Introduction to Philosophy  
PHI 153  
Spring 2020

Dr. Kim Díaz  
OFFICE HOURS:  
MONDAY 11:00 –2:00 p.m. (online)  
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Course Meeting Time and Place: Since this course meets entirely online, no class time or classroom has been assigned to this course.

Prerequisites for Course: None

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

Required Textbook:  
All students must purchase access to an electronic version of the course textbook, including interactive content designed to help you comprehend the material, by contacting the publisher directly at http://shop.mheducation.com/highered/product.M0078038340.html or by purchasing a code at a local textbook store.

Course Requirements:  
· Factual Quizzes – 20% of final course grade  
· Thinking Skills Quizzes – 20% of final course grade  
· Unit Discussions – 40% of final course grade  
· Dropbox Assignments – 20% of final course grade

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:
1. Students will acquire factual information concerning the nature of philosophy and the practice of critical thinking.
2. 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.
3. 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.

Course Policies
1. **Student Conduct:** 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 (cf. 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 course requirements may be referred to the iCare Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

2. **Office Hours**
Students may meet with the instructor during office hours by using the instant message function on the university's Desire2Learn (D2L) website. The instructor will respond within ten (10) minutes to instant messages sent during her office hours.

3. **Getting Started Module and Assignments**
   a. All students must complete three (3) assignments at the beginning of the semester. Each of these assignments may be found in the Getting Started module in the Content Browser section of the D2L site for the course.
   b. The first assignment is the Syllabus Quiz, which is a short quiz based on the syllabus and designed to make sure students have essential information concerning the course. Students must pass this quiz with a score of 100% and will be permitted to take this quiz as many times as necessary to achieve this score. **Students who complete the syllabus quiz will earn 2.5 extra credit points added to their final grade.**
   c. The second assignment is participation in the Getting Acquainted Exercise, in which students participate in an online discussion designed to
familiarize them with the discussion function of the D2L site for the course. Students must make at least four posts to this discussion: an initial post introducing themselves to the rest of the class and at least three posts responding to introductions posted by other students.

d. The third assignment is the Discussion Instructions quiz, which is a short quiz that covers material from the Discussion Instructions document and the Unit Discussion Grading Rubrics document. This quiz is designed to familiarize students with the requirements of the unit discussions as well as strategies for performing well on these course requirements. Students must pass this quiz with a score of 100% and will be permitted to take this quiz as many times as necessary to achieve this score. **Students who complete the Discussion Instructions Quiz will earn 2.5 extra credit points added to their final grade.**

4. **Factual Quizzes**
   a. During each unit of the course, students will be required to take an open-book quiz to demonstrate comprehension of basic information contained in the unit readings and course lectures.
   b. Each Factual Quiz will be worth a total of five (5) points and will typically consist of a combination of multiple-choice and true/false questions.
   c. Quizzes will be available through the Course Tools menu on the D2L website for the course.
   d. Students may attempt each Factual Quiz a maximum of two (2) times. A student’s grade on this quiz will the higher of the two scores earned on these attempts.
   e. If you miss a scheduled quiz or a deadline, only a university approved excuse will be considered as a valid excuse and you must apply in writing (e-mail O.K.) to the instructor to explain why a quiz or deadline was missed. If any assignment deadline is missed without a valid excuse or approval from the instructor, one/half credit for the missed assignment can be obtained by completing the assignment within one day following the deadline. After one day has passed beyond the deadline for the assignment, no credit will be able to be earned for that assignment. Computer problems is not an acceptable excuse for lateness; signing up for an online course carries the presumption that you will have reliable computers/internet.

5. **Thinking Skills Quizzes**
   a. During each unit of the course, students will be required to take an open-book quiz to demonstrate more complex, higher-order thinking skills to demonstrate understanding of the theoretical material contained in the unit readings and course lectures. The questions in the Thinking Skills Quizzes are more difficult than those in the Factual Quizzes, and students are urged to approach them thoughtfully.
b. Each Thinking Skills Quiz will be worth a total of five (5) points and will typically consist of a combination of multiple-choice and true/false questions.
c. Quizzes will be available through the Course Tools menu on the D2L website for the course.
d. Students may attempt each Factual Quiz a maximum of two (2) times. A student’s grade on this quiz will be the higher of the two scores earned on these attempts.
e. If you miss a scheduled quiz or a deadline, only a university approved excuse will be considered as a valid excuse and you must apply in writing (e-mail O.K.) to the instructor to explain why a quiz or deadline was missed. If any assignment deadline is missed without a valid excuse or approval from the instructor, one/half credit for the missed assignment can be obtained by completing the assignment within one day following the deadline. After one day has passed beyond the deadline for the assignment, no credit will be able to be earned for that assignment. Computer problems is not an acceptable excuse for lateness; signing up for an online course carries the presumption that you will have reliable computers/internet.

