

San José State University
Department of Philosophy
PHILOSOPHY 70B, Modern Philosophy
Section 01, Fall 2018

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| Instructor: | James Lindahl |
| Office Location: | Faculty Office Building 205 |
| Telephone: | 408-924-4501 |
| Email: | James.Lindahl@sjsu.edu |
| Office Hours: | MW 8:00-8:45, TR 1:30-2:30 or by appointment |
| Class Days/Time: | MW 10:30-11:45 |
| Classroom: | SH 241 |
| Prerequisites: | English remediation completed Phil 70A recommended |
| GE/SJSU Studies Category: | Area C2: Humanities and Arts, Letters |

Course Description

Philosophy 70B is a history of Western philosophy class that covers the period from the end of the Renaissance through about 1850. This includes the rise of Renaissance Humanism, the Scientific Revolution, Rationalism and Empiricism as well as the Enlightenment period. The course is focused on key theoretical movements of the period including Natural Science, Political Science, Economics, Ethics, as well as developing ideas of race and gender equality and religious toleration.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbooks

Edwards and Popkin eds., *The Philosophy of the 16th and 17th Centuries*
Simon and Schuster – Free Press, 1966. Isbn 9780029254905

Kramnick, Isaac ed., *The Portable Enlightenment Reader*
Penguin, 1995. Isbn 9780140245660

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

Philosophy 70B meets the G.E. Area C2: Humanities and Arts, Letters. The course is organized according to Area C2 course objectives.

1. Goals

Courses in Arts and Letters should give students knowledge and understanding of significant works of the human intellect and imagination. Students will examine the interaction of analytical and creative processes in the production and perception of such works, and the significance of the historical and cultural contexts in which the works are created and interpreted. Courses should enable students to participate in social and cultural communities associated with artistic and literary endeavors, enriching their personal and professional lives.

2. Student Learning

Letters courses will enable students to:

- Recognize how significant works illuminate enduring human concerns;
- Respond to such works by writing both research-based critical analyses and personal responses; and
- Write clearly and effectively.

Letters courses should give students the opportunity to:

- Examine significant works of the human intellect and imagination;
- Understand the historical and cultural contexts in which such specific texts were created; and
- Recognize the accomplishments of and issues related to women and diverse cultures reflected in such texts.

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, and grades etc. may be found on the Canvas page for this course. Accept the invitation to join and you should have access to everything posted on the site for this class.

Assignments

You will be expected to write two medium length essays for this course (about five pages each).

Topics and guidelines for both will be handed out well before the due dates.

There will be reading assigned for each class. It is important to attend class and read the assigned material before class. On the tests, you will be responsible for information contained in the readings as well as in the class lectures.

Active participation is important. Students are encouraged to ask questions, contribute ideas, and engage in discussion of the course material. Each section will end with a discussion period during which all are expected to participate.

There will be two midterms and a final (short answer tests).

Grading Information:

All assignments will be graded out of 100 points. They will be weighted as indicated above. Final grades will be assigned according to the following grade schema:

93-100 = A, 90-92 = A-, 87-89 = B+, 83-86 = B, 80-82 = B-, 77-79 = C+,
73-76 = C, 70-72 = C-, 67-69 = D+, 63-66 = D, 60-62 = D-, 0-59 = F

Course Grade Breakdown:

| | |
|------------|-----|
| Essay #1 | 23% |
| Essay #2 | 23% |
| Midterm #1 | 18% |
| Midterm #2 | 18% |
| Final Exam | 18% |

Schedule of Major Assignments:

Midterm Exam #1 – Wednesday, September 26
Essay #1 – Wednesday, October 10
Midterm Exam #2 – Wednesday, October 31
Essay #2 – Wednesday, November 14
Final Exam – Tuesday, December 18, 9:45 AM

Assignments and Grading Policy

I will provide detailed instructions for all writing assignments on handouts distributed well before the due dates for each assignment. Assignments will be submitted to me, in person, at the end of the class on the day they are due.

Exams will be short-answer / written response tests. I will provide specific information before tests. I do not want any assignments submitted via e-mail. All assignments will be given to me on real paper in the real world in real time.

It is up to you to keep up on the schedule of assignments. There is a schedule of due-dates for all major assignments above. These are also listed in the reading schedule below. If you miss a handout announcing an upcoming assignment, this does not exonerate you of responsibility for that assignment. Watch the schedule. If you see an assignment soon due then you would be well-advised to ask me about it or consult the handout on my website to get instructions. Any assignments missing at the end of the semester will be graded “0.” Since I announce upcoming assignments in class, distribute handouts, post them on the Canvas page and list them in two places on this syllabus, “I didn’t know” is not an excuse for missing an assignment.

