

**San José State University**  
**Department of Philosophy**  
**PHILOSOPHY 70B, Modern Philosophy**  
**Section 01, Spring 2018**

<b>Instructor:</b>	James Lindahl
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	MW 9:00-10:00, TR 1:30-2:30, F 8:30-9:15, or by appointment
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	F 9:30 – 12:15
<b>Classroom:</b>	SH 241
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	English remediation completed Phil 70A recommended
<b>GE/SJSU Studies Category:</b>	Area C2: Humanities and Arts, Letters

### **Course Description**

Philosophy 70B is a history of Western philosophy class that covers the period from the end of the Renaissance through about 1850. This includes the rise of Renaissance Humanism, the Scientific Revolution, Rationalism and Empiricism as well as the Enlightenment period. The course is focused on key theoretical movements of the period including Natural Science, Political Science, Economics, Ethics, as well as developing ideas of race and gender equality and religious toleration.

### **Required Texts/Readings**

#### **Textbooks**

Edwards and Popkin eds., *The Philosophy of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Centuries*  
Simon and Schuster – Free Press, 1966. Isbn 9780029254905

Kramnick, Isaac ed., *The Portable Enlightenment Reader*  
Penguin, 1995. Isbn 9780140245660

## **Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives**

Philosophy 70B meets the G.E. Area C2: Humanities and Arts, Letters. The course is organized according to Area C2 course objectives.

### 1. Goals

Courses in Arts and Letters should give students knowledge and understanding of significant works of the human intellect and imagination. Students will examine the interaction of analytical and creative processes in the production and perception of such works, and the significance of the historical and cultural contexts in which the works are created and interpreted. Courses should enable students to participate in social and cultural communities associated with artistic and literary endeavors, enriching their personal and professional lives.

### 2. Student Learning

Letters courses will enable students to:

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

Letters courses should give students the opportunity to:

- Examine significant works of the human intellect and imagination;
- Understand the historical and cultural contexts in which such specific texts were created; and
- Recognize the accomplishments of and issues related to women and diverse cultures reflected in such texts.

## **Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging**

Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, etc. may be found on the Canvas page for this course. Accept the invitation to join and you should have access to everything posted on the site for this class.

You can also link directly to my webpage at: <http://www.sjsu.edu/people/james.lindahl/>

## **Assignments**

You will be expected to write two medium length essays for this course (about five pages each).

Topics and guidelines for both will be handed out well before the due dates.

There will be reading assigned for each class. It is important to attend class and read the assigned material before class. On the tests, you will be responsible for information contained in the readings as well as in the class lectures.

Active participation is important. Students are encouraged to ask questions, contribute ideas, and engage in discussion of the course material. Each section will end with a discussion period during which all are expected to participate.

There will be two midterms and a final (short answer tests).

## **Grading Information:**

All assignments will be graded out of 100 points. They will be weighted as indicated above. Final grades will be assigned according to the following grade schema:

93-100 = A, 90-92 = A-, 87-89 = B+, 83-86 = B, 80-82 = B-, 77-79 = C+,  
73-76 = C, 70-72 = C-, 67-69 = D+, 63-66 = D, 60-62 = D-, 0-59 = F

## **Course Grade Breakdown:**

Essay #1	25%
Essay #2	25%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%

## **Schedule of Major Assignments:**

Essay #1 – Friday, March 16  
Midterm Exam – Friday, March 23  
Essay #2 – Friday, May 4  
Final Exam – Thursday, May 17, 7:15 AM

## **Assignments and Grading Policy**

I will provide detailed instructions for all writing assignments on handouts distributed well before the due dates for each assignment. Assignments will be submitted to me, in person, at the end of the class on the day they are due.

Exams will be short-answer / written response tests. I will provide specific information before tests.

I do not want any assignments submitted via e-mail. All assignments will be given to me on real paper in the real world in real time.

It is up to you to keep up on the schedule of assignments. There is a schedule of due-dates for all major assignments above. These are also listed in the reading schedule below. If you miss a handout announcing an upcoming assignment, this does not exonerate you of responsibility for that assignment. Watch the schedule. If you see an assignment soon due then you would be well-advised to ask me about it or consult the handout on my website to get instructions. Any assignments missing at the end of the semester will be graded “0.” Since I announce upcoming assignments in class, distribute handouts, post them on my web-site and list them in two places on this syllabus, “I didn’t know” is not an excuse for missing an assignment.

