

San José State University
Department of Philosophy, College of Humanities & Arts
Philosophy 10, Introduction to Philosophy, 05, Fall, 2018

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Anand Vaidya
Office Location:	Faculty Office Building 205
Telephone:	310 721 7367
Email:	Anand.Vaidya@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	(TR) 10:00-12:00
Class Days/Time:	(TR) 12:00-13:15
Classroom:	Sweeny Hall 100
Prerequisites:	NA
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	C2

Course Format

Technology Intensive, Hybrid, and Online Courses. This course will be a hybrid course that meets in the classroom as well as online at the course website in canvas.

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, at my webpage: <http://anandvaidya.weebly.com> and/or on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](#) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU](#) at <http://my.sjsu.edu> (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor) to learn of any updates.

Course Description

This course will be a cross-cultural introduction to philosophy that engages the relevant areas of science and mathematics with respect answering questions of the form: what is x? Examples include: What is friendship? What is love? What is knowledge? What is consciousness? What is the good life? What is happiness?

Course Goals

Develop and exercise critical thinking skills, such as deploying necessary and sufficient conditions and counterexamples, concerning core questions of philosophy through engagement with various cultures.

GE Learning Outcomes (GELOs)

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

1. GELO 1: Letters courses will enable students to recognize how significant works illuminate enduring human concerns. Reading, watching, and listening to significant works concerning philosophical questions from a variety of cultures will satisfy GELO 1.
2. GELO 2: Letters courses will enable students to respond to significant works by writing both research-based critical analyses and personal responses. Two out of class writing assignments will be used to satisfy GELO 2. The first out of class writing assignment will focus on a personal response. The second one will focus on research-based critical analysis.
3. GELO 3: Letters courses will enable students to write clearly and effectively. Writing shall be assessed for correctness, clarity, and conciseness. An in-class ethics exam will be used to satisfy GELO 3.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO) (Same As GELOs)

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

1. GELO 1: Letters courses will enable students to recognize how significant works illuminate enduring human concerns. Reading, watching, and listening to significant works concerning philosophical questions from a variety of cultures will satisfy GELO 1.
2. GELO 2: Letters courses will enable students to respond to significant works by writing both research-based critical analyses and personal responses. Two out of class writing assignments will be used to satisfy GELO 2. The first out of class writing assignment will focus on a personal response. The second one will focus on research-based critical analysis.
3. GELO 3: Letters courses will enable students to write clearly and effectively. Writing shall be assessed for correctness, clarity, and conciseness. An in class ethics exam will be used to satisfy GELO 3.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

There is no single text for this course. All reading materials, and links to radio programs and short videos will be made available the course webpage: <http://anandvaidya.weebly.com/introduction-to-philosophy.html> or through the canvas page for the course.

Other Readings

Readings will either come from short articles that are publicly available and / or classical pieces of philosophy from a variety of cultures that will be made available to the students.

Other technology requirements / equipment / material

Access to the Internet on a tri-weekly basis will be required.

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 45 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 practice. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

The course requirements are the following:

Assignment	Weight	Due Date
Personal Response, Essay 1, W1, 750 words	330 points / 33%	October 4th
Ethics Exam	330 points / 33%	November 1 st
Research-Paper, Essay 2, 750 words	330 points / 33%	December 19

Final Examination or Evaluation

The Final Exam for this course will consist of a 1000-word research-based essay that contains an argument concerning a philosophical topic. Research must be done by way of responding to or developing an argument or position that is presented in an approved source, such as a classical philosopher from some tradition of philosophy, a scientific article, and or a combination of philosophy and scientific research.

Grading Information

Assignment	Grading
Personal Response Paper	30 points for meeting 750-word requirement. 100 points for exposition of the philosophical question or problem. 100 points for examination of the philosophical question or problem. 100 points for personal response to the philosophical question or problem.
Ethics Exam	30 points for completing the exam. 300 points for correctly answering the exam questions.
Research-Paper	30 points for meeting 750-word requirement. 100 points for exposition and examination of problem. 100 points for correct use of research. 100 points for critical response to question or problem in light of research used.

Determination of Grades

- Grades are determined based on the grading rubric.
- Extra credit can be gained by discussing a philosophical topic with the professor during office hours and showing that you have thought critically about the topic. Extra credit is used to push grades across borders, such as between C+/B- or B+/A-.
- Each assignment is worth 33% or 330 points for a total of 99% or 990points, everyone automatically gets 1% or 10 points added to their highest scored exam or paper.
- Late work will only be accepted on the final when final papers come in. All late assignment will be reduced by one letter grade, for example from an A to a B or from a B to a C.

Classroom Protocol

Please arrive on time ready to take notes, talk within a small group, and ask questions of the teacher in front of the class as a whole. Please do not be disruptive in class through the use of your phone or by talking loudly when it is not time to talk.

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/>"

If applicable, include links to department and college-level policies, requirements and services.

Philosophy 10 / Introduction to Philosophy, Fall 2018, Course Schedule

The schedule below is subject to change with fair notice that would be made through email notification or in class. Assignments Before Class will be posted the week before and notification will be made by email.

Class Room: Sweeny Hall 100; Class Day / Time: MW / 12:00-13:15

Course Final: Sweeny Hall 100 on Tuesday December 19 from 9:45-12:00

Day	Topic	Assignment Before Class
T, August 21	NO CLASS	Read Syllabus & Course Webpage: http://anandvaidya.weebly.com/introduction-to-philosophy.html
R, August 23	What is Philosophy?	
T, August 28	Conceptual Analysis	
R, August 30	Counterexamples	
T, September 4	What is Friendship?	
R, September 6	What is Love?	
T, September 11	What is Happiness?	
R, September 13	What is Freedom?	
T, September 18	What is a Good Life?	
R, September 20	What is Truth?	
T, September 25, W1 Out	What is Lying?	
R, September 27	What is Justice	
T, October 2, W1 In	What is Ethical Theory?	
R, October 4	Consequences and Pleasure: Mill	
T, October 9	Intention and Reason: Kant	
R, October 11	Action-Based Moral Analysis	
T, October 16	Case Analysis and Moral Reasoning	
R, October 18	Virtue and Vice: Aristotle & Confucius	
T, October 23	Care & Fairness: Gillian & Rawls	
R, October 25	Exam Review	
T, October 30	In Class Ethics Exam	
R, November 1	What is Knowledge?	
T, November 6	What is Skepticism?	
R, November 8	What is Consciousness?	
T, November 13, W2 Out	What is the Self?	
R, November 15	Writing A Research Paper	
T, November 20	Thesis Submission	
R, November 22	Thanksgiving	No Class
T, November 27	Paper Writing Workshop	
R, November 29	Paper Writing Workshop	
W, December 4	Paper Writing Workshop	
M, December 6	Paper Writing Workshop	
Thursday December 13	Final Papers Due in Class between 9:45-12:00	