Stephen F. Austin State University  
Division of Multidisciplinary Programs  
PHIL 1301.509: Introduction to Philosophy  
{Fall 2021 -- Semester Term}

**Instructor:** Dr. [Mr.] Kelly Joseph Salsbery -- [**Pronouns:** He/Him/His]

[Please address me as Dr. Salsbery, Professor Salsbery, or simply as Professor.  
Please do not address me as Mr. Salsbery!]

**[Tentative] Office hours:**

- In person (Boynton 208D): **None**
- [Online (using D2L Chat)]: Monday: 4-5 pm, Tuesday: 4-5 pm, Wed: 11 am-noon, TH: 11 am-Noon and by appointment.
- [Online (using Zoom)]: TH: 4-5 pm, and by appointment. [Link information TBA.]

(Note: University Meetings or Personal Appointments may conflict with this schedule at times.)

>>> The best (and preferred) way to contact me is through the "Mail" function within D2L.

**Course description:**

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

**Credit Hour Justification:** The course contains extensive reading and written content which includes the same information students in a face-to-face lecture course receive. Students engage in online modules for at least three hours per week. Students complete four discussion posts, multiple quizzes, four essays in addition to regular homework assignments. For every hour engaging with content, students spend at least two hours completing associated activities and assessments.

There are multiple ways to get hold of the textbook:

- You can order/purchase a code from the on-campus bookstore or from the nearby Jack Backers 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 also purchase electronic access to the textbook and its interactive content directly. This is the least expensive and best way to do this. **See the News item regarding this!**

**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**

**General Education Core Curriculum**

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has identified six core learning objectives: 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.

By enrolling in PHIL 1301, you are also enrolling in a Core Curriculum Course that fulfills the Personal Responsibility requirement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>How the Core Objective Will Be Addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal Responsibility</td>
<td>To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.</td>
<td>Unit 1 Discussion assignment on The SFA Way</td>
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**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:**

>> Note: See the Course Timeline(s) for a more detailed schedule.

**August 24-August 29**

Getting Started - Introductory material, Get Acquainted Exercise and Discussion Instructions Quiz.

**August 30-September 7**

Unit One: The Philosophical Journey

Lecture and textbook reading assignment on The Philosophical Journey; Unit 1 quizzes, and discussion.

**September 8-September 19**

Unit Two: Mind and Body

Lecture and textbook reading assignment on Mind and Body; Unit 2 quizzes, and discussion.
September 20-September 29  
Unit Three: Epistemology - The Search for Knowledge

Lecture and textbook reading assignment on Epistemology; Unit 3 quizzes, and discussion.

September 30-October 9  
Unit Four: Ethics

Lecture and textbook reading assignment on Ethics; Unit 4 quizzes, and discussion.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

N.B. The Discussion Instructions quiz and the Get Acquainted Exercise are gateways to the graded unit discussions. They do not count toward your final grade.

- **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.
  - 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.
  - Bear in mind that these quizzes are more difficult than the factual quizzes.
  - Each Thinking Skills Quiz is worth 10% of your final grade.
• **Discussion Participation**: 20% of your total grade.
  
  o Students are required to participate in graded group discussions during each of the four units. Your discussion grade is not solely based on the number of posts but on their clarity, thoughtfulness, and collegiality.
  
  o There are detailed discussion requirements available in the Getting Started module; you will need to pass a quiz on these requirements before you can participate in the first graded discussion.
  
  o Your participation in the discussions is graded on a scale of 0-50 (each worth 5% of your final grade).
  
  o The Get Acquainted discussion (in the Getting Started module), **while required**, is not graded; in addition to offering you an opportunity to get to know your classmates, it also offers you the opportunity to become experienced in using the discussion function in a low-stress situation.

• **McGraw-Hill Connect [Learnsmart] Exercises associated with our required interactive text (required)**: 20% of your total grade.

• **A note on deadlines**: Extensions may be available on individual assignments; contact the instructor if you have an extenuating circumstance. However, because of the group nature of the discussions, extensions are **not** available on discussions.

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**GRADING POLICY**

90-100%: **A**  
80-89%: **B**  
70-79%: **C**  
60-69%: **D**  
0-59%: **F**
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,

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 process described in full at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic-appeals-by-students.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/.

**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.

**SFASU values students’ mental health** and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students' mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.
On-campus Resources:

SFASU Counseling Services

www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices

3rd Floor Rusk Building

936-468-2401

SFASU Human Services Counseling Clinic

www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp

Human Services Room 202

936-468-1041

Crisis Resources:

Burke 24-hour crisis line 1(800) 392-8343

Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1(800) 273-TALK (8255)

Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741