



Instructor: B. Kyle Keltz

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Office Hours: M/W 2:30pm–4:30pm; F 11:00am–12:00pm

Department: English

Campus: Reese Center

Course Number: Phil 1301-200

Course Title: Introduction to Philosophy

Semester/Year: Fall 2020

I. Course Description

This course presents a study of major issues in philosophy and the work of major philosophical figures in philosophy. Topics in philosophy include theories of reality, theories of knowledge, theories of value, and their practical applications.

II. Prerequisites

ENGL 1301 and ENGL 1302 are recommended but not required.

III. Course Purpose

Philosophy 1301 introduces students to general philosophical topics that explore various traditional and contemporary philosophical problems and issues. Both historical and current materials will be employed to assess the relevance of these issues as they have developed throughout history and are experienced in today's world.

IV. Required Resources for the Course

William F. Lawhead. *The Philosophical Journey: An Interactive Approach*. 7th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill Education, 2019. ISBN: 978-1259914263.

Recommended Text (not necessary for the course)

Weston, Anthony. *A Rulebook for Arguments*. 5th ed. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 2017. ISBN: 978-1624666544.

V. Core Curriculum Objectives Addressed:

- **Communications skills**—to include effective written, oral, and visual communication
- **Critical thinking skills**—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information

- **Social Responsibility**—to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
- **Personal Responsibility**—to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

VI. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students will:

1. Read, analyze, and critique philosophical texts.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of key concepts, major arguments, problems, and terminology in philosophy.
3. Present logically persuasive arguments both orally and in writing.
4. Demonstrate critical thinking skills in evaluation and application of philosophical concepts to various aspects of life.

VII. Grading of Course Work:

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------|--------------------|----------|
| Exam 1 | 200 | Grade Total: | |
| Exam 2 | 200 | A (Excellent): | 900–1000 |
| Exam 3 | 200 | B (Good): | 800–899 |
| Final Exam | 200* | C (Average): | 700–799 |
| Blackboard Reading Quizzes | 150 | D (Below Average): | 600–699 |
| Blackboard Discussion Boards | 150 | F (Failure): | 0–599 |
| Blackboard Journal Surveys | 100 | | |

*I will drop the lowest of the four exam grades.

VIII. Late Work:

Unless prior approval is received, late submission of assignments will result in a grade deduction of one half-letter grade (5%) for each calendar day (not including Saturdays, Sundays, or holidays) that the assignment is late.

IX. Attendance:

In this hybrid class, attendance will be assessed through assignment submissions and Blackboard logins. A login on our class’s Blackboard website or a submission of an academic assignment (reading quiz, discussion board, etc.) will count as attending class for the week. Students may attend the class in person, but in-person attendance is not required.

Any student who fails to login to the class's Blackboard website or submit an assignment for **three consecutive weeks will be dropped** from the course with a grade of "X" if the student has a passing grade average at that time. If the student is failing, due to poor work or missing assignments, the student will be given a grade of "F."

X. In-Person Student Code of Conduct Policy:

Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect on the part of the student and the instructor. Neither instructor nor student should be subject to others' behavior that is rude, disruptive, intimidating, aggressive, or demeaning. Student conduct that disrupts the learning process or is deemed disrespectful or threatening shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

If a student is exhibiting disruptive behavior (for example, talking loudly without permission), I will give him or her a warning. The second time this happens, I will tell the student to leave class, and the student will be counted absent for the day. I will also contact the dean. The dean will usually contact the student to schedule a time to discuss the cause of the disruptions. After this, if there is a third disruption, I will ask the student to leave class and drop the student from the course with a grade of "F."

XI. Plagiarism and Cheating:

Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy will result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F for the course if circumstances warrant it.

Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student, an online term paper site, or a mail order term paper mill;
2. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation;
3. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them; or
4. Giving an in-text citation only at the end of a paragraph.

Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion;
2. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given;
3. Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, text messaging, internet) during an examination, quiz or homework assignment;
4. Entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage;
5. Taking an examination for another;

6. Altering grade records; or
7. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment.

XII. Disability Statement:

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. Processing time could take up to 30 days once paperwork has been submitted. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716- 2577, Reese Center (Building 8) & Lubbock Center 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

XIII. Nondiscrimination Policy:

South Plains College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, marital status, sexual orientation, military status, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. All SPC courses meet federal regulations under Title II of the ADA, Sections 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President for Student Affairs, South Plains College -1401 College Avenue, Box 5, Levelland, TX 79336, 806- 716-2360.

XIV. Title IX Pregnancy Statement

If you are pregnant, or have given birth within six months, Under Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education. To activate accommodations you must submit a Title IX pregnancy accommodations request, along with specific medical documentation, to the Director of Health and Wellness. Once approved, notification will be sent to the student and instructors. It is the student's responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations. Contact Crystal Gilster, Director of Health and Wellness at 806-716- 2362 or email cgilster@southplainscollege.edu for assistance.

XV. Diversity Policy

In this class, the instructor will endeavor to establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all participants to learn about others, about the larger world, and about themselves.

XVI. Face Coverings

It is the policy of South Plains College for the Fall 2020 semester that as a condition of on-campus enrollment, all students are required to engage in safe behaviors to avoid the spread of COVID-19 in the SPC community. Such behaviors specifically include the requirement that all students properly wear CDC-compliant face coverings while in SPC buildings including in classrooms, labs, hallways, and restrooms. Failure to comply with this policy may result in dismissal from the current class session. If the student refuses to leave the classroom or lab after being dismissed, the student may be referred to the Dean of Students on the Levelland campus or the Dean/Director of external centers for Student Code of Conduct Violation.