Never turn in the only copy of anything!!!! Always back up your work. Do not delete your work after it is submitted. I reserve the right to misplace an essay and request another copy. I will not accept excuses for lost assignments no matter who loses them. I know that hard disk crashes happen (especially for Windows users). I highly recommend that you save all work to a disc, back-up drive or flash drive and store it somewhere safe in the event that some mishap befalls your original copy. You can tell me stories about hard disc crashes or animals eating essays. They may be true (or not) and I may be amused (or not) but the verdict will always be “give me another copy” even if this requires you to write it again.

I do my best to return essays quickly and with substantial feedback. Given the recent increases in class size, “quickly” may mean 2-3 weeks. I read essays carefully, correct grammar, and respond to content issues. That can take time.

I use a red pen to correct essays. I have been told that this practice is now frowned upon because red ink makes the comments appear critical if not angry. I do not believe it does either. Red stands out against black print. The comments stand out against the page better if they are red. It means neither that I am being critical nor that I am angry. I like red pens.

Occasionally an essay might be returned with torn or tattered edges. This does not correlate to my feelings about the essay in any way. I have a cat that tears the edges off of paper. If your essay is torn around the edges it only means that your essay was on top of the stack when this cat decided she was not getting enough attention.

Keep all of your returned work for the entire semester.

I reserve the right to mis-enter a grade on my spreadsheet and request that you resubmit returned work to verify the correct grade. Keep everything until you see your grade at the end of the semester. Once the semester is over you may then dispose of all work in whatever bizarre (but safe) ritualistic fashion you choose or keep it carefully preserved as part of your eternal legacy.

Your final grade will be calculated according to your scores on all assignments weighted as described in the grading section of this syllabus. Missed assignment will dramatically reduce your grade. My computer does the math and generates a grade based on the numbers without considering other factors. I stand by its decision.

Office hours are listed both on this syllabus and on the main page of my website. This schedule is good for the entire semester up to the last day of instruction. I will have office hours during finals but they may be different than those listed.

Late or Missed Assignments:

If you need to miss a deadline, inform me as soon as you are aware of it. I will accommodate some (but not all) late work. Late writing assignments will be penalized 5% per week unless I have given permission for the late submission. Do not miss the tests. It is very difficult to schedule make-ups and none will be offered once a test is returned to the class. Any missing work at the end of the semester will be assigned the score of 0. Do the math; this can do substantial damage to your grade and/or result in failing the class even if you do well enough on other assignments.

[University policy F69-24](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf> states, “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.”

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

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

Extra Credit

There will be no extra credit assignments in this class. Do well on the scheduled assignments.

Workload:

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

Classroom Protocol

Note on your electronic devices:

Cell phones (smart or otherwise) are taken by yours truly as one of the plagues of the 21st century. While you may choose to remain leashed to everyone you know, chatter, text-message, or twitter incessantly about nothing while life passes you by, use hollow communication as a substitute for your own thoughts, inhibit the elegant flow of life as you blindly stand in every one else's way oblivious to your surroundings, and continually interrupt the few remaining contexts of silence and/or beauty in the world, you will please render them inoperative during class.

You may, of course, use a laptop to participate in class-related activities and take notes but you should refrain from text-messaging, checking e-mail, playing games, updating facebook, and unrelated net-surfing.

Smart Phones as well as cell-phones that are not so smart **MUST** be put completely away during tests. There shall be no phones out on desks or on laps or even sitting out on top of backpacks during tests. All must be off and completely out of sight. There shall be no earbuds in ears during tests. Any use of a phone or a computer during a test will result in an automatic failure on that test. If you are caught using any communication device during a test, the test will be taken away and you will receive a score of "0" on that test. No make-up opportunities will be offered. No exceptions.

In addition to smart phones, there will be no permitted use of **smart wrist mounted devices** (formerly "watches") nor the wearing of any **google glasses** during class.

A word on e-mails:

I am not one of those who spends hours per day in front of the computer. I am happy to respond to e-mails that require short and to-the-point responses. Do not e-mail requests for me to explain complex concepts or repeat lectures that you may have missed. If I cannot respond in a paragraph, I probably will not respond.

Some things you should know about e-mail:

E-mail is not always reliable. Never send an e-mail to me concerning an urgent or important matter and assume that it has been read by me and resolved. There are many reasons why an e-mail may not make it to me:

I may have (temporary) problems with my server or e-mail account.

You may have (temporary) problems with your server or e-mail account.

You may select a heading that looks to me like spam which I delete without reading.

Your e-mail might be erroneously identified as spam by my filter and sent straight to the trash bin.

Your message may make it into my inbox on a day when I do not get to all of my e-mails. It might then drift down in the e-mail inbox only to be noticed again four months later.

I may be having one of my anti-technology episodes, refuse to turn on my computer for a week and instead spend that time at the beach with my wife and dog.

