

San José State University
Humanities and Arts / Philosophy
Philosophy 291, Metaphysics and Epistemology, 1, Fall 2018

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Anand Vaidya
Office Location:	FOB 205
Telephone:	310 721 7367
Email:	anand.vaidya@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	T: 16:00-17:45
Class Days/Time:	T: 18:00 to 20:45
Classroom:	SH 241
Credits:	3 Units; This Course Satisfies Graduate Writing Assessment Requirement

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging (Optional)

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on my faculty web page at www.anandvaidya.weebly.com or through our canvas website.

Course Description

The course will be on Ludwig Wittgenstein. Especially his *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* and *Philosophical Investigations*. When necessary I will be bringing Wittgenstein's work into contact with other philosophers and traditions of philosophy.

Learning Outcomes and Course Goals

Learn about classical problems and theories in the western epistemology and metaphysics.

Learn about classical problems and theories in ancient Indian epistemology and metaphysics.

Engage in comparative philosophy.

Engage in critical analytical writing about topics in epistemology and metaphysics.

Required Texts/Readings

Wittgenstein, L. *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*

Wittgenstein, L. *Philosophical Investigations*

Wittgenstein, L. *On Certainty*

Other Readings

Additional readings will be at my website.

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that 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>.

There are three options. 1.) Write one 5000-word research paper after getting the topic approved by the instructor. 2.) Write two 2500-word essays, one on W's early work, and one on W's later work. 3.) Write 3 to 4, 1500-word essays on topics from W's early or late work. All work is due by December 10 Monday. Please send by email.

Grading Policy

Papers are graded on four criteria: (i) research quality; (ii) thesis; (iii) argument; and (iv) writing style and structure. The paper(s) count for 100% of the final grade.

Classroom Protocol

All students should come to class prepared to discuss the reading for the day. I will be engaging topics with a short lecture. The central part of seminar will be based on discussion provided by student questions.

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. 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/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 and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- “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.”
 - It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor's process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
 - In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- “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](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.