

San José State University
Department of Philosophy
Phil 12: Philosophy of the Person, Spring 2016

Course and Contact Information:

Instructor:	Anthony W. Korsund
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Office Hours:	Tues/Thurs 1:30 - 2pm, or by appt.
Class Days/Time:	Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:00–1:15pm
Classroom:	Boccardo Business Center (BBC) 130
GE Category:	Area E (Human Understanding & Development), Core GE

Course Description:

This course provides students the opportunity to explore some of the perennial questions concerning the notion of “person” facing Western philosophy since the time of antiquity, while taking into account non-Western philosophical critiques. As a class we will consider the question of whether there are experiences or perspectives unique to being a person and to thinking of oneself as an “I”. It is a survey course whereby together the class will critically discuss, verbally and in written form, the more poignant issues that have preoccupied the imagination and reason of philosophers over the characterization of *self* throughout the ages. Therefore, philosophical issues concerning the origins, development and maturation of the *self* from a variety of perspectives will form the central theme of this class. In addressing this theme in philosophy, students will explore the ways in which people learn to think of themselves, the roles of biology, society, and culture in this learning process, and how people use what they learn in shaping and developing their own character and personality. The overall purpose, then, is to enable students to attain knowledge of the interdependence of the physiological, social/cultural, and psychological factors which contribute to the process of human development. As such, students will come to know themselves as integrated social, physical and psychological entities that are able to formulate strategies for lifelong personal development. Furthermore, through the study of the philosophy of the person, students will learn to critically assess and discuss the idea of *human nature* from a variety of perspectives. Some of the philosophical questions addressed in this course are: What is a person? What does it mean to be a human being? What is human nature? Do we have souls? How can we make sense of the notions of self, subject, ego and mind? And what does it mean to be an “I” as the dynamic intersection of social identifiers when it comes to ability, age, gender, and sexual orientation, as well as spiritual, socio-economic, and ethnic/linguistic/racial background; in other words, someone with unique goals, values, aptitudes, interests and experiences? This course will look at these questions, and others, from various philosophical perspectives in an effort to prompt students to critically assess and develop their own personal notions about *human nature*. Ultimately, the final goal, is to weave together strands of rational and emotive thought so that students may integrate knowledge they believe to be personally important with knowledge that they have learned is valued by others.

Student Learning Objectives for this Course:

This course qualifies as an Area E (Human Understanding & Development) course in your General Education requirements. It is designed to enable you to achieve the following GE learning outcomes:

1. Recognize the physiological, social/cultural, and psychological influences on personal well-being.
2. Recognize the interrelation of the physiological, social/cultural, and psychological factors on personal development across the lifespan.
3. Use appropriate social skills to enhance learning and develop positive interpersonal relationships with diverse groups and individuals.
4. Recognize one's self as an individual undergoing a particular stage of human development, and how one's well-being is affected by academic social systems, as well as how one can facilitate their own development within the university environment.

Required Textbook:

The textbook is available at Spartan Book Store and from online book sellers

William O. Stephens, *The Person: Readings in Human Nature*

ISBN-13: 978-0-13-184811-5

ISBN-10: 0-13-184811-9

Course Requirements and Assignments:

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Student Responsibilities:

Students are expected to arrive on time, stay for the entirety of class, and complete the assigned readings prior to attending class. Class participation is mandatory. It is crucial that students come to class prepared to discuss issues, as class participation is a significant component of grading and crucial to the process of philosophical reasoning. In addition to developing ideas through in-class discussions, students will learn the process of writing a reflective, critically reasoned philosophy paper. This course enables students, in keeping with the general character of philosophy, to reflect on and critically analyze issues concerning theories of *personhood* within the context of human efforts to understand their physicality, environment and social world.

Course Structure:

This course will be partly lecture, and partly in-class discussion/activity. It is important that students demonstrate what they are learning from lectures and the readings through thoughtful in-class participation and logical, well-written papers. Accordingly, all students are expected to contribute to in-class discussions and debates. Each student's participation will be evaluated based on the quantity and quality of his or her contribution to class debates/activities, and how it reflects both an understanding and a critical assessment of the course material. Students will be asked to do various kinds of work for this course (both in and out of class) with the aim of drawing on the different learning styles and strengths among students to make learning and assessment as fair as possible. Students will be given both marks and comments as feedback on their written work; and, once returned, each assignment will be discussed in class. This is designed to give students both a specific assessment of the work they have completed and enable them to do a self-diagnostic reassessment of their approach to future work in order to further develop critical thinking skills. Altogether, writing assignments will total roughly 3000 words, surpassing GE area E minimum requirements for writing.

