits, and curates his own compilations of reading materials that address the cultivation of basic academic skills, writing, and critical thinking. His courses are demanding and writing intensive, but he provides clear guidance and expectations, and student comments reflect a sense of challenge but with the reassurance of a caring and engaged professor.

His success in the classroom has also translated to the financial success of his discipline. Professor Artis' committed to and highly skilled in the development of online courses, a method of instruction increasingly important to the philosophy program's fully online degree program and course offerings. He has developed deep expertise in instructional technology and learning

platforms, exploring and employing available resources such as lightboard lecturing, video graphic software, and creating unique online learning environments that are intuitive, informational and aesthetically compelling. In reviewing PHL 162, the online designer with OEL wrote: “Overall, this course represents the level of quality that UM-Flint strives for and endeavors to support. The content is clearly organized, the assessment methods are varied, and the instructor is the driving presence and force behind instruction.”

Professor Artis is a skilled instructor, supporting his students in the classroom and as a dedicated advisor. It is clear from student evaluation scores and comments that Professor Artis has a talent for engaging students and explaining complex and abstract philosophical material and concepts. Students find his lectures both profound and very helpful in understanding the material. “A lot of the material was from hundreds to thousands of years ago and was very difficult to understand,” explained one student, “but Professor Artis was able to put it in relatively simple terms and connect it to our lives today.” Students also expressed gratitude for the high level of support they receive in his classes, citing the frequency and thoroughness of feedback and guidance.

Research: Professor Artis’ area of expertise is in early modern philosophy, one of the richest and most significant eras of the discipline. Professor Artis’ research, however, has carved out a unique and largely un- or under-examined intellectual territory. For example, his interest in the religious ideas held by early modern philosophers is an often-neglected area as it is assumed that these philosophers were indifferent to religion or made insincere statements to avoid persecution. Therefore, early modern philosophy is typically presented absent its theological underpinnings. It is into such neglected and misunderstood spaces that Professor Artis focusses his work. The result is that his research has made original and valuable contributions to early modern philosophical scholarship.

Each of Professor Artis’ chosen research projects required tremendous preparatory effort, far more than most philosophical research projects. For example, he learned Latin because so many of the authors in the early modern period published and communicated with each other in Latin. Additionally, Professor Artis’ research projects have necessitated him accessing original documents such as those reserved on site in the Bodleian Library at Oxford University. While the pandemic impacted in-person access, Professor Artis maintained his productivity. He has maintained a consistent record of conference presentations and paper publication on a broad range of topics with each of his major publications focusing on a different figure. The fact that Professor Artis has written on an assortment of philosophers, defended novel and controversial claims about them, and had his articles accepted for publication in well-known, highly ranked, and competitive journals speaks highly of the quality and scope of his work.

Professor Artis has written two papers on Francis Bacon, “The Trinitarian Roots of Francis Bacon’s Pragmatism” and “The Concept of Changing Laws of Nature in the Baconian Corpus.” In addition to these excellent journal publications, Professor Artis has published other highly regarded pieces targeted toward broader audiences. These generalist papers address aesthetics, video gaming, and the philosophy of sport.

Professor Artis is a dedicated and enthusiastic researcher in the best tradition of scholarship that advances knowledge in the discipline as well as attracts audiences that otherwise might miss the value and vitality of philosophic inquiry. Professor Artis is currently working on several projects that will extend his influence within his field.

Recent and Significant Scholarly Activity:

Artis, Aderemi. 2022. "The Concept of Changing Laws of Nature in the Baconian Corpus from 1597 to 1623," *Early Science and Medicine*, vol. 27, 1-26.

Artis, Aderemi. 2022. "Battery in the Octagon: Revisiting Hunt v Zuffa," *Fair Play: Journal of Ethics, Philosophy, and Sports Law*, vol. 21, 24-38.

Artis, Aderemi. 2022. "Another Face of the World: Photography as Deception and Revelation," *Aesthetics for Birds*. <https://aestheticsforbirds.com>

Service: Professor Artis served on the Public Safety Committee and was the moderator and one of the organizers of the Interfaith Roundtable. The Public Safety Committee may not receive the attention of other university wide committees, but it is indeed important in today's environment. At the college level, Professor Artis served on the LEO Major Review Committee. Professor Artis was instrumental in producing documents for online course observation, served as the assessment coordinator, and produced a series of videos to promote the Philosophy Department/Program. He has been active in the community and has brought visibility to the university through a YouTube channel on philosophy, where several videos have a high number of views.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "There can be little doubt that the quality of Prof. Artis's [sic] research is more than high enough to gain promotion to full professor."

Reviewer B: "As a scholar Dr. Artis has maturity and range...the work is original and of high quality and has appeared in consistently good and respected venues."

Reviewer C: "I am convinced that the variety of interests suggests an open-mindedness that is particularly welcome from a philosopher."

Reviewer D: "In my estimation Prof. Artis's [sic] research record would earn him serious consideration for appointment to the rank of full professor at [my institution]."

Reviewer E: "Dr. Artis's [sic] publications all exhibit highly organized overarching structure... and they exhibit professionalism and polish that meet the highest standards of work in the history of philosophy."

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Artis' excellence and dedication, evident in each of the domains, meets or exceeds the College standards for promotion. I recommend Aderemi Artis for promotion to professor of philosophy, with tenure, Department Social Sciences and Humanities, College of Arts and Sciences.

Recommended by:



Douglas Knerr, Interim Dean
College of Arts and Sciences

Recommendation endorsed by:



Sonja Feist-Price, Provost and
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs



Debasish Dutta, Chancellor
University of Michigan – Flint

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