Class Time: Thursday 3:30 - 4:45 p.m.
Classroom: Paul L. Boynton Building 212 (BO 212)

Dr. Owen M. Smith
Professor of Philosophy and Classical Studies
OFFICE: Paul L. Boynton Building 208B (BO 208B)
OFFICE HOURS:
    T  11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon (OFFICE) and 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. (OFFICE)
    W 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. (OFFICE) and 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. (ONLINE via Zoom)
    R 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon (OFFICE) and 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. (ONLINE via Zoom)
    and by appointment
E-MAIL ADDRESS: omsmith@sfasu.edu
OFFICE PHONE: (936) 468-2367

Prerequisites for Course: None

Course Description:
Explanation of ethical theories regarding both what actions are right and wrong and what makes people of good and bad moral character; application of ethical theories to contemporary moral issues

Course Credit Hours Justification:
Introduction to Ethics typically meets three times each week (Monday/Wednesday/Friday) in 50-minute segments for 15 weeks, and also meets for a 2-hour final examination.
Students have significant weekly reading assignments, complete two exams, a final exam, an ethical theory essay and discussion work. These activities average a minimum of 6 hours of work per week to prepare outside of classroom hours.

Required Texts:
NONE - The course has been designed to use open source materials composed by the instructor for this course.
Course Requirements:
• Unit 1 Quiz - Foundations: 10% of final grade
• Unit 2 Quiz - Two Metaethical Stances: 10% of final grade
• Unit 3 Quiz - Relativistic Normative Ethical Theories: 15% of final grade
• Unit 4 Quiz - Deontological Ethics: 10% of final grade
• Unit 5 Quiz - Utilitarianism: 10% of final grade
• Unit 6 Quiz - Agent Ethics (Taoism): 10% of final grade
• Issue 1 Discussion: 10% of final grade
• Issue 2 Discussion: 10% of final grade
• Essay 1 - Moral Dilemma in Deontological Ethics: 5% of final course grade
• Essay 2 - Moral Dilemma in Utilitarianism: 5% of final course grade
• Essay 3 - Story Interpretation in Agent Ethics (Taoism): 5% of final course grade

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 1304, 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>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal Responsibility</td>
<td>To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.</td>
<td>Online Issue Discussions</td>
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Program Learning Outcomes
This is a general education core curriculum course and no unique program learning outcomes for the philosophy major are addressed in this course.

Student Learning Outcomes:
1. Students will gain a more detailed understanding of basic ethical distinctions and terminology.
2. Students will gain a more detailed understanding of basic ethical principles and theories through the application of these principles and theories to contemporary moral problems.
3. Students will recognize the importance of basic ethical distinctions and principles in their own lives and will more effectively analyze and evaluate the choices they make regarding ethical issues.
Course Policies:

1. Class Attendance and Student Conduct
   a. Since in-class exercises and discussions of course material are an essential part of the course work, each student is required to attend every class session. Students are required to be punctual in their attendance and to remain in class until the end of each class session, with the exception of breaks announced by the instructor. Behavior that is disrespectful to the instructor or to other students is not acceptable during class.
   b. 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 class projects/exams 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.
   c. Attendance will be taken each class session either orally or in the form of an attendance sheet to be signed by each student. Students are responsible for making sure that their attendance has been recorded for each class session. Attendance at a class session may be recorded only during that session.
   d. Students are not permitted to use cell phones or other electronic devices such as laptop computers during class or to have cellphones on their desks or laps during class sessions; during all class sessions, including examinations, these devices must be turned off and placed out of sight. The instructor may also require students to remove their personal possessions, such as backpacks, from their desktops during class. A penalty of one (1) partial absence will be assessed for each violation of this policy.
   e. Excessive absences will result in a failing course grade. Students who arrive late to class or leave class early are assigned partial absences; for every two (2) partial absences, one (1) full absence will be assessed against a student’s attendance record. Any student who accumulates more than three (3) full absences during the semester is subject to receiving a final course grade of “F.” Students are responsible for keeping track of their own attendance record and recognizing when their final course grade is endangered by excessive absences. Students who miss class sessions owing to late registration will not be charged with these absences provided that they meet with the instructor in the first two weeks of the semester to discuss the syllabus and review missed material.
   f. Students are responsible for all material addressed and all exercises performed in class regardless of their attendance record. Students who miss class are encouraged to obtain notes from a classmate and review these notes with the instructor.