Participation:

Participation in the form of in-class discussion/debate is crucial to philosophical inquiry, and therefore crucial to a student's success in this course. Students who do not take class discussion seriously will find it difficult to do well in the class. Students can earn 1 to 5 participation points each day of class. Once that class period is past, however, so is the opportunity to earn those participation points. Students will self-evaluate their participation each day, but the instructor will assess whether a student has accurately assessed their participation each week. Students can earn 3 points per class for showing up and having done the reading. If students are late or leave early, they may only earn 1 or 2 points depending on the amount of time lost. Students engaged in active listening will earn 1 additional point. Those who actively share in the class discussion may earn another point, totaling a maximum of 5 points per class by offering one or more significant contributions to class discussion—e.g., offering a question of significance, a substantial answer, an insight about the reading, a summarization or review of key concepts, and/or by volunteering to read out loud for the class's benefit, etc. The instructor may call on those not volunteering to participate, in order to make sure they are earning at least some participation points. It is best to offer your point of view voluntarily in class. So please speak up! Public speaking is a crucial skill in the job market; and the university experience is one of the best opportunities to become better public speakers. Overall, participation is worth 15% of your total course grade.

Writing Assignments:

Students will be required to write 3, three-page papers of at least 900 words each throughout the semester, with one in-class writing assignment of approximately one-page in length for the final culminating experience. Later in the semester, handouts will be provided which detail the specific requirements and essay question prompts for each of the paper assignments. Basically, each paper assignment will be a thoughtful, critical exploration of the student's views concerning the questions raised by the various readings in class. Each of the 3 paper assignments will count for 25% of the student's total course grade, while the final in-class writing assignment will count for 10%.

NOTE that University policy F69-24 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf> states that "Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading."

Grading Policy:

Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:

Participation Sheet	15%	May 20th
Paper Assignment #1 (900 words)	25%	March 10th
Paper Assignment #2 (900 words)	25%	April 14th
Paper Assignment #3 (900 words)	25%	May 20th
In-class Writing (culminating exp.)	10%	May 20th
Culminating Experience (no final exam)		Friday, May. 20th @ 10:00 am - 12:00 noon

Note that "All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades." See University Policy F13-1 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details.

Classroom Protocol/Community Etiquette:

- Be respectful and kind to others.
- Have the courage to speak up.
- No interrupting others while speaking.

- Do the readings before class.
- Be present not only physically, but mentally.
- No web surfing, checking emails, or texting during class.
- No tolerance for intolerance.

University Policies:

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU's policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See [University Policy S90-5](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf>. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the [SJSU catalog](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html), at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html>. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf), <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”
 - It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor's process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
 - In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

Academic integrity

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of

Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. [Presidential Directive 97-03](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See [University Policy S14-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf>.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library. A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Peer Connections

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit [Peer Connections website](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook. (Note: You need to have a QR Reader to scan this code.)



SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit [Counseling Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

Phil 12 Course Schedule

(Subject to change with fair notice)

Date	Topic	Reading
28 JAN	Welcome: Review of Syllabus & Class Expectations	
2 FEB 4	Ch. 1: Plato <i>Phaedo, Phaedrus and the Republic</i>	Text: 1-10
9 11	Ch. 2: Aristotle <i>On the Soul</i>	Text: 11-16
16 18	Ch. 3: Cicero <i>On Obligations</i>	Text: 17-21
23 25	Ch. 4: Epictetus <i>The Discourses and The Handbook</i> Assign Paper #1	Text: 22-29
1 MAR 3	Ch. 10: Descartes <i>Treatise on Man</i>	Text: 67-75
8 10	Ch. 12: Locke <i>An Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i> Paper Assignment #1 Due	Text: 81-90

15 17	Ch. 13: De La Mettrie <i>Man a Machine</i>	Text: 91-96
22 24	Ch. 15: Hume <i>A Treatise of Human Nature</i> Assign Paper #2	Text: 108-115
29 31	Spring Break!!!	-- --
5 APR 7	Ch. 16: Kant <i>Critique of Pure Reason, Boundaries of Mere Reason & Doctrine of Virtue</i>	Text: 116-124
12 14	Ch. 17: Kierkegaard <i>The Sickness unto Death</i> Paper Assignment #2 Due & Count Participation Points	Text: 125-134
19 21	Ch. 18: Comte <i>The Positive Philosophy</i>	Text: 135-141
26 28	Ch. 19: Nietzsche <i>The Gay Science, Beyond Good and Evil, and The Will to Power</i> Assign Paper #3	Text: 142-151
3 MAY 5	Ch. 21: Sartre <i>Existentialism</i>	Text: 168-176
10 12	Ch. 29: Menkiti <i>Person and Community in African Traditional Thought</i>	Text: 255-262
20	Culminating Experience during Final Exam Time @10am-12noon Participation Sheets & Paper Assignment #3 Due	--