Never turn in the only copy of anything!!!! Always back up your work. Do not delete your work after it is submitted. I reserve the right to misplace an essay and request another copy. I will not accept excuses for lost assignments no matter who loses them. I know that hard disk crashes happen (especially for Windows users). I highly recommend that you save all work to a disc, back-up drive or flash drive and store it somewhere safe in the event that some mishap befalls your original copy. You can tell me stories about hard disc crashes or animals eating essays. They may be true (or not) and I may be amused (or not) but the verdict will always be “give me another copy” even if this requires you to write it again.

I do my best to return essays quickly and with substantial feedback. Given the recent increases in class size (as evidenced by this class), “quickly” may mean 2-3 weeks. I read essays

carefully, correct grammar, and respond to content issues. That can take time.

I use a red pen to correct essays. I have been told that this practice is now frowned upon because red ink makes the comments appear critical if not angry. I do not believe it does either. Red stands out against black print. The comments stand out against the page better if they are red. It means neither that I am being critical nor that I am angry. I like red pens.

Occasionally an essay might be returned with torn or tattered edges. This does not correlate to my feelings about the essay in any way. I have a cat that tears the edges off of paper. If your essay is torn around the edges it only means that your essay was on top of the stack when this cat decided she was not getting enough attention.

Keep all of your returned work for the entire semester.

I reserve the right to mis-enter a grade on my spreadsheet and request that you resubmit returned work to verify the correct grade. Keep everything until you see your grade at the end of the semester. Once the semester is over you may then dispose of all work in whatever bizarre (but safe) ritualistic fashion you choose or keep it carefully preserved as part of your eternal legacy.

Office hours are listed both on this syllabus and on the main page of my website. This schedule is good for the entire semester up to the last day of instruction. I will have office hours during finals but they may be different than those listed.

### **Late or Missed Assignments:**

If you need to miss a deadline, inform me as soon as you are aware of it. I will accommodate some (but not all) late work. Late writing assignments will be penalized 5% per week unless I have given permission for the late submission. Do not miss the tests. It is very difficult to schedule make-ups and none will be offered once a test is returned to the class. Any missing work at the end of the semester will be assigned the score of 0. Do the math; this can do substantial damage to your grade and/or result in failing the class even if you do well enough on other assignments.

### **Extra Credit**

There will be no extra credit assignments in this class. Do well on the scheduled assignments.

### **Workload:**

As per Federal mandates adopted in 2011 by the Department of Education (S12-3): Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

### **Classroom Protocol**

#### **Note on your electronic devices:**

Cell phones (smart or otherwise) are taken by yours truly as one of the plagues of the 21st century. While you may choose to remain leashed to everyone you know, chatter, text-message, or twitter incessantly about nothing while life passes you by, use hollow communication as a substitute for your own thoughts, inhibit the elegant flow of life as you blindly stand in every one else's way oblivious to your surroundings, and continually interrupt the few remaining contexts of silence and/or beauty in the world, you will please

render them inoperative during class.

You may, of course, use a laptop to participate in class-related activities and take notes but you should refrain from text-messaging, checking e-mail, playing games, updating facebook, and unrelated net-surfing.

**Smart Phones** as well as cell-phones that are not so smart **MUST** be put completely away during tests. There shall be no phones out on desks or on laps or even sitting out on top of backpacks during tests. All must be off and completely out of sight. There shall be no earbuds in ears during tests. Any use of a phone or a computer during a test will result in an automatic failure on that test. If you are caught using any communication device during a test, the test will be taken away and you will receive a score of “0” on that test. No make-up opportunities will be offered. No exceptions.

In addition to smart phones, there will be no permitted use of **smart wrist mounted devices** (formerly “watches”) nor the wearing of any **google glasses** during class.

#### **A word on e-mails:**

I am not one of those who spends hours per day in front of the computer. I am happy to respond to e-mails that require short and to-the-point responses. Do not e-mail requests for me to explain complex concepts or repeat lectures that you may have missed. If I cannot respond in a paragraph, I probably will not respond.

#### **Some things you should know about e-mail:**

E-mail is not always reliable. Never send an e-mail to me concerning an urgent or important matter and assume that it has been read by me and resolved. There are many reasons why an e-mail may not make it to me:

I may have (temporary) problems with my server or e-mail account.

You may have (temporary) problems with your server or e-mail account.

You may select a heading that looks to me like spam which I delete without reading.

Your e-mail might be erroneously identified as spam by my filter and sent straight to the trash bin.

Your message may make it into my inbox on a day when I do not get to all of my e-mails. It might then drift down in the e-mail inbox only to be noticed again four months later.

I may be having one of my anti-technology episodes, refuse to turn on my computer for a week and instead spend that time at the beach with my wife and dog.

