

San José State University
Philosophy of the Person
Philosophy 12, Section 02, Fall 2018

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Andrew Delunas
Office Location: FO 208

Email: andrew.delunas@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: 1PM to 2PM, MW, FO 208
Class Days/Time: MW, 3:00-4:15 PM
Classroom: Dudley Moorehead Hall 208
GE/SJSU Studies Category: GE: Area E

Course Description:

In this course, we will consider what it means to be a *person*; this will entail considering the concept of personhood as it applies to non-human entities as well. Specifically, we will examine what it means to be a person, whether or not this concept is co-extensive with non-humans and non-biological entities, and what the concept of personhood entails for morality, personal identity, and society and culture.

Course Goals:

Students will understand themselves as integrated physiological, social, and psychological entities that are able to formulate strategies for lifelong personal development. Courses shall address challenges confronting students who are entering the complex social system of the university so that students can employ available university resources to support academic and personal development.

GE Learning Outcomes:

- E1. Demonstrate an awareness of the importance of personal development.
- E2. Examine the integration of oneself as a psychological, social, and physiological being.
- E3. Analyze human behavior, perception, and physiology and their interrelationships including sexuality, nutrition, stress, the social and physical environment, and the implications of death and dying.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. Recognize the physiological, socio-cultural, and psychological influences on their well-being;
2. Recognize the interrelation of the physiological, social/cultural, and psychological factors on their development across the lifespan;
3. Use appropriate social skills to enhance learning and develop positive interpersonal relationships with diverse groups and individuals;
4. Recognize themselves as individuals undergoing a particular stage of human development, understand how their well-being is affected by the university's academic and social systems, and how they can facilitate their development within the university environment.

Textbook

There is no required textbook for this course.

Other Readings

I will provide all course readings via SJSU's Canvas system; please check your student portal for the readings.

Course Requirements and Assignments (Required)

Reading Responses:

Students will select **three** (3) of the readings over the course of the semester to respond to; this response (1 to 2 pp.) should not solely be a summary of the argument presented, but an analytical engagement with your chosen reading. Ask and work through questions that occurred to you while you were reading. If you disagreed with the author this is the time to showcase your critical thinking abilities as you craft a response to her/his argument.

Final Essay:

Select one of the essays/excerpts from the course readings and write a 7 to 10 page argumentative essay in which you defend the author's argument from one or two criticisms, or provide your critique of the author's position. You may use external sources to strengthen your argument, *but they must be scholarly sources*: 'encyclopedic' websites e.g., Wikipedia do not count as scholarly sources. If you have any questions as to whether or not a source counts as a scholarly source, do not hesitate to ask me.

“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 three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

Grading Information (Required)

Short Essay responses (3): 18%

Class Participation: 2%

Final Essay 80%

Determination of Grades:

A: (93-100%)
A-: (90-92%)
B+: (87-89%)
B: (83-86%)
B-: (80-82%)
C+: (77-79%)
C: (73-76%)
C-: (70-72%)
D: (64-69%)
F: (0-69%)

Grading Information for GE/100W :

“This course must be passed with a C- or better as a CSU graduation requirement.”

- **For 100W (Area Z):**

“This course must be passed with a C or better as an SJSU graduation requirement.”

Classroom Protocol:

A good philosophy class is centered not on a lecture and student regurgitation of information, but rather on dialog and debate in conjunction with a guided discussion designed to break down the readings into something more manageable. With this in mind, the class will have a strong emphasis on in-class discussion, and therefore attendance, preparation (having actually read the assigned reading), and participation will all be essential to your experience in this course and will make up a considerable portion of your final grade. We will work frequently in small groups, and it will be imperative that we all work together to foster a trusting and comfortable environment for everyone. With that in mind, respect for one another is absolutely *essential* for this class. Feel free to disagree and debate with each other, but do so in a respectful manner. For example, try to refrain from interrupting others while they are talking, and remember to critique the *idea*—and not the *person*—you are debating. Coming to class and maintaining an open mind is also vital for good dialog to flourish.

Any disrespectful conduct will not be tolerated. Please feel free to email or speak to me if at any time you feel uncomfortable with the classroom environment. Similarly, I will speak to you if I perceive any problematic assumptions, biases, or prejudices that are making others uncomfortable.

University Policies (Required)

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](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/> **Make sure to review these policies and resources.**

Philosophy 12: Philosophy of the Person

Please note: 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	8/22/2018	Shelly Kagan, "The Badness of Death"
1	8/27/2018	Shelly Kagan; Thomas Nagel, "Death"
2	8/29/2018	Jean-Paul Sartre, "Existentialism is a Humanism"
2	9/5/2018	Steven M. Cahn, Jeffrie G. Murphy, "Happiness and Immortality"
3	9/10/2018	Paul Churchland <i>Matter and Consciousness</i> (excerpt)
3	9/12/2018	Rene Descartes <i>Discourse on the Method</i>
4	9/17/2018	Thomas Nagel "What is it Like to be a Bat?"
4	9/19/2018	John Searle, "Is the Brain's Mind a Computer Program?"
5	9/24/2018	Daniel Dennett, "The Chinese Room"
5	9/26/2018	Daniel Dennett, "The Boys from Brazil: Another Boom Crutch"
6	10/03/2018	Baron D'Holbach, "Of the System of Man's Free Agency"
6	10/08/2018	William James, "The Dilemma of Determinism"
7	10/10/2018	Harry G. Frankfurt, "Freedom of the Will and the Concept of a Person"
7	10/15/2018	TBD
8	10/17/2018	TBD
8	10/22/2018	TBD
9	10/24/2018	TBD
9	10/29/2018	TBD
10	10/31/2018	TBD
10	11/05/2018	TBD
11	11/07/2018	TBD
11	11/12/2018	TBD
12	11/14/2018	TBD

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
12	11/19/2018	TBD
13	11/21/2018	TBD
13	11/26/2018	TBD
14	11/28/2018	TBD
14	12/03/2018	TBD
15	12/05/2018	TBD
15	12/10/2018	TBD
16	12/12/2018	TBD
Final Exam		Not applicable.