

**San José State University**  
**Humanities and Arts / Philosophy**  
**Philosophy 291, Metaphysics and Epistemology, 1, Fall 2015**

**Course and Contact Information**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Anand Vaidya
<b>Office Location:</b>	FOB 205
<b>Telephone:</b>	310 721 7367
<b>Email:</b>	anand.vaidya@sjsu.edu
<b>Office Hours:</b>	T and R: 12:00 to 14:00
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	R; 19:00 to 21:45
<b>Classroom:</b>	BBC 125

**Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging (Optional)**

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on my faculty web page at [www.anandvaidya.weebly.com](http://www.anandvaidya.weebly.com)

**Course Description**

The course will cover the problem of skepticism and panpsychism. We will be looking at these two issues from a cross-cultural and multi-disciplinary perspective. Our focus will be on the relation between western theories of skepticism and panpsychism against those propounded in classical Indian philosophy.

**Learning Outcomes and Course Goals**

Learn about classical problems and theories in the western epistemology and metaphysics.

Learn about classical problems and theories in ancient Indian epistemology and metaphysics.

Engage in comparative philosophy.

Engage in critical analytical writing about topics in epistemology and metaphysics.

**Required Texts/Readings**

Descartes' Meditations with objections and replies, (any edition acceptable)

Outlines of Pyrrhonism, Sextus Empiricus, (any edition acceptable)

Consciousness in the Physical World edited by Torin Alter and Yujin Nagasawa; Oxford University Press

### **Other Readings**

Additional readings will be at my website.

### **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>.

Since this is a graduate course, all students will aim to write a graduate level seminar paper. However, upon discussion or engagement, changes can be made to specific papers.

### **Grading Policy**

Papers are graded on the basis of four criteria. (i) Research quality; (ii) Thesis; (iii) Argument; and (iv) Writing style and structure.

### **Classroom Protocol**

All students should come to class prepared to discuss the reading for the day. I will be engaging topics with a short lecture. The central part of seminar will be based on discussion provided by student questions.

### **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.

## Philosophy 291/ Seminar in Metaphysics and Epistemology, Fall 2015

Tentative Schedule

### Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Assignment
<b>R, Aug, 20</b>	<b>Course Introduction</b>	
<b>R, Aug 27</b>	Rene Descartes	<i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i> By R. Descartes
<b>R, Sep, 3</b>	Sextus Empiricus	<i>Outlines of Pyrrhonism</i> By

		S. Empiricus
<b>R, Sep, 10</b>	Comparative Introduction to Skepticism in Indian Philosophy	<i>Skepticism in Early Indian Thought</i> By J. Koller  <i>Skepticism in Indian Philosophy</i> By D. Chatterjee
<b>R, Sep, 17</b>	Skepticism in Buddhist Thought	<i>Selections from Vasubandhu and Nāgārjuna</i>
<b>R, Sep, 24</b>	Skepticism in Hindu Thought	<i>Selections from Udayana and Gangesha</i>
<b>R, Oct, 1</b>	Ethan Mills's Presentation on Comparative Skepticism	<i>Jayarāsi's Delightful Destruction of Epistemology</i> By E. Mills
<b>R, Oct, 8</b>	Comparative Introduction to Indian Theories of Knowledge in Indian Philosophy	<i>Is Knowledge Justified True Belief?</i> By E. Gettier  <i>Knowledge First</i> By T. Williamson  <i>Does Indian Epistemology Concern Justified True Belief?</i> By K. Potter  <i>Gettier and Factivity in Indo-Tibetan Epistemology</i> By J. Stoltz
<b>R, Oct, 15</b>	Classical Indian Theories of Knowledge	<i>Jñāna and Pramā: The Logic of Knowing – A Critical Appraisal</i> By P. Bilimoria  <i>Nyāya, Belief, and Doubt: Some Contemporary Problems and Their Solution from the Nyāya</i>

		<i>Perspective</i> By J. Shaw
<b>R, Oct, 22</b>	<b>No Class</b>	
<b>R, Oct, 29</b>	Classical Sources for Panpsychism in the West	<i>The Principles of Psychology</i> (excerpt) By William James  <i>Excerpts from Analysis of Matter, Human Knowledge: Scope and Limits, Portraits of Memory, and My Philosophical Development</i> By Bertrand Russell
<b>R, Nov, 5</b>	Contemporary Panpsychism	<i>Panpsychism and Panprotopsychism</i> By David Chalmers
<b>R, Nov, 12</b>	Contemporary Physicalism	<i>A Physicalist Critique of Russellian Monism</i> By Alyssa Ney
<b>R, Nov, 19</b>	Classical Indian Panpsychism	<i>Locating Advaita Vedanta In the Contemporary Debate over Panpsychism</i> By Anand Vaidya
<b>R, Nov, 26</b>	<b>No Class</b>	
<b>R, Dec, 3</b>	Project Discussion Day	Bring a Final Outline of your Project Paper to Class for Discussion
<b>R, Dec, 10</b>	<b>Final Papers Due in FOB 205 by 4pm.</b>	