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Biography: James Conlon received his Ph.D. in philosophy from Marquette University in 1975. He received the Mount Mary Award for Teaching Excellence in 1991 and the Heritage Medal in 1999. He has published articles in the *Journal of Aesthetic Education*, the *Journal of Popular Film & Television*, *Frontiers* and *Philosophy in the Contemporary World*.

Teaching Interests: I find myself drawn to philosophizing and teaching about human experiences that I have found especially exhilarating. Thus, I regularly teach courses in philosophy of art, film, travel and love. I find teaching the introductory Search for Meaning course particularly exciting, because it is usually the first awakening students have to philosophy and its unique approach to the kind of meaning questions that inevitably arise in the course of living.

Teaching Philosophy: My goal is to get students to do philosophy and, hopefully, to see the value of doing it. I see traditional and contemporary philosophical texts as a tool for doing this, but I do not view these texts as ends in themselves. In other words, I want students to seriously think about their reasons for believing in – for example - an afterlife, rather than knowing Plato's reasons. I would describe my classroom style as an intertwining of lecture, Socratic probing and discussion.

Research Interests: I usually find myself working on the borders between philosophy and other disciplines. Lately this has been between philosophy and geography. I see the choice of where to live, of what place to inhabit, as an extremely significant ethical decision. I am trying to better understand the ethical implications of the spaces created for us by our global, consumerist society as well as travel between those places.