Instructor: Dr. Anne Collins Smith

Office hours:

- Online (using Pager in D2L): I will be available for at least two hours every day, usually more. I like to offer a rotating selection of times based on student requests; please post to the Open Question Forum and let me know what times you would like me to hold these hours.

Contact information: The best way to contact me is through the Mail function within D2L. You can also contact me by regular email at acsmith@sfasu.edu.

Course description
An introduction to philosophy through the examination of prominent philosophical problems, topics and theorists.


- You can purchase a code from the on-campus bookstore that will enable you to purchase access to an electronic version of the textbook, including interactive content (called "LearnSmart") designed to help you comprehend the material. You can earn up to 5 points extra credit - equivalent to half a grade level - by completing the LearnSmart material for the chapters covered in this course.
- You may also be able to sign up for two weeks of courtesy access to the electronic textbook if you need a little extra time to be able to afford it. You can find instructions here: [http://createwp.customer.mheducation.com/wordpress-mu/success-academy/student-free-trial/](http://createwp.customer.mheducation.com/wordpress-mu/success-academy/student-free-trial/).
- Whenever you obtain access to the electronic textbook, you will need a "Connect Section Web Address" in order to complete the registration process. That address for this course is [http://connect.mheducation.com/class/a-smith-phi-153-introduction-to-philosophy-maymester-2018](http://connect.mheducation.com/class/a-smith-phi-153-introduction-to-philosophy-maymester-2018).
If you are on or near campus during the summer, there is a hard copy of the textbook on reserve at the library. It can only be used in the library, and does not include a code for the interactive material; however, if you experience a delay in obtaining the text, you can use this copy in the meantime.

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 information concerning the nature of philosophy and the practice of critical thinking.
- Students will gain an understanding of certain fundamental philosophical problems and historically prominent conceptual systems associated with the philosophical disciplines of philosophy of the person, epistemology, and ethics.
- 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.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

N.B. See the Course Timeline for a more detailed schedule.

May 14-17
Unit One: Getting Started and the Philosophical Journey

Lecture and textbook reading assignment on The Philosophical Journey; Unit 1 quizzes and reflection paper.

May 18-22
Unit Two: Mind and Body
Lecture and textbook reading assignment on Mind and Body; Unit 2 quizzes and reflection paper.

May 23-26
Unit Three: Epistemology - The Search for Knowledge

Lecture and textbook reading assignment on Epistemology; Unit 3 quizzes and reflection paper.

May 28-30
Unit Four: Ethics

Lecture and textbook reading assignment on Ethics; Unit 4 quizzes and reflection paper.

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**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

- **Factual Quizzes:** 20% of your total grade
  - There will be an open-book quiz during each unit to test your basic comprehension of the readings and lectures. You may attempt each quiz twice; you will receive the higher of the two scores.
  - Quizzes will be available through the Quizzes tool in D2L. They can also be reached by a link from the Content Browser.
  - Each quiz is worth 5% of your final grade.

- **Thinking Skills Quizzes:** 40% of your total grade
  - There will be an additional open-book quiz during each unit to enable you to demonstrate higher-order thinking skills with regard to the readings and lectures. You may attempt each quiz twice; you will receive the higher of the two scores.
  - Bear in mind that these quizzes are more difficult than the factual quizzes.
  - Each Thinking Skills Quiz is worth 10% of your final grade.

- **Reflection Papers:** 40% of your total grade
  - There will be a reflection paper during each unit to demonstrate your understanding of the material for each unit. Each paper should be about 200-300 words in length (about two paragraphs). You may write more if you wish. They will be graded in part on the accuracy of the course material that you apply in answering the question, in part on your demonstration of the critical thinking skills that you learned as part of the first unit, and in part on your thoughtfulness and level of detail.
  - Reflection papers will be available through the Dropboxes tool in D2L, or by a link from the Content Browser. Each reflection paper's instructions
will be available in its Dropbox. You may submit your papers as .txt, .rtf, .doc, or .docx files; do not use any other format.

- Although I do not grade specifically on the basis of grammar, spelling, or punctuation, I expect your essays to be written in such a way that they can be clearly understood. Errors that interfere with clarity will count against you. Keep in mind that trying to impress your instructor by using long words can backfire. To borrow an example from *The Wizard of Oz*, it's much better to spell and use "good deed-doers" correctly than to mangle "philanthropist."
- Each reflection paper is worth 10% of your grade.

- **LearnSmart Extra Credit Exercises**
  - These exercises are available on the Connect Web Section for your electronic textbook. Completing all the assigned exercises will give you an extra 5% toward your final grade.

- **A note on deadlines**: Because of the compressed nature of the Maymester schedule, extensions on course requirements are not available.

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**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/student_academic_dishonesty.pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/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 the textbook or lecture without citation is plagiarism and will be penalized.** 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
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.