XVII. Health and Wellness

Any student needing individual counseling for issues such as depression, anxiety, adjustment to college, stress management, and substance abuse may visit the Health and Wellness Center to chat, confidentially, with licensed mental health professionals who provide services free of charge to current SPC students. Call or visit on Levelland Campus 806-716-2529 from 8:00am–4:00pm. Students wanting to set up a counseling session will have an option to be seen face-to-face or teleconference session via Doxy.me or Zoom platform. Both students and Health and Wellness employees will wear a mask during face-to-face appointments. The number of people in an office will be limited to allow for safe social distancing. Signs are posted on the front door advising students not enter if they are showing signs of illness. Students will be escorted to an appropriate office to ensure social distancing is maintained. Any student in need of food or other essentials may visit the food pantry on Levelland Campus. Students can contact Dee Dee Odorizzi (806-716-2236) for more information.

Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify the course syllabus and policies, as well as notify students of any changes, at any point during the semester.

| Week | Date | Topics | Readings | Assignments |
|------|--------------------|---|--|--|
| 1 | Aug. 24 Aug. 26 | Introduction to Course Introduction to Philosophy | Course Syllabus Chap. 1 Intro to the Philosophical Journey (pp. 1-37) | Discussion Board 01 (Aug. 29) |
| 2 | Aug. 31 Sep. 02 | Logic Metaphysics | Chap. 1 Intro to the Philosophical Journey (pp. 37-47) Chap. 2 The Search for Ultimate Reality (pp.54-71) | Ch. 1 Reading Quiz (Sep. 05) |
| 3 | Sep. 07 Sep. 09 | Labor Day Holiday Philosophy of Mind - Dualism | No Class Chap. 2 The Search for Ultimate Reality (pp. 71-82) | No Class Discussion Board 02 (Sep. 12) |
| 4 | Sep. 14 Sep. 16 | Philosophy of Mind - Physicalism Freedom and Determinism | Chap. 2 The Search for Ultimate Reality (pp. 83-115) Chap. 2 The Search for Ultimate Reality (pp. 116-127) | Ch. 2 Reading Quiz (Sep. 19) |
| 5 | Sep. 21 Sep. 23 | Epistemology | Exam 1 Study Guide Chap. 3 The Search for Knowledge (pp. 172-193) | Exam 1 (Sep. 21) |
| 6 | Sep. 28 Sep. 30 | Epistemological Viewpoints Philosophy of Science | Chap. 3 The Search for Knowledge (pp. 193-196, 208-212, 236-244, 252-270) Chap. 3 The Search for Knowledge (pp. 295-304) | Ch. 3 Reading Quiz (Oct. 03) |
| 7 | Oct. 05 Oct. 07 | Philosophy of Religion Natural Theology | Chap. 4 The Search for God (pp. 316-344) Chap. 4 The Search for God (pp. 344-357) | Ch. 4 Reading Quiz (Oct. 10) |
| 8 | Oct. 12 Oct. 14 | Eastern Philosophy of Religion | Chap. 4 The Search for God (pp. 373-393) Exam 2 Study Guide | Exam 2 (Oct. 14) |
| 9 | Oct. 19 Oct. 21 | Ethics Ethical Relativism/Objectivism | Chap. 5 The Search for Ethical Values (pp. 410-424) Chap. 5 The Search for Ethical Values (pp. 425-445) | Discussion Board 03 (Oct. 24) |
| 10 | Oct. 26 Oct. 28 | Ethical Relativism/Objectivism Egoism/Altruism | Chap. 5 The Search for Ethical Values (pp. 425-445) Chap. 5 The Search for Ethical Values (pp. 446-462) | Discussion Board 04 (Oct. 31) |
| 11 | Nov. 02 Nov. 04 | Applied Ethics Meaning of Life | Chap. 5 The Search for Ethical Values (pp. 532-538) Chap. 7 Phil and the Meaning of Life (pp. 636-659) | Ch. 5 Reading Quiz (Nov. 07) |
| 12 | Nov. 09 Nov. 11 | Death and the Afterlife Religious Relativism | Chap. 7 Phil and the Meaning of Life (pp. 636-659) Chap. 7 Phil and the Meaning of Life (pp. 636-659) | Ch. 7 Reading Quiz (Nov. 14) |
| 13 | Nov. 16 Nov. 18 | Political Philosophy | Chap. 6 The Search for the Just Society (pp. 550-554) Exam 3 Study Guide | Exam 3 (Nov. 18) |
| 14 | Nov. 23 Nov. 25 | Political Philosophy Thanksgiving Holiday | Chap. 6 The Search for the Just Society (pp. 555-569) No Class | Discussion Board 05 (Nov. 28) No Class |
| 15 | Nov. 30 Dec. 02 | Philosophy of Law Exam Review | Chap. 6 The Search for the Just Society (pp. 569-588) Final Exam Review | Ch. 6 Reading Quiz (Dec. 05) |
| 16 | Dec. 07 Dec. 10 | Finals Week | No Class Final Exam Study Guide | No Class Final Exam (10:15am-12:15pm Dec. 09) |