

San José State University

Philosophy Department

Phil 61, Moral Issues, Section 2, Fall, 2015

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Casey Smith
Office Location:	FOB 204
Email:	Casey.Smith@SJSU.edu
Office Hours:	M/W 12:30PM - 2:00PM or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	M/W 10:30 AM - 11:45AM
Classroom:	BBC 125
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	Humanities and Arts C2

Course Description

Moral philosophy covering what ethics is, an overview of major ethical theories, and discussions of contemporary moral issues.

Learning Outcomes and Course Goals

This course should give students the opportunity to:

- a. Understand what moral theories are and how to apply them to an issue.
- b. Gain an ability to appreciate the robust moral nuance to an issue.
- c. Take a position on a moral issue and argue for it in a well written manner.

Phil 61 is in GE category C2. The students learning objectives (SLOs) for C2 are as follows:

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

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Exploring Ethics: An Introductory Anthology (Third Edition). Steven M. Cahn.
ISBN-13: 978-0199946587, ISBN-10: 0199946582

Other Readings

Will be provided by instructor via email and in-class handouts.

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>.

There will be a total of 11 short writing assignments, a 2,000 word final paper, a midterm, and a final exam.

Weekly writing assignments: This is an opportunity for the student to summarize and reflect upon what they have read throughout the week. Each reading assignment from the book will conclude with 4 questions. Thoughtfully answer at least four questions per assignment, at least one from each assigned reading. This exercise should be no longer than one page but no shorter than a half page. Please restate each question you answer and indicate which reading it is from. Use Times New Roman 12pt font, *single spaced*, and one inch margins.

The **Midterm** will consist of multiple choice questions, short answer questions, and one essay.

The **final** will be similar in format to that of the midterm and will cover all topics discussed throughout the course.

The **final paper** will be 2,000 words and the topics of this paper will be provided by the instructor at a future date, with complete instructions on how to succeed in this assignment. The final paper will be done in three steps. First the student will provide a project proposal, second the student will then turn in a rough draft, third The student will only be able to turn in a final copy of the paper for grading with attached copies of the graded proposal and rough draft.

Participation is absolutely necessary in all philosophy courses. Participation grades will be assessed through class discussion and written discussion questions

NOTE: The Academic Vice President in a memorandum dated October 25, 1977 cites a university policy that states that there shall be an appropriate final examination or evaluation at

the officially scheduled time in every course, unless specifically exempted by the college dean who has curricular responsibility for the course.

NOTE: [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 information:

- A Letter grade with +/- will be used to assess all course work.
- Extra credit will be available.
- The grading will go as follows:
 - Short writing assignments 20%
 - Midterm exam 15%
 - Final 20%
 - Term Paper 30%
 - Participation 15%
- Late work will not be accepted unless discussed with instructor 24 hours prior to the assignment being due and permission is granted.

Classroom Protocol

Please come to class ready to discuss the material the material that was assigned for the meeting. Feel free to eat and drink as long as you are not disturbing other students around you. This course will go over some heavy subjects so please remember that this will be a comfortable and respectful environment for all members of the class to voice opinions and arguments. Ensure electronic devices act only as an aid and not as a distraction to yourself and students around you.

University Policies

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”

- “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.”
- “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.

Week	Date	Topics	Assignments	Read
1	8/24	Introduction and Course Overview		
1	8/26	Metaethics		
2	8/31	Metaethics	Due: Reading Questions	5,7
2	9/2	Consequentialism (Egoism, Hedonism)		9
3	9/7	<i>Labor Day - Campus Closed</i>		
3	9/9	Consequentialism (Mill)	Due: Reading Questions	14, 15
4	9/14	Deontology (Kant)		12, 13

4	9/16	Deontology (Ross, Rawls)	Due: Reading Questions	20
5	9/21	Virtue (Aristotle)	Due: Reading Questions	16,17
5	9/23	<i>Canceled</i>		
6	9/28	Social Contract, Natural Law	Due: Reading Questions	19
6	9/30	Midterm Review		
7	10/5	Midterm		
7	10/7	Abortion (Personhood)	Due: Thesis	
8	10/12	Abortion (Autonomy, Non-Identity)	Due: Reading Questions	21, 23
8	10/14	Environmental Ethics (Conservation)		
9	10/19	Environmental Ethics (Animal Rights)	Due: Reading Questions	35, 36, 37
9	10/21	Capital Punishment (Deterrence, Sanctity)		
10	10/26	Capital Punishment (Brutality, Justice)	Due: Reading Questions	33, 34
10	10/28	Free Speech (Censorship)		TBD
11	11/2	Medical Ethics (Consent, Autonomy)		
11	11/4	Medical Ethics (Euthanasia)	Due: Reading Questions	25, 26
12	11/9	Medical Ethics (Other Topics)	Due: Rough Draft	
12	11/11	<i>Veteran's Day - Campus Closed</i>		
13	11/16	Paper Workshop		
13	11/18	Social Justice (Wealth, Resources)	Due: Reading Questions	27, 28
14	11/23	Social Justice (Affirmative Action)	Due: Reading Questions	40, 41
14	11/25	TBD		
15	11/30	The Trolley Problem		45, 46, 47
15	12/2	Future Concerns (Transhumanism, AI)	Due: Final Paper	
16	12/7	Final Exam Review		
16	12/9	Final Exam Review		
Final	12/15	Final Exam (9:45 AM - 12:00 PM)		