

San José State University  
Department of Philosophy  
Elmwood Correctional Facility  
Record Clearance Project  
Phil 61, Moral Issues, Spring 2018

## Course Information

Instructor:	Trevor Gullion
ISA:	John Hermann
Class Days/Time:	Mondays and Wednesdays 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm
Study Hall:	Mondays and Wednesdays 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	C2

## Course Format

Over the 12 week course period we will address 7 different foundational ethical theories from the academic philosophical canon. Each week we will address a new ethical theory and apply the concepts of the ethical theory to an assigned case study. For the most part, the case studies will come from a recent article in a paper or magazine. These case studies will be chosen by the instructor and/or the ISA. The case studies will be practice for your papers, so it is important to take them seriously.

## Course Description

Moral philosophy covering major ethical theories and contemporary moral issues, such as: abortion, euthanasia, animal rights, capital punishment, etc. GE area C2.

This course will evaluate traditional subjects in moral issues such as abortion, euthanasia, etc. The course will also examine the moral correctness on a systemic level, by applying moral theories to economics, higher education, and globalization.

## Course Goals

Arts and Letters courses should give students knowledge and understanding of significant works of the human intellect and imagination. Courses should enable students to participate in social and cultural communities associated with artistic and literary endeavors, enriching their personal and professional lives.

## GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

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

1. Recognize how significant works illuminate enduring human concerns (GELO #1)
2. Respond to significant works by writing both research based critical analysis and personal responses (GELO #2)
3. Write clearly and effectively. Writing shall be assessed for correctness, clarity, and conciseness. (GELO #3).

## Course Learning Outcomes (CLO) (Required)

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to identify moral issues in their personal and professional lives. Further, they will be able to approach moral dilemmas from multiple points of view. This will allow students to achieve well-reasoned responses to moral issues and participate in society as global citizens.

Students will be able to

## Required Texts/Readings

*Ethics Course Reader.* (Made available through Instructor).

## Course Requirements and Assignments

Weekly Case Study Analysis (these will ensure students are completing the readings in accord with GELO #1). Case studies will be taken from the news or from the philosophical canon. Each week, we will address a new ethical theory and case study so as to apply the new ethical theory to the new case study.

1 Midterm: true/false, multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer, and short essay covering the first 5 ethical theories.

2 papers (these will be your “research papers” in accordance with GELO #2 and #3) You will choose one ethical theory and apply it to an ethical issue that you feel is important (ALL topics MUST be approved by the instructor/ISA!!!)

1 presentation- Here you will present the research and argument of your paper to the class.

Final Exam- Covering topics and theories from the beginning of the course to the end.

## Final Examination/Evaluation

The final examination will be a presentation and a paper on a moral issue of the student's choice. These will use skills of moral reasoning developed in the course, as well as at least one moral theory addressed in the course.

## Grading Information

A = 92+	77- 79 = C+
90-91 = A-	73- 76 = C
87-89 = B+	70- 72 = C-
83-86 = B	60- 69 = D
80-82 = B-	Below 60 = F

Seven (7) Weekly Case Studies = total 35 points (5 points each) on Wednesdays.

Midterm = total 100 points

Two (2) Papers = total 200 points (100 points each)

Presentation = 50 points

Final Exam = 100 points

Participation 15 points (Participation is different from attendance. It is against university for attendance to affect your overall grade).

No late work will be accepted. No rewrites or extra credit will be offered.

## Classroom Protocol

As attendance is required, I remind the students that simply taking up space in the classroom is not sufficient to meet this requirement. It is the student's obligation to attend to the classroom discussion with the full intention of engaging the content of the day's discussion. Hence, the instructor will be vigilant for any misuse of the designated classroom time.

Students ought to consider the college classroom as training for the professional world. As such, I advise students to consider the classroom as the setting of a board meeting, where the student is an employee that has high expectations placed upon her/him, and the instructor is the C.E.O. What happens to the employee that shows up late, is unprepared, distracted, etc.? What will the C.E.O think of that employee?