Some of these problems are a feature of the technology, some of them are issues I have. Nothing can be done about either. If whatever you need to communicate to me is of great importance, choose a great medium (like vocal conversation) to convey it. E-mail is just not that trustworthy.

I do not carry a phone or a texting device.

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/>

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/>.

Cheating on a test will result in the assignment of a score of zero on the test. Consulting any notes, paper or electronic, during a test is considered cheating. There will be no use of smart phones during a test for any reason. No smart phones should be visible during a test. All phones should be turned off and put away. Using a smart phone, for any reason, during a test will be considered cheating.

Plagiarism is an egregious form of academic dishonesty. If I discover any essay or research paper is plagiarized, I will assign a score of zero for that assignment. There will be no opportunity for making up that assignment. Downloading or copying any content from websites, texts, or previously submitted papers, even partial copying, is considered plagiarism.

In both cases, I will, without exception, file a report with the office of Student Conduct. It will be up to them to decide if any further action is necessary.

The semester ends when the semester ends:

The day of the final exam is the last day of the course. When you walk out of the room, it is done. There is no further opportunity for submitting late work, making up work, revising work, or seeking reevaluations of old work. It is over; count it. Once the test is over, I leave campus, crawl into a small cave with only a box of granola bars and a carton of soy milk, and methodically correct all finals and remaining essays. I do not take any communication devices with me and will not be accessing email. Once I am done correcting everything, I calculate and submit grades. The grade submission deadline for faculty follows the last day of finals by only a couple of days. Grade rosters can only be submitted as a complete class. In other words, it is not possible to submit one student's grade without all of the others nor is it possible to hold up one student's grade without

holding up all grades. I will not delay the grades for an entire class to accommodate anyone's desire to submit late work.

The new University policy on incompletes:

The days where you might miss some major assignments during the semester and work out a deal to get an incomplete and finish it later are over. In days of olde, it was not uncommon for students to arrange to finish work long after the semester ended by taking an incomplete instead of a letter grade. The University is cracking down on this practice. It is no longer possible to do this without a formal petition to the Dean's office in which I explain that the missing work was my fault. It is, of course, never my fault. So, know this from the beginning: You must complete all work on schedule and have everything submitted to me before the final exam period. Anything missing will be counted as a "0" on the gradesheet and there will be no opportunity to submit it after the grades are in.

You should know what assignments are made and when they are due. Everything is listed on the greensheet. If you think you have missed a handout, ask me. You can also check the website. You can also ask me at any time to look over the spreadsheet to see if you are missing anything. The semester ends when the semester ends. The numbers, in the end, cannot be changed with negotiations or tears. Be warned in advance.

Life, School, and the tragedies that occasionally befall everyone:

Sometimes, bad things happen to good people. At some point during your college career, it is likely that life will impose difficulties upon you. Difficulties can interfere with your ability to study and generate the work necessary to do well in this class (as well as your others). You may be ill or someone near you may be ill; Someone close to you might pass away; financial hardships could force you to work long hours at a paying job.

If you find yourself in a situation that is likely to undermine your success in this class, speak to me about it. You don't need to reveal any personal details that you do not wish to but you should keep me informed about your difficulties completing assignments and preparing for tests. During the course of the semester, there are many ways for us to deal with these difficulties and I will work with you to help you complete the class whether it be now or during a future semester. The thing you do not want to do is struggle quietly, do poorly in the class (or fail) and then come to me during finals or after the grades have been submitted and inquire what can be done then. Nothing can be done once the semester is over. I am capable of human compassion and will do what I can to accommodate your needs as you deal with what life rains upon you. Just come to me when I can accommodate you and not after the semester is over.

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 you have any needs not described in the preceding or any issues that arise that interfere with your ability fulfill the requirements of this class, please speak to me as soon as possible. It is easier to accommodate your needs and solve problems when I have ample notice rather than trying to address such issues at the last minute.

