

San José State University
College of Humanities and the Arts
Philosophy Department
Phil 70A Ancient Philosophy
Fall 2015

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	William H. Shaw
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Office Hours:	MW 9:45-10: and 1:30-2:00 T 12:00-1:00
Class Days/Time:	MW 10:30-11:45
Classroom:	BBC 203
Prerequisites:	none
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	C2

Course Description

Catalogue description: “Includes pre-Socratics, Socrates, Plato and Aristotle; Hellenistic, Roman and Medieval philosophy.”

Philosophy 70A is the first course in a two-semester sequence in the history of philosophy. Its focus is on philosophy in the ancient world—from the early pre-Socratic philosophers, through Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, up to the three main Hellenistic schools of epicureanism, stoicism, and skepticism. These centuries saw both the birth of philosophy itself and its theoretical maturation in the works of writers from whom we still have much to learn today. The historical importance of this period cannot be overestimated: It is the cradle of Western intellectual and philosophical life. Although the roots of all subsequent Western thought lie in ancient Greek philosophy, the study of it reveals a fascinating world that is strikingly different from our own. In learning about that world and coming to understand its best thinkers, we gain a new perspective on our society, our history, and ourselves. Yet the study of ancient philosophy has a value that goes beyond its historical interest. Because the issues with which the philosophers of the classical period wrestled continue to be of concern to all thinking people, those philosophers can engage our minds across the centuries, speaking to us as equals, as fellow seekers of truth.

Learning Outcomes

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

As a C2 Core GE course, Philosophy 70A gives students the opportunity to examine significant works of the human intellect and imagination, to understand the historical and cultural contexts in which such texts were created, and to recognize the accomplishments of and issues related to women and diverse cultures reflected in such texts. In addition, the course is intended to enable students to recognize how significant works illuminate enduring human concerns, to respond to such works by writing both research-based critical analyses and personal responses; and to write clearly and effectively.

Required Texts/Readings

The required textbook is Forrest E. Baird, ed., *Ancient Philosophy (Philosophical Classics, Vol. 1)*, 6th ed. (Prentice-Hall, 2011). It is available at the Spartan Bookstore and elsewhere.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Writing Assignments

During the semester there are eleven short, one-page writing assignments. The course outline indicates when these are due. You'll receive a separate handout with instructions, but each assignment concerns some issue or issues in the reading that we will be discussing in class on the day that particular paper is due. Your papers must be typed, and you are to submit them, in class and in person, on the day that each is due. *I do not accept late papers, and missed assignments cannot be made up.* However, in determining your semester grade for this part of the course, I will drop your three lowest grades.

Examinations

There will be three exams during the course of the semester, testing you on the material covered in the previous section of the course. The exams are intended to test your mastery of, and your ability to reflect critically on, the assigned readings and classroom discussions. They will involve mostly objective and short-answer questions, but a short essay is also possible. The final exam will be cumulative and may involve longer essays. I'll give you more information about it and the other exams later.

Class Involvement

Because this is a philosophy class, classroom discussion plays an important part of it. Each week we will be analyzing and assessing the assigned readings, and exploring the various philosophical issues they raise. Dialogue and discussion are central to philosophy, but they presuppose that you have studied (i.e., read, re-read, and taken notes on) the material that is being discussed. Because of this, I put the highest priority on your attendance and preparation for class. I expect you always to come to class (with your textbook) and to come having read carefully the assignment for that day. Sometimes I will call on randomly chosen students to answer questions about the reading material assigned for that day.

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>.

“Students are strongly encouraged to take courses to satisfy GE Areas R, S, and V from departments other than their major department. Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) or ENGL/LLD 100A with a C or better (C-

not accepted), and completion of Core General Education are prerequisite to all SJSU Studies courses. Completion of, or co--- registration in, 100W is strongly recommended. A minimum aggregate GPA of 2.0 in GE Areas R, S, & V shall be required of all students.” See [University Policy S14-5](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-5.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-5.pdf>.

Semester Grade

Your semester grade a function of the following factors:

- Writing Assignments (40%)
- Three Exams (12.5% each)
- Final Examination (12.5%)
- Class Involvement (10%)

Note that “All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.” See [University Policy F13-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details.

