Office Hours:
Boynton 208A
Monday 10:00-11:30 a.m.
Tuesday 9:00-11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday 7:00-8:30 p.m.
I am also available by appointment. Please note that I do not make appointments on Thursdays.

Communication:
The best way to reach me is by email at acsmith@sfasu.edu. Be sure to remember the "c"!
You may also call me at x2327; please note that my voicemail is somewhat erratic and I do not recommend leaving messages.

Course Description:
Focus on philosophical ideas as explored in science fiction short stories, TV shows and movies. This version of the course focuses on the Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling.

Program Learning Outcome:
When presented with a philosophical passage, either theoretical or applied, a student will be able to identify the central thesis of the passage, explain how the content of the passage supports this thesis, and provide two additional philosophical considerations, one in favor of the thesis and one opposed to the thesis.

Textbooks:
In addition, all students are expected to have read all seven Harry Potter books as well as Fantastic Beasts & Where to Find Them.

Grading Criteria:
30% Quizzes/Worksheets
25% each: 2 Short Papers
20% Mythological Presentation
Note: You will receive a detailed handout concerning your responsibilities for papers and presentations.

Due Dates:
Paper 1: Monday, October 17
Paper 2: Monday, November 7
Mythological Presentation: November 14-December 7

Units:
The Nature of Evil: August 31 – September 28
TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:
August 29: Orientation and syllabus
August 31: Beginning of Unit 1: Plato's Tyrant and Voldemort
September 7-12: Aristotle, character and flaws
September 19-21: Metaphysics and evil
September 26-28: Nietzsche and Quirrell
October 3-5: Beginning of Unit 2; Kant and Rowling on what makes a "being"
October 10-12: Defining the Self in terms of the Other
October 17-19: Feminism in the Potterverse
October 24-26: Summary of Unit 2
October 31-November 2: Beginning of Unit 3; Classical philosophers on death and the soul
November 7-9: Additional views on the soul
November 14-16: Beyond the Veil: Death, Hope, and Meaning
November 21: Guest lecture on Mythology
November 28-30: Student presentations on Mythology
December 5-7: Student presentations on Mythology

Course Policies: Regarding Grading Criteria
- Attendance is required. A student who accumulates more than six absences, whether excused or unexcused, will receive a final grade of "F" for the course.
- If you are absent on the date that a worksheet is due, you may give it to a classmate to submit on your behalf, or submit it by email no later than 1:15 p.m. Students are responsible for keeping track of their own absences and recognizing when their grade is endangered.
- Missed quizzes may not be made up; I will, however, drop your lowest quiz.
- Late papers will be severely penalized. Like Filch, I sometimes regret the abolition of hanging by the wrists for errant students.

Additional Policies
Academic integrity is the responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism. According to the SPA policy located at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp,

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit.
Anyone who commits an act of cheating or plagiarism will receive a grade of F for the course. Moreover, the student is required to meet with the instructor to discuss the incident, and a formal Report of Academic Dishonesty will be submitted to the student's permanent file. If you feel that the instructor's determination of academic dishonesty is in error, there is an appeals process described in full at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_appeals_students.asp

**Cell phones**
- Cell phones and other electronic communication devices must be turned off during class. Any student whose cell phone rings during a regular class will be counted absent for that day. Any student who uses a cell phone to send or receive text messages during a regular class, or who uses a cell phone in any other disruptive way, will be assessed two absences. Repeated offenses will incur further penalties.
- Cell phones must be turned off and stowed out of sight during tests. Any student whose cell phone rings during a test or quiz or who looks at a cell phone during an examination must turn in whatever work has been completed (which will form the basis of the student's grade on that test) and leave the room.
- Requests for exemptions from this policy will be granted on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the instructor.

**Disability accommodations:** To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

**Withheld Grades [Semester Grades Policy (A-54)]**
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Acceptable Student Behavior**
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

**Extra credit is not available.** The grade you receive in this class will be the grade you earn on course requirements.