

San José State University
Humanities and Arts, Department of Philosophy
Philosophy 10-06, Introduction to Philosophy, Fall '15

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Dan C. Williamson
Office Location:	Faculty Offices 204
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Office Hours:	MW 3-4pm, TTH 1:30-2:30pm and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	MW 1:30-2:45
Classroom:	DMH 357
Prerequisites:	English remediation or post baccalaureate
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	Area C2

Faculty Web Page

Course materials such as the syllabus and the class protocol can be found on Canvas for this course. I will announce materials available there as they become relevant.

Course Description

The course entertains perennial problems in philosophy. For example: Who am I? What can I know? What is the true nature of the world and universe? And if complete knowledge isn't possible what could I know? How should I live? We will consider classical philosophical ideas bearing on these issues by looking at different philosophers throughout history..

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

GE/SJSU Studies Learning Outcomes

This course satisfies General Education Area C2 as follows:

- Recognize how significant works illuminate enduring human concerns; *numerous writing assignments such as the exams and also discussion activities will help you to consider enduring human concerns.*
- Respond to such works by writing both research-based critical analyses and personal responses; *you will be asked to write two papers during the semester requiring some research as well as your critical assessment of the ideas.*

- Write clearly and effectively; you will do at least the minimum of 1500 words this semester and then some. You will receive constructive suggestions from the professor to improve your writing for clarity and effectiveness.

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

1. Students will be able to recognize and explain philosophical ideas and argument.
2. Students will develop clear ways of representing ideas, both as they are in themselves and within their historical and social contexts.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbooks

Kessler, Gary E., *Voices of Wisdom: A multicultural Philosophy Reader*, 9ed., Boston MA 2016
ISBN 978-1-285-87433-3

Other readings (or recommended readings)

There may be some materials that will be used throughout the semester. Also, consult my online links on my first web page. If any reading becomes necessary, they will be available either as a link or at the Course Reserve Desk in the MLK library. I will note this in class.

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>.

Course Structure:

a. *Reading*

You should be able to engage the issues by reading the texts thoroughly in advance of the lectures covering the readings. Please come to class prepared and make sure to read the material thoroughly in advance. Everyone in the class will get far more from the course by doing so.

b. *Writing*

The course has a minimum of 1500 words of written work, per GE requirements. I will be working with you on all written work.

i. homework There will be some homework assigned earlier on in the semester and later as it becomes appropriate or necessary. We may also have some spot reading quizzes.

ii. papers

There are two papers for this course. The first is valued at 60 points. It will be a short paper of no more than two pages in length. The actual value for the writing is 20 points. Each student is required to make an appointment to come to the professor's office during office hours and special additional hours to discuss the paper; this is the additional 40 points. Not doing this will affect your grade adversely. The time spent is meant to help you improve at writing an "idea" paper. Additional instructions, sign-in sheets and any other pertinent details will be forthcoming and will be found online or I will hand it out in class. The second paper is valued at 60 points and is your final paper of approximately 7-10 pages length due at the end of the semester on the last day or on the day of the final.

You should at all times conform to the tenets of correct English grammar. Sloppy grammar, incorrect punctuation and spelling will affect your grade. When in doubt, keep your sentences simple.

An electronic copy of the final paper you turn in to me should be submitted to Turnitin.com under this course Philosophy 10, Introduction to Philosophy; the course number and password will be on the paper topic instructions later in the term.

iii. **midterms and final** Both midterms and final are in class and are a mixture of true/false, multiple choice and short-essay format. The midterms and final are closed book, unless otherwise noted by the professor. The final is cumulative with an emphasis on everything not already tested on in the previous midterms. There will be review questions and issues posted prior to the test on the website.

c. **Active Learning** I rarely just lecture. I like to engage in discussion with students. Come prepared for discussion. This will help you improve your comprehension of the material

i. **participation** I give 35 basic participation points reflecting your overall performance in the class. Make yourself noticed by speaking up, positively and constructively, please. After about the first week, I'll divide the class into discussion groups (separate from other group activities) to discuss philosophical questions, assignments, etc.

ii. **group activities** The course provides the student with the opportunity to explore ideas in our texts in discussion groups on a regular basis. I hand out a separate sheet of guidelines for discussions and presentations. Groups can review what has already been lectured on or on what has not been lectured on, limited only by what is in our primary text. You can develop material for the paper from what you do in a group, they need not be entirely separate. This activity is worth 50 points.

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."

d. Grade Breakdown:

homework	50 note: points may vary
papers TTL	125
midterms 2	100 @50 points each
participation	35
group work	50
final	<u>125</u>
	485 Total Points

Grading is done on a strict 10% scale on all assignments; no curve is applied. All final grades are final unless the professor made an error in calculation of the final grade, no exceptions.

Classroom Protocol

The Protocol is on a separate file that is online on Canvas.

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.” 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.”

A simple conversation with me can be enough, but I reserve the right to ask for an agreement in writing.

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](#) (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](#) 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](#) 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 (Optional)

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 (Optional)

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 10-06, Introduction to Philosophy, Fall '15

Course Schedule

The following is subject to change with fair notice. The reading assignments may be too ambitious; changes will be noted as we go along, if any.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/24, 8/26	Introduction; Begin reading 1.1-.4 in Kessler (including reading)
2	8/31, 9/2	What is an ethical life? And, how ought I to live the best life? What is that? Begin reading for later this week and into next Part Two, Chapter 3, all and 4.4, Nussbaum and 5.5 Plato, "Crito." Last Day to Drop 9/1
3	9/ 7, 9/9	9/7, Labor Day, no class; Continued; add 10.3, Sartre here or next week. . Depending on time, this week or next, we should look at 2.1 and 2.2, "A Little Logic" and "How to Write a Philosophy Paper." I will emphasize the latter with some of 2.1, but read the whole section nevertheless. Last Day to Add 9/9
4	9/14, 9/16	Continued and this week or next begin the next section. Who am I? What am I? Chapter 11, all and add 8.5 and 8.6, Appiah and Longino respectively
5	9/21, 9/23	Continued and we begin our 2 page paper consultations. A separate instruction sheet and meeting times to be arranged over the next 4-5 weeks.
6	9/28, 9/30	Continued
7	10/5, 10/7	Continued
8	10/12, 10/14	Continued; group work; <i>First Midterm this week or next</i>
9	10/19, 10/21	We may begin: What is Real? What really exists? What can I know? Lecture on the Presocratics, read Parts 3 and 4 all. We will begin with Part 4 however
10	10/26, 10/28	Continued
11	11/2, 11/4	Continued
12	11/9, 11/11	11/11 Veteran's Day, no class; Continued and groups, review <i>A brief second midterm this week or next probably just on Part 4</i>
13	11/16, 11/18	But what can we really know? Chapter 7, but not necessarily all, I will advise.
14	11/23, 11/25	Continued lecture
15	11/30, 12/2	Groups
	12/7	<i>Last Day The final paper is due today or on the day of the final</i>
	Final Exam	12/16, Wednesday, 12:15-2:30pm