

**San José State University
College of Humanities/Philosophy**

PHIL, 10, Intro to Philosophy, Section 01, Fall 2018

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Tony Nguyen
Office Location:	FACULTY OFFICE 209
Telephone:	(408) 784-8729
Email:	Tony.nguyen@SJSU.EDU
Office Hours:	MW: 10:30 - Noon
Class Days/Time:	MW: 9:00 – 10:15 am
Classroom:	Dudley Moorhead Hall 208
Prerequisites:	Curiosity, generosity and intelligence.
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	GE Area C2: Humanities & Arts, Letters

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas. You can find audio recordings of the class under the “conferences”. Canvas will only keep the class recordings for **two weeks**, before purging the files.

--Course Description: This class is designed to introduce students to the broad fields of philosophical research (aesthetics, epistemology, ethics, logic and metaphysics) and the answers different thinkers have given through the ages, for perennial problems like: Do people have free will or are we just organic robots? Is it ok to kill animals? Does God exist? What is the meaning of life? Is freedom and liberty all that it’s cracked up to be?

Learning Goals for Letters (C2) Courses

Students will be able to:

1. recognize how significant works illuminate enduring human concerns;
2. respond to such works writing both research-based critical analyses and personal responses;
3. write clearly and effectively.

Required Texts/Readings

1. **Norton Introduction to Philosophy** 2nd Ed by Rosen, Byrne, Cohn, Harmon and Shiffirin, 2016. ISBN: 978-0-393-62422-7

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>.

Final Examination or Evaluation:

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|---|-----|
| 1. 3 short response papers (950-1000 wds) | 60% |
| 2. Presentation (15 min) | 20% |
| 3. Final Test | 20% |

Grading Information:

1. Short papers. You will respond to the readings from Weeks 5 – 16. Responses will be due at the time of the readings. You can only turn in one response per week. The goal is to have you think about the reading material before coming to class and to get immediate feedback from me and your class mates. You want to pick topics you like and to space out the work, so everything does not get bunched up at the end of the semester.
 2. Presentation: You will give a summary of one of the readings and your response to the class.
 3. I will take attendance at the beginning of the class to learn your names and not for grading.
- NOTE that [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.”
 - “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>.
 - 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

1. Read before hand and prepare for discussion and debate challenging ideas.
2. Be open minded, but be able to stand for something.
3. Turn off Cell-phones, Facebook, IM and other distractions. This *really* bothers me and will affect your participation grade.
4. Ask plenty of questions.

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/>”

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/) 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/>.

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

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

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

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

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

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>.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/22	Syllabus Day: Why philosophy?
2	8/27	A Brief Guide to Logic & Argumentation. Some Guidelines to Writing Philosophy Papers
2	8/29	Chp. 1 Does God Exist?
3	9/3	Labor Day No School
3	9/5	Chp. 1 Does God Exist?
4	9/10	Chp 2: Is it Reasonable to Believe W/O Evidence?
4	9/12	Chp 2: Is it Reasonable to Believe W/O Evidence?
5	9/17	Chp 5: How Can You Know You Own Mind or the Mind of Another Person?
5	9/19	Chp 5: How Can You Know You Own Mind or the Mind of Another Person?
6	9/24	Chp 6: How Can We Know About the External World?
6	9/26	Chp 6: How Can We Know About the External World?
7	10/1	Chp 7: Is the Mind Material?
7	10/3	Chp 7: Is the Mind Material?
8	10/8	Columbus Day (Yes There is Class). Chp 8: What is Consciousness?
8	10/10	Chp 8: What is Consciousness?
9	10/15	Chp 9: Are Things As They Appear?
9	10/17	Chp 9: Are Things As They Appear?
10	10/22	Chp 10: What is There?
10	10/24	Chp 10: What is There?
11	10/29	Chp 11: What is Personal Identity?
11	10/31	Chp 11: What is Personal Identity?
12	11/5	Chp 12: What is Race? What is Gender?
12	11/7	Chp 12: What is Race? What is Gender?
13	11/12	Veteran's Day (No Class)
13	11/14	Chp 13: Do We Possess Free Will?
14	11/19	Chp 13: Do We Possess Free Will?
14	11/21	Non-Instructional Day. (No Class)
15	11/26	Chp 15: Do Your Intentions Matter?
15	11/28	Chp 15: Do Your Intentions Matter?
16	12/3	Chp 19: What is the Meaning of Life?
16	12/5	Chp 21: What is the Value of Liberty?
17	12/10	Chp 21: What is the Value of Liberty? Last Day of Class.
18	12/12	Final Test 7:15-9:30 am.

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