| Week | Date | Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines |
|------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 5 | Monday, Wednesday Sept. 17, 19 | <p>Rationalism and the Philosophy of Rene Descartes</p> <p>Rene Descartes – “Meditations III-IV,” PC pp.141-161</p> |
| 6 | Monday, Wednesday Sept. 24, 26 | <p>Rationalists and the Nature of God</p> <p>Blaise Pascal – “Pensées” PC pp.219-225 Gottfried Leibniz – “Second Explanation and Theodicy” PC pp.332-339</p> <p>Midterm Exam #1 – Wednesday, September 26</p> |
| 7 | Monday, Wednesday Oct. 1, 3 | <p>Political Philosophy: The Age of Monarchy</p> <p>Jean Domat, Jacques Bénigne Bossuet – “Theories of Absolute Monarchy” (Canvas) Machiavelli – “The Prince, ch15-18” (Canvas) Thomas Hobbes – “Leviathan, ch13-14” (Canvas)</p> |
| 8 | Monday, Wednesday Oct. 8, 10 | <p>Political Philosophy: Social Contract Theory</p> <p>John Locke – “The Second Treatise of Civil Government” ER pp.395-404 Jean-Jacques Rousseau – “The Social Contract” ER pp.430-441 James Madison – “Federalist No.10” ER pp.459-466</p> <p>Essay #1 due Wednesday, October 10</p> |
| 9 | Monday, Wednesday Oct. 15, 17 | <p>The French Enlightenment and the “Enlightenment Project”</p> <p>Marquis de Condorcet – “The Future Progress of the Human Mind” ER pp.26-38, Cesar Chesneau Dumarsais – “Definition of a Philosophe” ER pp.21-22 Denis Diderot – “Encyclopédie” ER pp.17-21 Henry St. John, Lord Bolingbroke – “The Utility of History” ER pp.356-358 Marquis de Condorcet – “The Perfectibility of Man” ER pp.387-395</p> |

| Week | Date | Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines |
|------|---|---|
| 10 | Monday, Wednesday Oct. 22, 24 | <p>Economic theory</p> <p>François Quesnay – “The Physiocratic Formula” ER pp.496-502 Anne-Robert-Jacques Turgot – “Economic Liberty” ER pp.502-505 Adam Smith – “The Wealth of Nations” ER pp.505-515</p> |
| 11 | Monday, Wednesday Oct. 29, 31 | <p>Materialism</p> <p>Julien Offray de la Mettrie – “Man a Machine” ER pp.202-209 Thomas Hobbes – “Leviathan Ch5: Of Reason and Science” PC pp.205-211</p> <p>Midterm Exam #2 – Wednesday, October 31</p> |
| 12 | Monday, Wednesday Nov. 5, 7 | <p>Empiricism</p> <p>John Locke – “An Essay Concerning Human Understanding” ER pp.185-187 John Locke – “Of Words & Personal Identity” (Canvas) David Hume – “A Treatise of Human Nature” ER pp.195-202</p> |
| | Monday, Nov. 12 | <p>Veteran’s Day = Monday, November 12 Campus closed – no class</p> |
| 13 | Wednesday Nov. 14 | <p>Moral Theory</p> <p>Francis Hutcheson – “Concerning the Moral Sense” ER pp.275-280 Immanuel Kant – “Fundamental Principles of the Metaphysics of Morals” ER pp.297-306 Jeremy Bentham – “The Principle of Utility” ER pp.306-314</p> <p>Essay #2 due Wednesday, November 14</p> |
| 14 | Monday, Nov. 19 Wed. 21 = no class | <p>Continue Moral theory – Kant and Bentham</p> <p>No class on Wednesday, November 21 (non-instruction day)</p> |

| Week | Date | Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines |
|------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 15 | Monday, Wednesday Nov. 26, 28 | <p>Equality and Inequality - Race and Gender</p> <p>Jean-Jacques Rousseau – “Discourse on the Origin of Inequality” ER pp.424-430</p> <p>Jean-Jacques Rousseau – “Duties of Women” ER pp.568-579</p> <p>Immanuel Kant – “The Differences Between the Races” ER pp.637-639</p> <p>Mary Wollstonecraft – “Vindication of the Rights of Woman” ER pp.618-628</p> <p>John Woolman – “Considerations on the Keeping of Negroes” ER pp.630-636</p> |
| 16 | Monday, Wednesday Dec. 3, 5 | <p>Religion in the Enlightenment</p> <p>Benjamin Franklin – “Something of My Religion” ER pp.166-167</p> <p>Isaac Newton – “The Argument for a Deity” ER pp.96-100</p> <p>Jean-Jacques Rousseau – “Profession of Faith of a Savoyard Vicar” ER pp.134-140</p> <p>Baron d’Holbach – “No need of Theology.... Only of Reason” ER pp.140-150</p> <p>David Hume – “Of Miracles and the Origin of Religion” ER pp.109-115</p> |
| 17 | Monday, Dec. 10 | <p>The Legacy of the Enlightenment</p> <p>John Locke – “A Letter Concerning Toleration” ER pp.81-90</p> <p>Marquis de Condorcet – “The Utility of Science” ER pp.64-69</p> |
| Final Exam | Tuesday, Dec. 18 | Tuesday, December 18, 9:45 – 12:00 in SH 241 (the usual room) |

Grades are posted on mysjsu.edu on Saturday, December 22 (or a couple of days later)
You can learn your grade on the final exam by sending me an e-mail request 3 or 4 days after the final exam or by checking the Canvas page spreadsheet.