6. Unit Discussions
a. During each unit of the course, students will be required to participate in a group discussion to explore the unit material in greater detail. Specific requirements for participation in group discussions will be addressed during the Getting Started module for the course.
b. Student participation in group discussions will be graded on a ten (10) point scale. Students will be graded on the clarity, thoughtfulness, and collegiality of their discussion posts as well as on the number of their discussion posts.
c. Discussions will be available through the Course Tools menu on the D2L website for the course.
d. Because student contributions to group discussions must be made in a timely manner, no extensions will be granted by the instructor regarding participation in a group discussion.

7. Dropbox Assignments
a. During each unit of the course, each student will be required to complete one (1) dropbox assignment to demonstrate his/her understanding of the unit material. Each dropbox assignment will consist of a written essay, typically based on one of the boxed exercises found in the course textbook. Specific instructions and requirements will be provided for each dropbox assignment.
b. Dropbox assignments will be graded on a five (5) point scale. The rubrics used in grading dropbox assignments are listed in the instructions for each dropbox assignment.
c. Dropbox assignments must be submitted through the Course Tools menu on the D2L website for the course.

d. If you miss a scheduled quiz or a deadline, only a university approved excuse will be considered as a valid excuse and you must apply in writing (e-mail O.K.) to the instructor to explain why a quiz or deadline was missed. If any assignment deadline is missed without a valid excuse or approval from the instructor, one/half credit for the missed assignment can be obtained by completing the assignment within one day following the deadline. After one day has passed beyond the deadline for the assignment, no credit will be able to be earned for that assignment. Computer problems is not an acceptable excuse for lateness; signing up for an online course carries the presumption that you will have reliable computers/internet.

8. 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/.

9. Academic Integrity
   a. Academic integrity is a 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.
   b. Definition of Academic Dishonesty: 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 one’s 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 read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp
   c. Please note that quoting or closely paraphrasing the textbook or course lecture without citation is plagiarism and will be penalized.
d. Students are required to be familiar with all items they submit in fulfillment of course requirements. If in the instructor’s opinion, a student does not demonstrate sufficient familiarity with any such item, the instructor may reject the item and assign the student a score of zero (0) for that item.

e. Students in this course are required to adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity. Any student who commits an act of cheating or plagiarism in this course is subject to receiving a final course grade of “F.” Moreover, the student will be required to meet with the instructor to discuss the incident, and a formal Report of Academic Dishonesty will be submitted to the student’s personal file.

f. A student who considers the instructor’s determination of academic dishonesty to be in error may take advantage of an appeals process described in full at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic-appeals-by-students.pdf

10. Grades

a. Midterm Grades: In accordance with university policy, students will be assigned a midterm grade in this course. This grade will be based on all course requirements completed prior to midterm. A student’s midterm grade is no guarantee of the student’s final course grade. A student with a passing midterm grade may still fail the course; a student with a failing midterm grade may still pass the course.

b. As course requirements are graded, the instructor will publish student grades to the D2L site for the course; if a grade has not been published on the D2L site for the course, the grade is not yet available. The instructor does not generally respond to requests to specify the date by which a particular course requirement will be graded, provide unpublished grades to students, compute current course averages for students, or compute the scores required by students on remaining course requirements to achieve a particular final grade in the course.

c. Withheld Grades: 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.

Tentative Course Schedule:
· Getting Started Module: January 15 – January 24
· Unit One - The Philosophical Journey: January 27 – February 14
· Unit Two - Mind and Body: February 17 – March 06
· Unit Three - The Search for Knowledge: March 16 – April 03
· Unit Four - Ethics: April 06 – May 01
NOTE: For a more detailed list of the activities and due dates associated with each unit, please refer to the Course Timeline, which is available in the Course Content section of the D2L page for the course.