

San José State University
Philosophy Department
Philosophy 10, Introduction to Philosophy, 03 & 04, Spring 2017

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Fern Alberts
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Office Hours:	Wednesdays 11am – 12am and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Section 03 – TuTh 7:30am – 8:45am Section 04 – TuTh 9:00am-10:15am
Classroom:	BBC 130
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	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.

Student Learning Objectives

GE/SJSU Student Learning Outcomes

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

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.

Phil 10 fulfills the Letters requirement in General Education

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*, Haymarket Publishing

9781931859257

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

9780806509020

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, *We Should All be Feminists*, Anchor Books

9781101911761

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.

Recommended Text

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

Lighter 9780078038266

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

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).

Final Examination:

Both the mid-term and the final will consist of short answer and essay questions.

Grading Information

Grades are assessed via two major papers, a mid-term, final exam and homework, quizzes and class participation.

This is a philosophy class and much of the learning is done during discussion during class time.

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. Sometimes 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. I also assign points for quizzes.

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

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.

Grades

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

It should be fairly easy to ascertain what your grade is in the class based on the grades you get on major assignments as the semester unfolds.

Academic dishonesty, or “plagiarism,” will not be looked upon lightly, and is grounds for failing this course.

“This course must be passed with a C- or better as a CSU graduation requirement.”

The final exam schedule is posted here: <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/final-exam-schedule-fall.html>

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.

<http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

20313/20314/ Phil 10, Spring 2017, Course Schedule

Phil 10, Fall 2016, Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	1/26	Introduction; What is philosophy?
2	1/31	Read Plato <i>Euthyphro</i> turn in index cards
2	2/2	Plato <i>Euthyphro</i>
3	2/7	Plato <i>Apology</i>
3	2/9	Plato <i>Apology</i>
4	2/14	Plato
4	2/16	Plato <i>Crito</i> (there will probably be a short paper due)
5	2/21	Plato <i>Crito</i> , and <i>Phaedo</i> excerpt
5	2/23	Descartes <i>Meditation One</i>
6	2/28	Descartes <i>Meditation Two</i>
6	3/2	Peer review
7	3/7	Movie
7	3/9	Movie
8	3/14	Read Marx handouts
8	3/16	Marx and Engels <i>The Communist Manifesto</i>
9	3/21	Marx and Engels <i>The Communist Manifesto</i>
9	3/23	review
10	3/27 – 3/31	<i>Spring Break – Campus Closed</i>
10	4/4	Mid-Term Exam [date subject to change with reasonable notice]
11	4/6	Marx - alienation
11	4/11	Marx – meeting for manifestos
12	4/13	Marx – meeting for manifestos
12	4/18	manifestos due and presented
13	4/20	Sartre <i>Existentialism and Human Emotions</i>
13	4/25	Sartre <i>Existentialism and Human Emotions</i>
14	4/27	Sartre
14	5/2	Camus
15	5/4	Buddhism Second Longer Paper Due
15	5/9	Buddhism
16	5/11	Adichie, <i>We Should All be Feminists</i>
16	5/16	review
Final Exam	Section 03 (7:30am)	Friday, May 19 0715-0930
	Section 04 (9:00am)	Tuesday, May 23 0715-0930

