

San José State University
Philosophy Department
Phil 10, Intro to Philosophy, sec01/sec05, Fall, 2015

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Trevor Gullion
Office Location:	Faculty Office Room 233
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Office Hours:	Wednesday 2:00 to 3:00
Class Days/Time:	Sec 01 MW 9:00-10:15 Sec 05 12:00-13:15
Classroom:	Sec 01 MW BBC 125 Sec 05 TuTh DMH 357

Course Description

This course will be focused on the fundamental theories of philosophy. It will define and examine topics such as epistemology, metaphysics, ethics, existentialism, and political theory. The course will address these topics by asking questions such as: is knowledge possible? If so, knowledge of what? What is the relation between body and mind? Are there any objective standards to assess the moral worth of human actions? What does it mean to be free and/or authentic? These questions will be addressed in terms of philosophers past and present. Your knowledge of these fundamental theories will be demonstrated through essays, midterms, and presentations.

Learning Outcomes

This course fulfills the Core General Education requirement in Humanities and Arts as an Area C2 (letters) course. The *Guidelines for General Education (GE), American Institutions (AI), and the Graduate Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR)* states:

“Courses in Arts and Letters should give students knowledge and understanding of significant works of the human intellect and imagination. Students will examine the interaction of analytical and creative process in the production and perception of such works and the significance of the historical and cultural contexts in which the works are created and interpreted. Courses should enable students to participate in social and cultural communities associated with artistic literary endeavors, enriching their personal and professional lives.” (page 28)

Course Goals

In accordance with the student learning section of the Core General Education section B “student learning,” students will be able to:

1. Recognize how specific works illuminate enduring human concerns
2. Respond to such works by writing both research-based critical analyses and personal responses
3. Write clearly and effectively

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

1. L. Miller. *Questions that Matter: An Invitation to Philosophy*. (McGraw Hill: 1998) ISBN 0-07-042264-8 [QTM]
2. David Palmer. *Looking at Philosophy: The Unbearable Heaviness of Philosophy Made Lighter* ISBN 0-7674-0596-X [LP]
3. Any supplemental readings will be made accessible via email.

Other Readings

Other readings may be required if the content of the course is forced to change. Students will be given reasonable amount of time and notification.

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>.

The course requirements and breakdown of grades will be as follows:

- Participation: 5% (50 points)- in class discussion, group discussion, and pop-quizzes
- In class Midterm: 15% (150 points)
- Two (2) Written Midterms: 20% (200 points [total]) TYPED 2,000 words
- Individual Presentation: 10% (100 points)
- Group presentation: 10% (100 points total)
- In Class Final: 20% (200 points)
- Written Final: 20% (200 points) TYPED 2,000 words

Rewrites and make-up papers will be made available after a one on one meeting with the instructor. Missed in class assignments, such as in class midterm or presentation, will be assessed a penalty of 10% of the total grade.

Students with any disabilities will be given the appropriate accommodations. If this applies to you be sure to contact me via the appropriate agency or department and in person, the sooner the better.

NOTE that [University policy F69-24](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf) 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

Grading scale is based on the 1,000 points (Extra Credit is available see me):

A= 920 to 1000

A-=900 to 920

B+=860 to 899

B=830 to 859

B-=800 to 829

C+=750 to 799

C=700 to 749

C-= 699 to 650

D= 649 to 500

F= 499 to 0

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details.

Classroom Protocol

Common decency and your instructor require you to respect your peers as academic equals and afford them the appropriate amount of respect. Further, technology shall only be used in manner appropriate for a college classroom: no face-book, no twitter, etc.). Cell phones are STRICTLY prohibited. Be on time.

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.

Phil 10/Intro to Philosophy, Fall Semester, Course Schedule

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

8/24		Syllabus. Opinions? What makes a life worth living? Is happiness real? What constitutes the good life?
8/26	Read Chapter 1 QTM pages 3-24	What is philosophy? What are the fields and disciplines of philosophy?
8/31	Ch. 2 QTM pg 26-35 and Ch. 2 LP	What is logic? What constitutes an argument? Informal fallacies. Who were the pre-Socratics and the sophists?
9/2	LP 44-67	Who were Socrates and Plato? The Forms.
9/7	Ch 3 QTM 39-64	The Divided Line. The Good. The Sun. The Cave.
9/9	Ch. 3 QTM 64-76	Who was Aristotle? What are his criticisms of Plato? Third Man Argument.
9/14	LP 68-86	Aristotle's version of the Forms. The four causes. Teleology.
9/16	Ch. 4 QTM 77-104 and LP 150-168	Who was Descartes? System of radical doubt. His deductions. Cogito. Mind/Body Problem.
9/21	LP 150-168	Mind/Body Problem. Proof of the existence of God
9/23	Ch.5 QTM 105-137 & LP 169-173	What is materialism? Is freedom free? What is determinism? Who was Hobbes?
9/28		IN CLASS MIDTERM. DISCUSS PAPER TOPICS
9/30	PAPER #1 DUE Ch.6 QTM 139-159	What is Rationalism? Logical structures of reality.
10/1	LP 173-184	Who were Spinoza? Leibenz? Substance, analytic and synthetic distinction.
10/5	Ch7 QTM 168-184	What is Empiricism? What were its critiques of Rationalism?
10/7	LP 184-196	Who were Locke? Berkeley? Primary and Secondary Qualities. Simple and Complex Ideas
10/12	Ch.8 QTM 198-218 and LP 197-213	Who was Hume?
10/14		What was Kant's response to Hume? Synthetic a priori knowledge
10/19		12 categories of the understanding. Concepts and intuitions. Phenomena and Numina
10/21	Ch. 12 QTM 335-369	Is morality real? Moral relativism. Existentialism. Moral Determinism.
10/26	PAPER #2 DUE Ch.13 QTM 372-399	Utilitarianism. Act vs. Rule. Who was Mill? Bentham?
10/28	LP 276-283	Utilitarianism continued

11/2	Ch.14 QTM 400-419	What is Deontology? Categorical Imperatives. Intention vs. Result.
11/4	LP 213-218	What is the appropriate standard of measurement for moral actions?
11/9	LP 308-348	The Analytic Tradition
11/11	LP 349-363	What is Phenomenology? Structures of consciousness. Dasein.
11/16	LP 362-376	Who was Sartre? For-itself/In-itself
11/18	LP 223-232 and 254-266	Dialectics vs Dialectical materialism. Who was Hegel? Marx?
11/23	Alienated Labor	In class discussion
11/25		FIRST SET OF INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATIONS DUE
11/30		SECOND SET OF INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATIONS DUE
12/2		FIRST GROUP PRESENTATIONS DUE
12/7		SECOND GROUP PRESENTATIONS DUE
12/9		REVIEW FOR FINAL AND DISCUSS FINAL PAPER TOPICS
12/10		FINAL PAPER DUE AND INCLASS FINAL