



**Instructor: B. Kyle Keltz**

**Office: RC318G**

**Phone: (806) 716-2585**

**Email: bkeltz@southplainscollege.edu**

**Office Hours: M/W 1:00pm–3:00pm; F 10:30am–11:30am**

**Department: English**

**Campus: Online**

**Course Number: Phil 1301-151**

**Course Title: Introduction to Philosophy**

**Semester/Year: Fall 2021**

## **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. Credit: 3 Lecture: 3 Lab: 0**

## **IV. 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.

## **V. 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.

## VI. Student Learning Outcomes Assessment

Online exams will be used to determine course comprehension, and students will write journal entries designed to promote exploration of course concepts.

## VII. Textbook

### Required Text

William F. Lawhead. *The Philosophical Journey: An Interactive Approach*. 7<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: McGraw-Hill Education, 2019. ISBN: 978-1259914263. (This textbook is included in the course, so you don't need to buy it; see VIII below)

### Recommended Text (optional; not necessary for the course)

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

## VIII. SPC TextBook Syllabus Statement

**TextBook Program:** This course is in the SPC TextBook program, so **you do not need to purchase a textbook or access code for this course.**

What is TextBook? The required textbook/digital content for this course is available to you in Blackboard from the first day of class. The fee for the textbook/digital content is the lowest price available from the publisher and bookstore and is included in your tuition/fee payment.

How do I access my TextBook? Your course material is in your Blackboard course from the first day of class. Access to your course material is provided either by RedShelf or other links inside your Blackboard course. RedShelf (and many publisher's) ebook features include the ability to hear the text read aloud, highlight, take notes, create flash cards, see word definitions, build study guides, print select pages, and download up to 20% of the book for offline access.

Help with TextBook issues and support: check with your professor and/or contact <https://solve.redshelf.com/hc/en-us/requests/new>.

Opting out of TextBook: Participating in TextBook is not mandatory, and you can choose to opt-out. However, by opting-out you will lose access to the course textbook/digital content and competitive pricing, and you will need to purchase the required course material on your own. If you drop the class or opt-out before the opt-out deadline, the TextBook charge will be automatically refunded to your SPC account. The opt-out deadline for Fall and Spring is the twelfth class day. The opt-out deadline for shorter terms varies between the second and third class day.

\*Please consult with your professor before deciding to opt-out.

If you still feel that you should purchase the course textbook/materials on your own, send an opt-out email to [tfewell4texasbookcompany@gmail.com](mailto:tfewell4texasbookcompany@gmail.com). Include your first name, last name, student ID number, and the course you are opting out of. Once you have been opted-out, you will receive a confirmation email. If you need assistance with the process, contact the SPC Bookstore:

Email: [tfewell@texasbook.com](mailto:tfewell@texasbook.com) / Phone: 806-716-2399

Email: [agamble@texasbook.com](mailto:agamble@texasbook.com) / Phone: 806-716-4610

## **IX. Computer Help**

Need help with your computer, laptop, email address, username/password?

- [helpdesk@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:helpdesk@southplainscollege.edu)
- 806-716-2600

## **X. Blackboard Help**

1. Get Help by Email: [blackboard@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:blackboard@southplainscollege.edu)
  - Be sure to include your full name, your instructor's name, the course and section you are enrolled in, and a detailed description of the problem.
  - The [blackboard@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:blackboard@southplainscollege.edu) account is monitored from 8:00am–10:00pm, Monday–Sunday.
  - You can expect a response within 24 hours by email; however, the average response time is less than one hour.
2. Get Help by Phone: 806-716-2180 (available between 8:00am and 4:00pm Monday–Friday, except on holidays)
3. Get Help Online: click on the Help link listed in the Blackboard course menu.

## **XI. Course Syllabus and Organization**

- This syllabus is available on the Syllabus and Schedule page in our Blackboard course.
- The course calendar is available on the Syllabus and Schedule tab.
- The course is organized into sixteen weeks. Each week has its own folder on the Course Content page in our Blackboard course.
- A weekly planner and assignment checklist is provided for each week.

## **XII. Assignment Deadlines**

- The weekly assignment deadline is Monday at 9:00am

### **XIII.Course Evaluation**

A final letter grade will be assigned based on this grading scale: A (90–100), B (80–89), C (70–79), D (60–69), F (59 and below).

Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	20%
Final Exam	20%*
Blackboard Reading Quizzes	15%
Blackboard Discussion Boards	15%
<u>Blackboard Surveys</u>	<u>10%</u>
Total	100%

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

### **XIV. Student Responsibilities**

Students are expected to:

1. Participate in all class assignments/quizzes/exams and log into Blackboard regularly.
2. Be responsible for the learning process, including preparation for class, such as reading and homework; participation in class discussions; and accepting responsibility for not understanding an assignment or failing an assignment
3. Be responsible for having an appropriate attitude and using appropriate language in academic environments; not use condescending, inflammatory, threatening, or profane rhetoric, whether verbally or in written form, in academic environments
4. Have respectful behavior toward instructor and classmates in order to contribute to the atmosphere necessary for learning
5. Be responsible for courteous actions to others, especially by putting away cell phones and other distractions while in class
6. Be responsible for writing down all grades and applying them to the grading scale used for the class, which is shown in the course's policy statement/syllabus
7. Submit all assignments in accordance with due dates, formats, and requirements
8. Avoid all forms of cheating and plagiarism on all assignments, including improper collaboration
9. Ask questions when something is unclear.