## 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. To learn important campus information, view [University Policy S16-15](#) and SJSU current semester's [Policies and Procedures](#). 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 address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as the next step.

## Course Requirements and Assignments

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.

## Attendance and Participation

Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading. However, students are expected to attend all meetings for the courses in which they are enrolled as they are responsible for material discussed therein, and active participation is frequently essential to ensure maximum benefit to all class members. In some cases, attendance is fundamental to course objectives; for example, students may be required to interact with others in the class. Attendance is the responsibility of the student. Participation may be used as a criterion for grading when the parameters and their evaluation are clearly defined in the course syllabus and the percentage of the overall grade is stated. The full policy language can be found at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S15-12.pdf>

## Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays

[University Policy S14-7](#) states that 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.

## Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](#). Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes ([Late Drop Information](#)).

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](#).

# Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](#), 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 F15-7](#) 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. Visit the [Student Conduct and Ethical Development](#) website for more information.

## 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](#) requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](#) (AEC) to establish a record of their disability.

## Student Technology Resources

Computer labs and other resources for student use are available in:

- [Academic Success Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall

- [Academic Technology Computer Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/hd/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/hd/> on the 1st floor of Clark Hall
- [Associated Students Computer Services Center](http://as.sjsu.edu/ascc/) at <http://as.sjsu.edu/ascc/> on the 2nd floor of the Student Union
- [Student Computing Services](http://library.sjsu.edu/student-computing-services/student-computing-services-center) at <http://library.sjsu.edu/student-computing-services/student-computing-services-center>
- [Computers at the Martin Luther King Library](http://library.sjsu.edu/reserve-studymeeting-room/computers-king-library) for public at large at <http://library.sjsu.edu/reserve-studymeeting-room/computers-king-library>
- Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college

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' free tutoring and mentoring is designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to inspire them to become independent learners. Peer Connections tutors are trained to provide content-based tutoring in many lower division courses (some upper division) as well as writing and study skills assistance. Small group and individual tutoring are available. Peer Connections mentors are trained to provide support and resources in navigating the college experience. This support includes assistance in learning strategies and techniques on how to be a successful student. Peer Connections has a learning commons, desktop computers, and success workshops on a wide variety of topics. For more information on services, hours, locations, or a list of current workshops, please visit [Peer Connections website](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) at <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu> for more information.

## SJSU Writing Center

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 and Psychological Services

The SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Carlos in the new Student Wellness Center, Room 300B. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide confidential 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 and Psychological Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>

# Phil 61/ Moral Issues, Spring 2018, Course Schedule

*The schedule and its contents are subject to revision.*

## Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1		
1	2/7	Introductions, syllabus, what is a Moral Issue?
2	2/12	READ: "Ring of Gyges"
2	2/14	Discussion: Who wears the ring? Ought one wear it?
3	2/19	READ: selections from <i>Nichomachean Ethics</i> Only read Book1.Ch.1,7-8, 12-13
3	2/21	Discussion: How to evaluate the moral character of a person. What is Eudaimonia?
4	2/26	READ: <i>Utilitarianism</i>
4	2/28	Discussion: Does the end justify the means? Some thought experiments for consequentialism.
5	3/5	READ (weekly write up 3) <i>Metaphysics of Morals</i>
5	3/7	Discussion: The end in-itself.
6	3/12	READ: Hobbes <i>Leviathan</i>
6	3/14	Ethics in the state of nature
7	3/19	Paper Topic Discussion

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
7	3/21	Paper #1 Due
8	3/26	Spring Break
8	3/28	Spring Break
9	4/2	<i>Review For Midterm</i>
9	4/4	Midterm
10	4/9	READ: <i>Anarchy, State, and Utopia</i>
10	4/11	The individual as the rational agent.
11	4/16	READ: <i>A Ruthless Criticism of Everything in Existence</i>
11	4/18	Capitalism and the Worker. Ethics in the Market
12	4/23	Review for Final Exam/Final Paper/Individual Presentations
12	4/26	Presentations day 1
13	5/1	Presentations day 2
13	5/3	Final Exam/Final Paper due
14	5/7	<b>Last Official Day</b>