Some of these problems are a feature of the technology, some of them are issues I have. Nothing can be done about either. If whatever you need to communicate to me is of great importance, choose a great medium (like vocal conversation) to convey it. E-mail is just not that trustworthy.

A recent study has shown that there are over 210 billion e-mails sent per day around the world. Think about that. There are only 7 billion people on the planet. A significant percentage of those are babies in third-world countries who lack the technology to send or receive e-mails. That is not even counting text messages and tweets. Do the math. There are simply too many e-mails.

Finally, I do not receive text messages. I have never sent nor received a text message (unless as an email). I have no text messaging device and do not intend on purchasing such a device.

## **University Policies**

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

### **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 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/>.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

Cheating on a test will result in the assignment of a score of zero on the test. Consulting any notes, paper or electronic, during a test is considered cheating. There will be no use of smart phones during a test for any reason. No smart phones should be visible during a test. All phones should be turned off and put away. Using a smart phone, for any reason, during a test will be considered cheating.

Plagiarism is an egregious form of academic dishonesty. If I discover any essay or research paper is plagiarized, I will assign a score of zero for that assignment. There will be no opportunity for making up that assignment. Downloading or copying any content from websites, texts, or previously submitted papers, even partial copying, is considered plagiarism. In both cases, I will, without exception, file a report with the office of Student Conduct. It will be up to them to decide if any further action is necessary.

### **The semester ends when the semester ends:**

The day of the final exam is the last day of the course. When you walk out of the room, it is done. There is no further opportunity for submitting late work, making up work, revising work, or seeking reevaluations of old work. It is over; count it. Once the test is over, I leave campus, crawl into a small cave with only a box of granola bars and a carton of soy milk, and methodically correct all finals and remaining essays. I do not take any communication devices with me and will not be accessing email. Once I am done correcting everything, I calculate and submit grades. The grade submission deadline for faculty follows the last day of finals by only a couple of days. Grade rosters can only be submitted as a complete class. In other words, it is not possible to submit one student's grade without all of the others nor is it possible to hold up one student's grade without holding up all grades. I will not delay the grades for an entire class to accommodate anyone's desire to submit late work.

### **The new University policy on incompletes:**

The days where you might miss some major assignments during the semester and work out a deal to get an incomplete and finish it later are over. In days of olde, it was not uncommon for students to arrange to finish work long after the semester ended by taking an incomplete instead of a letter grade. The University is cracking down on this practice. It is no longer possible to do this without a formal petition to the Dean's office in which I explain that the missing work was my fault. It is, of course, never my fault. So, know this from the beginning: You must complete all work on schedule and have everything submitted to me before the final exam period.

Anything missing will be counted as a "0" on the gradesheet and there will be no opportunity to submit it after the grades are in.

You should know what assignments are made and when they are due. Everything is listed on the greensheet. If you think you have missed a handout, ask me. You can also check the website. You can also ask me at any time to look over the spreadsheet to see if you are missing anything. The semester ends when the semester ends. The numbers, in the end, cannot be changed with negotiations or tears. Be warned in advance.

### **Life, School, and the tragedies that occasionally befall everyone:**

Sometimes, bad things happen to good people. At some point during your college career, it is likely that life will impose difficulties upon you. Difficulties can interfere with your ability to study and generate the work necessary to do well in this class (as well as your others). You may be ill or someone near you may be ill; Someone close to you might pass away; financial hardships could force you to work long hours at a paying job.

If you find yourself in a situation that is likely to undermine your success in this class, speak to me about it. You don't need to reveal any personal details that you do not wish to but you should keep me informed about your difficulties completing assignments and preparing for tests. During the course of the semester, there are many ways for us to deal with these difficulties and I will work with you to help you complete the class whether it be now or during a future semester. The thing you do not want to do is struggle quietly, do poorly in the class (or fail) and then come to me during finals or after the grades have been submitted and inquire what can be done then. Nothing can be done once the semester is over. I am capable of human compassion and will do what I can to accommodate your needs as you deal with what life rains upon you. Just come to me when I can accommodate you and not after the semester is over.

If you need accommodations or take exams through the AEC, let me know at the beginning of the semester. You would also do well to notify me by email about a week before each major test. I generally remember to deliver tests to the AEC once I have signed the drop-off form but an email reminder is a good way to make double-sure that I have done this..

If you have any needs not described in the preceding or any issues that arise that interfere with your ability fulfill the requirements of this class, please speak to me as soon as possible. It is easier to accommodate your needs and solve problems when I have ample notice rather than trying to address such issues at the last minute.



Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
5	Friday Feb. 23	<p><b>Rationalism and the Philosophy of Rene Descartes</b></p> <p>Rene Descartes – “Meditations III-IV,” PC pp.141-161</p>
6	Friday March 2	<p><b>Rationalists and the Nature of God</b></p> <p>Blaise Pascal – “Pensées” PC pp.219-225  Gottfried Leibniz – “Second Explanation and Theodicy” PC pp.332-339</p>
7	Friday March 9	<p><b>Political Philosophy: The Age of Monarchy</b></p> <p>Jean Domat, Jacques Bénigne Bossuet – “Theories of Absolute Monarchy” (Canvas)  Machiavelli – “The Prince, ch15-18” (Canvas)  Thomas Hobbes – “Leviathan, ch13-14” (Canvas)</p>
8	Friday March 16	<p><b>Political Philosophy: Social Contract Theory</b></p> <p>John Locke – “The Second Treatise of Civil Government” ER pp.395-404  Jean-Jacques Rousseau – “The Social Contract” ER pp.430-441  James Madison – “Federalist No.10” ER pp.459-466</p> <p><b>Essay #1 due Friday, March 16</b></p>
9	Friday March 23	<p><b>Midterm Exam</b></p>
		<p>Spring Break: March 26 – 30</p>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
10	Friday April 6	<p><b>The French Enlightenment and the “Enlightenment Project”</b></p> <p>Marquis de Condorcet – “The Future Progress of the Human Mind” ER pp.26-38,</p> <p>Cesar Chesneau Dumarsais – “Definition of a Philosophe” ER pp.21-22</p> <p>Denis Diderot – “Encyclopédie” ER pp.17-21</p> <p>Henry St. John, Lord Bolingbroke – “The Utility of History” ER pp.356-358</p> <p>Marquis de Condorcet – “The Perfectibility of Man” ER pp.387-395</p>
11	Friday April 13	<p><b>Economic theory</b></p> <p>François Quesnay – “The Physiocratic Formula” ER pp.496-502</p> <p>Anne-Robert-Jacques Turgot – “Economic Liberty” ER pp.502-505</p> <p>Adam Smith – “The Wealth of Nations” ER pp.505-515</p>
12	Friday April 20	<p><b>Empiricism and Materialism</b></p> <p>John Locke – “An Essay Concerning Human Understanding” ER pp.185-187</p> <p>John Locke – “Of Words &amp; Personal Identity” (Canvas)</p> <p>David Hume – “A Treatise of Human Nature” ER pp.195-202</p> <p>Julien Offray de la Mettrie – “Man a Machine” ER pp.202-209</p>
13	Friday April 27	<p><b>Moral Theory</b></p> <p>Francis Hutcheson – “Concerning the Moral Sense” ER pp.275-280</p> <p>Immanuel Kant – “Fundamental Principles of the Metaphysics of Morals” ER pp.297-306</p> <p>Jeremy Bentham – “The Principle of Utility” ER pp.306-314</p>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
14	Friday May 4	<p><b>Equality and Inequality - Race and Gender</b></p> <p>Jean-Jacques Rousseau – “Discourse on the Origin of Inequality” ER pp.424-430</p> <p>Jean-Jacques Rousseau – “Duties of Women” ER pp.568-579</p> <p>Immanuel Kant – “The Differences Between the Races” ER pp.637-639</p> <p>Mary Wollstonecraft – “Vindication of the Rights of Woman” ER pp.618-628</p> <p>John Woolman – “Considerations on the Keeping of Negroes” ER pp.630-636</p> <p><b>Essay #2 due Friday, May 4</b></p>
15	Monday, Wednesday Dec. 4, 6	<p><b>Religion and Religious Toleration in the Enlightenment</b></p> <p>Benjamin Franklin – “Something of My Religion” ER pp.166-167</p> <p>Isaac Newton – “The Argument for a Deity” ER pp.96-100</p> <p>Jean-Jacques Rousseau – “Profession of Faith of a Savoyard Vicar” ER pp.134-140</p> <p>Baron d’Holbach – “No need of Theology.... Only of Reason” ER pp.140-150</p> <p>David Hume – “Of Miracles and the Origin of Religion” ER pp.109-115</p> <p>John Locke – “A Letter Concerning Toleration” ER pp.81-90</p>
Final Exam	Thursday May 17	<p><b>Final Exam: Thursday, May 17 7:15 – 9:30 AM</b></p>

Grades are posted on mysjsu.edu on Saturday, May 26 (or a couple days later)  
You can learn your grade on the final exam by sending me an e-mail request 3 or 4 days  
after the final exam. Finals are not returned but you may make arrangements to see the test  
by setting up an appointment.