### **XV.Attendance Policy**

In this online 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.

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."

## **XVI.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.

## **XVII.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.

### **XVIII. 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, making demeaning statements in a discussion board forum), that student will receive a zero for the assignment. The second time this happens, I will 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 drop the student from the course with a grade of "F."

### **XIX. 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. 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) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

### **XX. Non-Discrimination Statement**

South Plains College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. 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. Phone number 806-716-2360.

### **XXI. Diversity Statement**

In this class, the teacher will 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 of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

## **XXII. 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 the Director of Health and Wellness at 806-716-2362 or email [cgilster@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:cgilster@southplainscollege.edu) for assistance.

## **XXIII. Campus Concealed Carry**

Texas Government Code 411.2031 et al. authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College buildings by individuals and in accordance with Texas Government Code 411.209 (a). All holders of a valid Texas License to Carry may carry on their person a handgun that is concealed in accordance with Texas Penal Code 46.03 (a-2).

Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and South Plains College policy. Individuals may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations and Frequently Asked Questions, please refer to the Campus Carry page at: <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/campuscarry.php>.

Report violations to the College Police Department at 806-716-2396 or 9-1-1.

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.

## PHIL1301 - Fall 2021 Course Calendar

**Textbook: *The Philosophical Journey, 7th ed.*, by William F. Lawhead**

\*\*\*Note: Assignment and deadlines may be changed, deleted, or added, so always check in Blackboard and with the instructor.\*\*\*

Week	Start Date	Lesson Topic	Textbook Chapters	Assignments and Due Dates
1	Aug 30	Introduction to Course Introduction to Philosophy	Course Syllabus Ch. 1 (pp. 1–37)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All assignments are due on Mondays by 9:00am unless otherwise noted</li> <li>• Always check Blackboard for assignments and deadlines</li> </ul> Discussion Board 01 (Sep. 07)
2	Sep 07	<b>Labor Day Holiday (Sep 06)</b> Logic Metaphysics	Ch. 1 (pp. 37–47) Ch. 2 (pp. 54–71)	Ch. 1 Reading Quiz (Sep. 13)
3	Sep 13	Philosophy of Mind - Dualism Philosophy of Mind - Physicalism	Ch. 2 (pp. 71–82) Ch. 2 (pp. 83–115)	Discussion Board 02 (Sep. 20)
4	Sep 20	Freedom and Determinism	Ch. 2 (pp. 116–127)	Ch. 2 Reading Quiz (Sep. 27)
5	Sep 27	Epistemology Exam 1	Ch. 3 (pp. 172–193) Exam 1 Study Guide	Exam 1 (Oct. 01)
6	Oct 04	Epistemological Viewpoints Philosophy of Science	Ch. 3 (pp. 193–196, 208–212, 236–244, 252–270) Ch. 3 (pp. 295–304)	Ch. 3 Reading Quiz (Oct. 11)
7	Oct 11	Philosophy of Religion Natural Theology	Ch. 4 (pp. 316–344) Ch. 4 (pp. 344–357)	Ch. 4 Reading Quiz (Oct. 18)
8	Oct 18	Eastern Philosophy of Religion Exam 2	Ch. 4 (pp. 373–393) Exam 2 Study Guide	Exam 2 (Oct. 22)
9	Oct 25	Ethics Ethical Relativism/Objectivism	Ch. 5 (pp. 410–424) Ch. 5 (pp. 425–445)	Discussion Board 03 (Nov. 01)
10	Nov 01	Ethical Relativism/Objectivism Egoism/Altruism	Ch. 5 (pp. 425–445) Ch. 5 (pp. 446–462)	Discussion Board 04 (Nov. 08)
11	Nov 08	Applied Ethics Meaning of Life	Ch. 5 (pp. 532–538) Ch. 7 (pp. 636–659)	Ch. 5 Reading Quiz (Nov. 15)
12	Nov 15	Death and the Afterlife Religious Relativism	Ch. 7 (pp. 636–659)	Ch. 7 Reading Quiz (Nov. 22)
13	Nov 22	Exam 3 <b>Thanksgiving Break (Nov 24–26)</b>	Exam 3 Study Guide	Exam 3 (Nov. 23)
14	Nov 29	Political Philosophy	Ch. 6 (pp. 550–569)	Discussion Board 05 (Dec. 06)
15	Dec 06	Philosophy of Law	Ch. 6 (pp. 569–588)	Ch. 6 Reading Quiz (Dec. 13)
16	Dec 13	Finals Week	Final Exam Study Guide	<b>Final Exam (Dec 15)</b>