

Phil 12: Philosophy of the Person, Section 5, Fall 2018

Instructor:	Casey Smith
Office Location:	FOB 209
Email:	Casey.Smith@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesday 1:30pm-2:30pm
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday/Thursday 3:00pm-4:15pm
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 the physiological, social/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; and
4. Recognize themselves as individuals undergoing a particular stage of human development, 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.

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/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 9/20, 10/18, and 11/15)

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 but might be a new one all your own.

Alternately, for one paper, you can join a group (either on campus or off) with people you disagree with or know very little about. Take notes while you are there, try to attend multiple gatherings, and then compile those notes into an account of what you experienced. What did you know about the group before vs after? How did you feel about the group before vs after? What did you experience that surprised you?

Research Paper Topic (Due 10/2)

Your research paper in this class will involve investigating and evaluating a deeply held widespread modern American cultural practice (a list of examples will be provided). Write me a short proposal explaining the topic that you are choosing, two sources that you will be using for your research, and your initial feelings about the practice.

Research Paper (Due 12/6)

Approximately 1500 words. First tell me about the cultural practice you've selected. Give me an idea of how it came about, then contrast it with practices that were used historically or are still used internationally. Find people suggesting new alternatives (even in fiction), invent your own, or maybe we would be better off doing nothing! Select an appropriate criteria and evaluate these practices and explain which is superior and why.

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 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)
 - Final 20%
 - 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 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. Refer to the current semester's Catalog Policies 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 at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The Late Drop 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 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>, 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 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 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 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) 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 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>.

Week	Date	Topics	Assignments
1	8/21	Introduction and Course Overview	
1	8/23	The Self...	
2	8/28	... and Other Minds	
2	8/30	Animals...	
3	9/4	...and Artificial Intelligence	
3	9/6	Empathy...	
4	9/11	...and Shame	
4	9/13	Free Will...	
5	9/18	...and Responsibility	
5	9/20	Life and Death	Response Paper #1
6	9/25	TBA	
6	9/27	TBA	
7	10/2	Vagueness and Almost-Nothing	Research Paper Topic
7	10/4	Success...	
8	10/9	..and Failure	
8	10/11	Non-identity...	
9	10/16	... and Aresponsibility	
9	10/18	Subjects...	Response Paper #2
10	10/23	...and Objects	
10	10/25	Parts...	
11	10/30	...and Wholes	
11	11/1	Love...	
12	11/6	...and Strife	
12	11/8	Expertise...	
13	11/13	...and Trust	
13	11/15	Crime...	Response Paper #3
14	11/20	...and Punishment	
14	11/22	Campus Closed	
15	11/27	Explicit and Implicit Bias	
15	11/29	Art....	
16	12/4	...and Science	
16	12/6	Final Exam Review	Research Paper
Final	12/17	Final Exam (2:45 PM - 5:00 PM)	