

Contact

082 327 1104

wehancoombs@gmail.com

Website: wehancoombs.com ↗

LinkedIn

Pretoria East · in person or online

Qualifications

PhD in Philosophy
University of Pretoria, 2023

MA in Philosophy
UP, 2016, cum laude

BA Honours in Philosophy
UP, 2012, cum laude

BA Humanities: English Literature and Philosophy
UP, 2010

PGCE (FET Phase)
UP, in progress, 2026

TESOL/TEFL Certificate
120 hours, 2026

Languages

English
Home language

Afrikaans
Fluent

Dr Wehan M. Coombs

Teacher, philosopher, writer and learning designer

Profile

Philosopher and English teacher with a PhD, fifteen years of university teaching and a year in the high-school classroom. I explain difficult ideas clearly, design courses and materials from the ground up, write and edit with care, and build simple digital tools for learning. In the age of AI I teach what cannot be automated: reading closely, arguing honestly, thinking in dialogue.

Skills

Teaching and facilitation
Lecturing to classes of 500; discussion seminars; Grade 10 to 12 English; online and hybrid teaching; one-to-one tutoring and TEFL.

Course design and tools
Four university modules built from scratch; five study guides and three readers; rubrics and assessments; ClickUP and Blackboard; live-streamed lectures; simple web apps.

Writing, editing and research
Two peer-reviewed articles and thirteen conference papers on Plato, Neoplatonism and esotericism; editing of theses, essays and course materials; digital PR copy.

Leading and organising
Tutor teams trained and managed; lecture schedules and assessment plans; student support systems; a colloquium co-organised.

Experience

University of Pretoria, Department of Philosophy — 2010 – 2026

Tutor (2010 – 2013), Assistant Lecturer (2014 – 2018), Head Lecturer (2016 – 2026)

- Head lecturer for first-year, second-year and honours modules, including first-year classes of more than 500 students
- Designed four modules from scratch and partly redesigned a fifth, writing their study guides and co-compiling a custom reader
- Trained and managed tutor teams, created assessments, marked thousands of essays and exams, and taught live online with my own streaming equipment

University of Johannesburg — Apr 2024 – Apr 2026

Postdoctoral Research Fellow: Platonic and African Esotericism

Abbotts College Pretoria East and Hoërskool Garsfontein — May – Sep 2026

PGCE teaching practicums, ten weeks in charge of classes

- Grade 10 and 11 English Home Language and First Additional Language (*Macbeth*, *The Tempest*, poetry, film and grammar); mentor assessment 95/100, and 98/100 for an observed lesson

Freelance — 2026 –

Tutoring, editing, learning design and digital PR writing for a marketing agency

Strengths

- Clear, patient explanation
- Close reading and argument
- Course and materials design
- Detailed, constructive feedback
- Online teaching and production
- Calm under a heavy workload
- Reliable deadlines

Memberships

Philosophical Society of Southern Africa (since 2017)

International Society for Neoplatonic Studies (since 2017)

SACE provisional registration as a student teacher (2026)

Full resume

Every module taught, every paper, the teaching portfolio and student evaluations. Scan or click:

Open the full resume online

Dr Wehan M. Coombs

Highlights

- Average student rating of **4.5 out of 5** across eight evaluated university courses, 2017 to 2026; **4.81** for the 2026 honours course
- **95/100** in the formal mentor assessment and **98/100** for an observed lesson during the 2026 school practicums
- Created **FIL110**, Introduction to Metaphysics and Epistemology, in 2019; still taught at the University of Pretoria in 2026
- Two articles in peer-reviewed journals and thirteen papers at conferences, colloquia and workshops since 2012

> *"In 2019 I noted that Dr Coombs had the potential to become a brilliant lecturer. In the years since, he has more than fulfilled that potential, at first-year, second-year and honours level, and I recommend him without reservation."*
>
> Prof Emma Ruttkamp-Bloem, Head of Philosophy, University of Pretoria, 2026

Publications and papers

- Coombs, W.M. 2017. Aristotle's harmony with Plato on separable and immortal soul. *South African Journal of Philosophy* 36(4): 541–552
- Coombs, W.M. 2013. Contingency, irony and morality: A critical review of Rorty's notion of the liberal utopia. *Humanities* 2(2): 313–327
- Is Philosophy A(gnostic)? Post-disciplinary Interventions in the Time of Metacrisis. PSSA Annual Conference, University of Cape Town, 2026 (with Mitchell Black)
- Reflexive Esotericism: Insights from Literary and Theological Hermeneutics. PSSA Conference, North-West University, 2025

Service and community

- Footnotes, the UP philosophy society, 2010 – 2025 (talks and film screenings); co-organised the Aristotle Colloquium at UP for Aristotle's 2400th birth year, 2016
- Community engagement at Abbotts College (community garden, a shoe donation outreach, Book Day) and Hoërskool Garsfontein (*Kersfees in die Winter*), 2026

Referees

Prof. Emma Ruttkamp-Bloem
Head of the Department of Philosophy, University of Pretoria
emma.ruttkamp-bloem@up.ac.za

Prof. John F. Finamore
Emeritus Professor of Classics, University of Iowa
john-finamore@uiowa.edu

Eben van Dien
Mentor teacher, Abbotts College Pretoria East
evdien@abbotts.co.za

Dr Mitchell Black
Colleague and research collaborator, University of Pretoria
mblackmitchell@gmail.com