

Phil 10: Introduction to Philosophy, Section 6, Fall 2018

Instructor:	Casey Smith
Office Location:	FOB 209
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Office Hours:	Tuesday 1:30pm-2:30pm
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday/Thursday 4:30pm-5:45pm
Classroom:	DMH 208

Course Description

In this course we will cover a variety of topics in the Philosophy of Mind, Ethics, Practical Philosophy, and Critical Thinking.

Learning Outcomes and Course Goals

This course should give students the opportunity to:

- A. Be confronted with challenging ideas and questioning deeply held beliefs
- B. Develop a better understanding of the self and one's relationship to their environment.

GE/SJSU Studies Learning Outcomes:

Students shall:

1. Recognize how significant works illuminate enduring human concerns.
2. Respond to such works by writing both research-based and personal responses.
3. Write clearly and effectively.
4. Examine significant works of the human intellect and imagination.
5. Understand the historical and cultural contexts in which such specific texts were created.
6. Recognize the accomplishments of and issues related to women and diverse cultures reflected in such texts.

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 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

There will be a total of 3 short response papers, a research paper, and a final exam. Papers should be typed, double-spaced, Font Size 12. Times New Roman, Georgia, Arial or other standard font. 1-inch margins.

Response Paper (Due 9/22, 10/20, and 11/17)

Approximately 500 words. Take one of the ideas that we have talked about in class so far and tell me what you think about it. Take a clear stance and defend your position. It might be one of the positions I covered (likely you telling me if you think a philosopher's position is right or wrong) but might be a new one all your own.

Research Paper Topic (Due 10/6)

Just a short paragraph where you explain the topic of your paper, the research you will be using, and the position on the topic you will take. If the position changes later on that is fine, I just want to get you headed in the right direction. Suggestions on prompts will be provided, but I am also happy for students to suggest their own. If you write on a topic that is not suggested, and you do not run it by me first you run the risk of writing a wildly inappropriate paper which even if well composed won't get a very good grade.

Research Paper (Due 12/13)

Approximately 1500 words. In all cases you will be researching a particular problem in Philosophy, taking up a single definitive stance and arguing for it. I should see at least three (3) works cited, and at least two (2) should be a primary or scholarly work. Details on producing good philosophical writing to follow.

Participation is absolutely necessary in all philosophy courses. Participation grades will be assessed primarily through class discussion and activities.

NOTE: The Academic Vice President in a memorandum dated October 25, 1977 cites a university policy that states 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.

NOTE: University policy F69-24 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."

Grading Policy

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) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details.

Grading information:

- A Letter grade with +/- will be used to assess all course work.
- The grading will go as follows:
 - Response Papers 30% (10% each)
 - Exams 20% (10% each)
 - Research Paper 30%
 - Participation + Reading Quizzes (If needed) 20%
- Late work will not be accepted unless discussed with instructor 24 hours prior to the assignment being due and permission is granted.

Classroom Protocol

Please come to class ready to discuss the material the material that was assigned for the meeting. Feel free to eat and drink as long as you are not disturbing other students around you. This course will go over some heavy subjects so please remember that this will be a comfortable and respectful environment for all members of the class to voice opinions and arguments. Ensure electronic devices act only as an aid and not as a distraction to yourself and students around you.

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf> and SJSU current semester’s [Policies and Procedures](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html), 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. 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/provost/services/academic_calendars/) 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/>.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](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"

- "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."
- "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 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 \(AEC\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/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>.

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 at http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling).

Week	Date	Topics	Assignments
1	8/21	Introduction and Course Overview	
1	8/23	Ancient Greeks (Pre-Socratics, Socrates)	
2	8/28	Ancient Greeks (Plato)	
2	8/30	Ancient Greeks (Hellenistic)	
3	9/4	<i>Labor Day - Campus Closed</i>	
3	9/6	History Overview	
4	9/11	History Overview	
4	9/13	Ethics (Metaethics)	Response Paper #1
5	9/18	Ethics (Hedonism and Utilitarianism)	
5	9/20	Ethics (Deontology and Virtue)	
6	9/25	TBA	
6	9/27	TBA	
7	10/2	Midterm Review	
7	10/4	Midterm	
8	10/9	Religion (Teleological, Ontological)	
8	10/11	Religion (The Problem of Evil)	Due: Thesis
9	10/16	Metaphysics (Materialism)	
9	10/18	Metaphysics (Idealism, Dualism)	
10	10/23	The Mind-Body Problem	

10	10/25	Free Will and Determinism	
11	10/30	Personal Identity	Response Paper #2
11	11/1	Bias and Fallacies	
12	11/6	Bias and Fallacies	Due: Rough Draft
12	11/8	Epistemology (Rationalism)	
13	11/13	Epistemology (Empiricism)	
13	11/15	Philosophy of Science	
14	11/20	Aesthetics	
14	11/22	Aesthetics	Response Paper #3
15	11/27	Ontology (and Language)	
15	11/29	Ontology (Mereology)	
16	12/4	Final Exam Review	
16	12/6	Final Exam Review	Due: Final Paper
Final	12/14	Final Exam (2:45 PM - 5:00 PM)	