

**San José State University**  
**Department of Philosophy**  
**PHIL 10, Introduction to Philosophy, Sections 02 and 09, Fall 2015**

**Course and Contact Information**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Fern Alberts
<b>Office Location:</b>	FO 233 (The Faculty Office Building is a two-story building between the Spartan Complex and Dwight Bentel Hall. The Philosophy Department is on the second floor.)
<b>Telephone:</b>	(408) 924-4474
<b>Email:</b>	fern.lee@gmail.com
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Th 10:20 – 11:20am and by appointment
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Section 09 – TuTh 7:30am-8:45am Section 02 – TuTh 9:00am-10:15am
<b>Classroom:</b>	DMH 208
<b>GE/SJSU Studies Category:</b>	Area C2

**Course Description**

This course will outline a history of ideas. We will examine how these concepts still impact our daily lives via our values, morality, political structures, sense of justice, self-identity, definitions of ‘truth’ and ‘happiness,’ religion, and so on. We will begin with Ancient Greek philosophy, move to modern philosophy, then existentialism, continue with Buddhist philosophy, and end with contemporary feminist philosophy. Typical class sessions will involve lecture, general discussion, small group discussion, and some in-class writing.

**Learning Outcomes and Course Goals**

GE/SJSU Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

Phil 10 fulfills the Letters requirement in General Education

*General Education Objectives:*

Students will:

1. recognize how significant works illuminate enduring human concerns.
2. respond to such works by writing both research-based and personal responses.
3. write clearly and effectively.
4. examine significant works of the human intellect and imagination.
5. understand the historical and cultural contexts in which such specific texts were created.
6. recognize the accomplishments of and issues related to women and diverse cultures reflected in such texts.

## Required Texts/Readings

### Textbook

#### Required Texts:

Plato, *The Trial and Death of Socrates*, Hackett Publishing Company.

9780872205543

Rene Descartes, *Meditations of First Philosophy*, Hackett Publishing Company.

9780872201927

Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*, PERSEUS D

9781931859257

J P Sartre, *Existentialism and Human Emotions*, PENG USA

9780806509020

Course Reader: will be available as the semester unfolds.

Bring the text or at least a photocopy of the readings for that day to class every meeting.

\*\*you can pick up earlier editions of this that are not expensive.

### Other Readings

#### Recommended Text

Donald Palmer, *Looking at Philosophy: The Unbearable Heaviness of Philosophy Made Lighter*

9780078038266

## Course Requirements and Assignments

Attendance: as with any philosophy course, attendance is essential to a broad comprehension of the texts and of the discipline itself. Philosophy isn't something you simply memorize (e.g. dates, names, formulas, etc...), it is something you *do*.

Weekly reading assignments are to be read before the class in which they are discussed. The reading can be difficult. Therefore, it is best that you plough through them, discuss them in class, and then perhaps re-visit them (e.g. when writing a paper or studying for an exam).

#### A Note on Papers:

It is important that papers are written at a college level, with close readings of the text, proper textual citation, and attention to grammar/spelling. Evaluation of papers will include assessment of your writing ability in terms of grammar, spelling, clarity, conciseness, coherence, and logic. Excellent papers will show good understanding of the written material discussed and engagement with the issues, for example in raising criticisms, trying to resolve a debate or developing your own position. Good writing is essential to a good philosophy paper. If you have problems with reading or writing in English, be sure to get help.

Late papers will generally be accepted but your grade will be lowered depending on the circumstances and how late it is.

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

### Grades

- 20 Paper
- 20 Paper
- 20 Homework, Quizzes and Class Participation
- 20 Mid-Term
- 20 Final Exam

**Class Participation: Factors include:**

***Verbal Participation.*** This includes questions and comments in the general class and in small groups that show that you are engaged and thinking about the material.

***Evidence of Having Read the Material.*** I like to call on people in class: be prepared!

***In-Class Projects.*** This includes any writing I ask you to do in class. I grade in-class writing pass/no pass. Sometimes I give a pass plus for particularly good in-class writing, and sometimes I give a pass minus for particularly bad, but not quite failing in-class writing.

***Showing leadership and initiative in small group activities.***

***Interaction with the instructor outside the class.*** If you visit me during my office hours this is a form of class participation.

**Classroom Protocol**

**A note on classroom etiquette and electronic media**

All cell phones, headphones, laptops and so on are to be turned off before class (unless they are aiding a student with a disability; if so, just let me know). Laptops are a sticky subject with me. I would prefer that you take hand written notes for a number of reasons. 1) the writing process is conducive to learning and retention 2) computer screens are distracting to other students 3) often students are checking personal online matters rather than taking notes. Do not use computers or other electronic devices to do anything unrelated to the class.

***Texting is forbidden at all times.*** Texting and other non-class-related use of electronics are distracting both to me and to other students. If I notice that you are doing it your class participation grade will go down accordingly. At all times, show courtesy to your teacher and to other students.

If you need to leave class early please let me know and sit by the door so you can leave without disrupting class. Eating, sleeping, playing video games, using offensive language, talking out of turn, etc...are also distracting. So, please, do your best to be courteous to others in our social setting.

Of course, if you are a student with a learning or a physical disability that needs digital accommodations, a note taker, extra sensitivity, etc...please set up a time with me to discuss modifications.

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 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability.

Special accommodations for exams require ample notice to the testing office and must be submitted to the instructor well in advance of the exam date.

## 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/](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](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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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>.

## Course Number / Title, Semester, Course Schedule

List the agenda for the semester including when and where the final exam will be held. Indicate the schedule is subject to change with fair notice and how the notice will be made available.

### Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/20	Introduction; What is philosophy?
1	8/25	Read Plato <i>Euthyphro</i> <b>turn in index cards</b>
2	8/27	Plato <i>Euthyphro</i>
2	9/1	Plato <i>Apology</i>
3	9/3	Plato <i>Apology</i>
3	9/8	Plato <i>Crito</i>
4	9/10	Plato <i>Crito</i> , and <i>Phaedo</i> excerpt (there will probably be a short paper due)
4	9/15	Descartes <i>Meditation One</i>
5	9/17	Descartes <i>Meditation Two</i>
5	9/22	Internet meeting – peer review
6	9/24	Internet meeting <b>First Longer Paper Due</b>
6	9/29	Movie
7	10/1	Movie
7	10/6	Read Marx handouts
8	10/8	Marx and Engels The Communist Manifesto
8	10/13	Marx and Engels The Communist Manifesto
9	10/15	Review
9	10/20	<b>Mid-Term Exam [date subject to change with reasonable notice]</b>
10	10/22	Marx - alienation
10	10/27	Marx – meeting for manifestos
11	10/29	Marx – meeting for manifestos
11	11/3	manifestos due and presented
12	11/5	Sartre <i>Existentialism and Human Emotions</i>
12	11/10	Sartre <i>Existentialism and Human Emotions</i>
13	11/12	Sartre
13	11/17	Camus

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</b>
14	11/19	Buddhism
14	11/24	Buddhism
15	12/1	feminism
15	12/3	feminism
16	12/8	<i>review</i>
Final Exam		<b><i>Final Exams</i></b> Section 09 - Tuesday, December 15 7:15am-9:30am Section 02 - Thursday, December 10 7:15am-9:30am