OFFICE: Monday & Wednesday 3:00-5:00 p.m.  
HOURS:  Tuesday 10:30-11:30 a.m. & 2:30-3:30 p.m.  
and by appointment  

Office: Boynton 208A  
Phone: 468-2327  
Email: acsmith@sfasu.edu [n.b. be sure to include the “c”!]

Course description  
An introduction to philosophy through the examination of prominent philosophical problems, topics and  
thorists. We will focus on Plato’s philosophy for a good part of the course, but we will study other  
philosophers as well.

Program Learning Outcomes:  
▪ This is a general education core curriculum course and no specific program learning outcomes for  
this major are addressed in this course.

Student Learning Outcomes:  
▪ Students will acquire factual knowledge concerning metaphysics, epistemology, and philosophy of the person.  
▪ Students will gain familiarity with certain fundamental philosophical questions and historically prominent conceptual systems, as well as an understanding of the progression of ideas within philosophical disciplines.  
▪ Students will come to recognize the importance of basic philosophical issues and distinctions in their own lives, and to analyze and evaluate the choices they make in regard to these issues.

Core Curriculum Objectives  
PHI 153 is part of the university's Core Curriculum. As such, the work assigned in this course recognizes the general goals of the core and the specific objectives attached to those classes designated for inclusion in the Language, Philosophy, and Culture Foundational Component Area as defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. More detailed information concerning the core outcomes to be assessed in this class can be found following the Course Policies section of the syllabus.

Course Materials  
All necessary texts will be provided online through the D2L website for the course.

Grading Criteria  
2 Cultural Event Reflections (5% each) 10%  
2 Short Papers (15% each) 30%  
Midterm 30%  
Final 30%
**Attendance and participation:**

*Attendance* will be taken every day by roll. It is your responsibility to make sure that your name is recorded when you are present. Sleeping in class, using your cell phone in class, doing homework for other classes, or being disengaged from the class in any other way may result in your being counted absent for the day. Excessive absences may lower your course grade. If you accumulate more than three weeks' worth of absences, in accordance with university policy, you may receive an automatic F for the course.

**Cultural event reflections**

Throughout the semester, I will let you know about upcoming events that you can attend on campus, such as talks by guest speakers, dramatic productions, and panel presentations. You are required to attend two such events and to write a short reflection about each one, using a template that I will supply, in which you relate the event to something you are learning about or have learned about in this class. The template for the reflections will be available on the D2L website for the course.

**Short Papers**

You will receive a document detailing the topics and requirements at least three weeks before each paper is due.

The first short paper will be due **October 24**. The topic will be a comparison and contrast of philosophical positions that we studied in the first part of the semester (metaphysics and epistemology).

The second short paper will be due **December 10**. The topic will be to write an analysis of a fictional character in terms of the philosophical positions that we studied in the second part of the semester (happiness and the soul).

**Midterm**

The midterm exam will be held on Wednesday, October 10. The exam will cover the material from the first half of the semester. The exam format will be a mix of multiple-choice questions, true-false questions, and other objective questions; you will not need to bring a Scantron sheet or blue book.

**Final**

The final will be a take-home exam. It will be assigned on the last day of class and you will have until Wednesday of exam week to turn it in. There will be a dropbox open in D2L for you to submit the final exam, which must be in one of the following formats: .txt, .rtf, .doc, or .docx. D2L cannot read documents saved as .pages and it has trouble with .pdf—do not use those formats! The final exam format will consist of long-answer questions designed so that you can demonstrate how well you understand the material; you may use your class notes and the readings on D2L. Remember the rules for plagiarism!

**Tentative Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week(s)</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>August 27-31</td>
<td>Syllabus; definition of philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>September 3-14</td>
<td>What is Real? Early Greek Philosophers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-6</td>
<td>September 17-October 5</td>
<td>What is Real? Plato &amp; Aristotle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>October 8-12</td>
<td>Review &amp; Midterm examination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-11</td>
<td>October 15-November 9</td>
<td>What Does It Mean To Be Human? Pt. 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-15</td>
<td>November 12-December 7</td>
<td>What Does It Mean To Be Human? Pt. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>December 12</td>
<td>Final examination due</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COURSE 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 SFA policy located at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/4.1-student-academic-dishonesty.pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/4.1-student-academic-dishonesty.pdf),

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.

**Please note that quoting or closely paraphrasing any resource without citation is plagiarism and will be penalized.** The minimum penalty for plagiarism is a score of zero (0) on the plagiarized assignment. Anyone who commits an act of cheating or plagiarism may receive a grade of F for the course, in which case 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-by-students-6.3.pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic-appeals-by-students-6.3.pdf).

**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/](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.
General Education Core Curriculum

This course has been selected to be part of Stephen F. Austin State University's core curriculum. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has identified six objectives for all core courses: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, Teamwork, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. SFA is committed to the improvement of its general education core curriculum by regular assessment of student performance on these six objectives.

The chart below indicates the core objectives addressed by this course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking Skills</td>
<td>To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas though written, oral, and visual communication.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal Responsibility</td>
<td>To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Responsibility</td>
<td>To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.</td>
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