

San José State University Arts and Humanities

Department of Philosophy Phil 10, Introduction to Philosophy, Sections 01 and 06

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Trevor Gullion
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Office Hours:	Wednesday and Friday 2:00 to 3:00 MW 9:00 to 10:15
Class Days/Time:	TTH 12:00 to 1:15 MW DMH 149B
Classroom:	TTH BBC 203

Course Description

Perennial problems in philosophy, such as Who am I? What can I know? How should I live? Classical philosophical statements bearing on these issues. GE Area: C2. The course will also follow and investigate philosophical concepts and problems that are specifically discussed in other philosophy courses available at SJSU.

Course Goals

In accordance with the student learning section of the Core General Education section B “student learning,” students will be able to:

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

Learning Outcomes

GE Learning Outcomes

This course fulfills the Core General Education requirement in Humanities and Arts as an Area C2 (letters) course. The *Guidelines for General Education (GE), American Institutions (AI), and the Graduate Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR)* states: “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 process 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 literary endeavors, enriching their personal and professional lives.” (page 28)

These outcomes will be fulfilled via an examination of the classical and contemporary issues in the philosophical canon. We will examine these issues with two weekly lectures, readings, weekly write ups, papers, midterms, and presentations. From these endeavors, you should be able to apply critical thinking skills and creative analysis to your everyday life.

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

1. Learning Outcome: “Understanding of works of human intellect”: Course readings.
2. Learning Outcome: “Interaction of analytical and creative process 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”: Course Lecture.
3. Learning Outcome: “Enable students to participate in social and cultural communities associated with artistic literary endeavors.”: Weekly write ups will allow students to articulate their own well-formed beliefs and judgements about various cultural and intellectual views displayed in the broad philosophic tradition

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO) (Required)

This course is designed to introduce students to foundational issues in the discipline of philosophy, as well as develop the skill of asking appropriate and pertinent questions with regards to theoretical concerns. Further, the course will allow the student to ask important questions about the world in which she or he lives.

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

1. Formulate coherent and pertinent questions with regard to theoretical discussion
2. Write clearly and effectively
3. Become versed in issues pertinent to the human condition.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

1. David Palmer. *Looking at Philosophy: The Unbearable Heaviness of Philosophy Made Lighter* ISBN 0-7674-0596-X [LP]. This text will provide the structure of the lecture, it may provide extra clarity when studying for midterms and writing papers. I highly recommend purchasing it via amazon.
2. Course Reader- (readings will be available through canvas).

Other Readings

Any other course material will be made available to students via canvas or handouts in class.

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 \(Links to an external site.\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at [http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf \(Links to an external site.\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf).

Your grade in this course will be assessed mainly upon participation and weekly write-ups of the material discussed that week. The weekly write-ups will be one full page minimum; they will be due the second day of instruction for that week; the write-up will briefly describe the philosophical issue, formulate a clearly constructed argument, and affirm and defend a position (without using the words “in my opinion,” “I believe,” etc.). Your grade will also be based upon a midterm, three (3) papers, and a presentation. The course will be based on a thousand (1,000) points total.

Weekly write ups/participation= 10 write-ups, 50 points each, 500 points total

Midterm= 100 points

Papers= 200 points total

Final Paper= 100 points

Presentation= 100 points

Grading Policies

Breakdown of Grades:

A= 93-100

A-=90-92

B+= 86-89

B= 83-85

B-=80-82

C+=76-79

C=73-75

C-=70-72

D+=65-69

D=60-64

F= -60

There is no acceptance of late work (unless agreed upon by student and instructor). There will be no extra credit.

NOTE: It should be noted that the Academic Vice President in a memorandum dated October 25, 1977 cites a university policy 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.

University policy F69-24 (Links to an external site.) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf> states, "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."

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 (Links to an external site.) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details.

Classroom Protocol

Common decency and your instructor require you to respect your peers as academic equals and afford them the appropriate amount of respect. Further, technology shall only be used in manner appropriate for a college classroom: no face-book, no twitter, etc.). Cell phones are STRICTLY prohibited. Be on time.

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 S90-5 (Links to an external site.) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf> and SJSU current semester's Policies and Procedures, at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.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 address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as the next step.

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 \(Links to an external site.\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The [Late Drop Policy \(Links to an external site.\)](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 \(Links to an external site.\)](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 \(Links to an external site.\)](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.”
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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 \(Links to an external site.\)](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 \(Links to an external site.\)](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 \(Links to an external site.\)](#) 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 \(Links to an external site.\)](#) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays

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 \(Links to an external site.\)](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf>.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center \(Links to an external site.\)](#) 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

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 \(Links to an external site.\)](#) 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 \(Links to an external site.\)](#) 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 (Optional)

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 \(Links to an external site.\)](#) at [http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling \(Links to an external site.\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling).

Phil 10 / Introduction to Philosophy, Spring 2016, Tuesday & Thursday

*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	1/28	Intro Course syllabus Why study philosophy? Basic Phil topics: What is an arg.? What is epistemology? Metaphysics? Etc.
2	2/2	Ancient Philosophy: Additional reading (Not Required) pre-Socratics to Aristotle in LP
	2/4	Plato: The Apology/Crito
3	2/9	Asian/Indian Philosophy Mencius
	2/11	Buddha: Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path
4	2/16	Ethics Normative Additional reading Immanuel Kant LP
	2/18	Deontology: Kant: Metaphysics of Morals Normative Ethics Continued John Stuart Mill: Utilitarianism
5	2/23	Additional Reading John Stuart Mill and Jeremy Bentham LP

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
	2/25	MIDTERM
6	3/1	Philosophy of Technology Additional Reading Kierkegaard LP
	3/3	Dreyfus: On the Internet: Nihilism on the Information Highway: Anonymity vs. Commitment in the Present Age
7	3/8	Existentialism Additional reading Jean-Paul Sartre and Martin Heidegger
	3/10	Sartre: Bad-Faith FIRST PAPER DUE
8	3/15	Philosophy of Mind:
	3/17	Nagel: What is it Like to be a Bat?
9	3/22	Philosophy of Mind and Phenomenology: Additional Reading Edmund Husserl in LP
	3/25	Merleau-Ponty: Man Seen From the Outside
10	March 28	Spring Recess
	April 1	Spring Recess
11	4/5	Philosophy of Language
	4/7	Russell: Logical Atomism
12	4/12	Wittgenstein: Logical Tractatus
	4/14	PAPER DUE
13	4/19	Post-modern Philosophy Lacan, Foucault, Derrida
	4/21	Foucault: What is Enlightenment?
14	4/26	Feminism Additional Reading Luce Irigaray LP
	4/28	De Beauvoir: The Second Sex
15	5/3	Philosophy of Science
	5/5	Popper: Demarcation and Falsifiability
	5/10	PEER REVIEWS
16	5/12	PRESENTATIONS
Final Exam		MW: 7:15 to 9:30 May 18 FINAL PAPER/PRESENTATION DUE!!!
		TTH 12:00 to 1:15 May 20