Classroom Protocol

Laptop Policy

I want your undivided attention in class; therefore, I do not allow laptops to be used. Taking notes is always a good idea, but do it on paper and then enter them into your computer later when you can re-visit and expand on them and add your notes on the reading.

Attendance Contest

Students in the class are invited to participate in the attendance contest. You are not required to participate; the contest is purely voluntary. To win the contest (there can be more than one winner), you must have perfect attendance. This means that you have (a) missed no classes, (b) been on time to every class, and (c) been in class for the whole period. It’s called a “contest,” in part, because there are no excuses whatsoever. No matter how good the reason, if you have to miss class, then you don’t have perfect attendance and can’t win the contest. (I realize that an element of luck enters into this; that’s another reason for calling it a “contest.”)

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.”
 - 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 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 (Optional)

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 (Optional)

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 (Optional)

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>.

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	Aug. 24	Introduction
1	Aug 26	THE PRE-SOCRATIC PHILOSOPHERS Thales, Anaximander, and Anaximenes, pp. 8–13
2	Aug 31	Pythagoras, Xenophanes, and Heraclitus, pp. 14–21; <i>Paper #1</i>
2	Sept 2	Parmenides and Zeno, pp. 22–30
3	Sept 7	Labor Day – no class
3	Sept 9	(a) Anaxagoras (vs. Plato), pp. 36–38 and p.137 (first new paragraph) to mid-le of p.138; (b) Democritus and Leucippus, pp. 39–42; (c) Protagoras (vs Plato), pp. 43–44, p. 300 (at 152) to top of 301, middle of p. 305 to middle of p. 307; <i>Paper #2</i>
4	Sept 14	Part 2: Socrates and Plato Plato's "Euthyphro," pp. 70–82; <i>Paper #3</i>
4	Sept 16	First Exam
5	Sept 21	"Apology," pp. 82–99
5	Sept 23	"Crito," pp. 99–107; <i>Paper #4</i>
6	Sept 28	"Phaedo," pp. 118(c) to bottom of p. 127 only; "Meno," pp.160(c) to 166(c) only; begin reading "Republic"
6	Sept 30	"Republic," pp. 199–213
7	Oct 5	"Republic," pp. 213–225, and p. 227 (at 412c) to p. 231; <i>Paper #5</i>
7	Oct 7	"Republic," pp. 231–247
8	Oct 12	"Republic," pp. 247–274
8	Oct 14	"Republic," pp. 274–288; <i>Paper #6</i>
9	Oct 19	Second Exam
9	Oct 21	Part 3: Aristotle "Nichomachean Ethics," Book I, pp. 378–386; <i>Paper #7</i>
10	Oct 26	"Nichomachean Ethics," Bk I, pp. 386–391; Bk. II, pp. 391–392 (line 25)
10	Oct 28	"Nichomachean Ethics," Bk II, pp. 392–400; Bk IV, pp. 409–412; <i>Paper #8</i>
11	Nov 2	"Nichomachean Ethics," Bk III, pp. 400–403, (§5) pp. 406–408; Bk VI, (§1) pp. 412–413, (§5) pp. 415–416, (§12) pp. 421–422
11	Nov 4	"Nichomachean Ethics," Bk VII, pp. 423–425 (line 35), (§3) pp. 426–429; Bk X, p. 442 to top of p. 447
12	Nov 9	"Politics," pp. 451–461; <i>Paper #9</i>
12	Nov 11	Veterans Day – no class

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
13	Nov 16	Aristotle concluded
13	Nov 18	Third Exam
14	Nov 23	PART 4: EPICUREANISM, STOICISM, SKEPTICISM Epicurus, pp. 467–478, 481–490; <i>Paper #10</i>
14	Nov 25	Thanksgiving Holiday – no class
15	Nov 30	Epictetus, pp. 518–530
15	Dec 2	Marcus Aurelius, pp. 531–539
16	Dec 7	Sextus Empiricus, pp. 540–545; <i>Paper #11</i>
Final Exam	Dec 10	BBC 203 .12:15 p.m.

It's possible the schedule may change. If so, you will be notified in class or by email.