2. Office Hours
   a. The instructor is available to meet with students either in his office (BO 208B) or online via Zoom. Students can also meet with the instructor during office hours by using the instant message function on the university’s Desire2Learn (D2L) website.
   b. Students who wish to meet with the instructor in his office during regularly scheduled office hours do not need to make an appointment; the instructor will meet with students on a first come, first served basis.
   c. Students who wish to meet with the instructor in his office outside of regularly scheduled office hours must make an appointment with the instructor ahead of time. Appointments can be made by email at the instructor’s university email address (omsmith@sfasu.edu) or by telephone at the instructor’s office phone number (936-468-2367).
   d. Students can ask questions concerning course material or course requirements by making use of the Pager function of the Brightspace (D2L) website for the course or by making a post to the Open Question Forum discussion available on this site.
3. Unit Quizzes
   a. At the conclusion of each unit of the course, students will be required to take an open-book quiz to demonstrate their comprehension of the unit readings and lectures.
   b. Each unit quiz will typically consist of a combination of multiple-choice and true/false questions.
   c. Unit quizzes will be available through the Course Tools menu on the D2L website for the course.
   d. At his discretion, the instructor may grant an extension to a student who cannot take a unit quiz during the designated period owing to serious illness or another similarly compelling reason. Any student who wishes an extension on a unit quiz must submit a written request to the instructor and provide some form of credible written documentation for the reason cited by the student for missing the deadline for the quiz.

4. Issue Discussions
   a. During the course of the semester, students will be required to participate in two issue discussions to explore the course material in greater detail. The instructor will post a Discussion Instructions document on the Brightspace (D2L) site for the course; this document will govern the issue discussions. Unit discussions will be available through the Course Tools menu on the Brightspace/D2L website for the course.
   b. Each issue discussion will have its own assignment sheet. Student participation in issue 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. In general, however, each student must post a minimum of four substantial (reflective) on-topic posts, including at least three that respond directly to posts made by classmates.
   c. Students may increase their score on online exercises by posting more frequently, more thoughtfully, and more collegially (i.e., demonstrating a consideration for the ideas of classmates in constructing a position).
   d. Permissible responses include agreements and disagreements with classmates’ posts, provided that the responses include the reasoning behind these agreements and disagreements, elaboration of one’s own ideas or ideas presented by others, and posts that include properly credited ideas drawn from a variety of sources, including life experiences, material learned in other courses, and concepts encountered outside of class while reading or viewing a variety of media.
   e. Impermissible responses include simple agreements or disagreements with classmates’ posts without justification or expansion, irrelevant responses, responses that attack or mock classmates, and responses that contain expletives or other offensive language.
   f. 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.

5. Short Essays
   a. At the conclusion of the final three units of the course, students will be required to demonstrate their understanding of the course material by composing a short essay. The first two short essays will consist of the application of the decision-making procedure associated with a normative ethical theory to a moral dilemma. The final short essay will consist of the application of Taoist ethical principles to a typical Taoist short story used for pedagogical purposes.
   b. Each short essay will have its own assignment sheet. Student performance on the short essays will be graded on a five (5) point scale based on the accuracy and detail of the student’s response to the essay prompt.
   c. Depending on the modality of the course, the short essays will either be composed in class or submitted to an online dropbox.
6. 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. 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 (0.0) for that item.
   d. Students in this course are required to adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity. If the instructor makes a finding that a student has committed an act of cheating or plagiarism in this course, that student is subject to receiving a final course grade of “F.” Moreover, a formal Report of Academic Dishonesty will be submitted to the student’s personal file with the appropriate academic dean.

7. 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/>.

8. Grading Policy
   a. 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, to provide unpublished grades to students, or compute current course averages for students.
   b. 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.
   c. Final course grades will be assigned according to the following schedule:
      • A: 90.0 - 100.0
      • B: 80.0 - 89.9
      • C: 70.0 - 79.9
      • D: 60.0 - 69.9
      • F: 59.9 and below
Tentative Course Schedule:

Unit One: Foundations (August 26 – September 02)
• Ethics as a Philosophical Discipline
• Moral Terms and Moral Judgments
• The Divisions of Ethics
• Moral Reasoning and Moral Conflicts
• The Distinction Between Moral Judgments and Legal Judgments
• Two Types of Moral Judgments
• Ethics and Religion
• FIRST UNIT QUIZ

Unit Two: Two Metaethical Stances (September 09 – September 16)
• Introduction to Metaethics
• Moral Realism (Moral Absolutism)
• Moral Relativism
• SECOND UNIT QUIZ

Unit Three: Relativistic Normative Ethical Theories (September 23 – September 30)
• Introduction to Relativistic Normative Ethical Theories
• Cultural Ethical Relativism (CER)
• Individual Ethical Relativism (IER)
• Ontological Relativism (OR)
• THIRD UNIT QUIZ

Unit Four: Deontological Ethics (October 07 – October 21)
• Introduction to Deontology
• Meaning of Moral Terms: Kant's Three Propositions of Morality
• Procedure for Making Moral Judgments, Part I: Kant's Categorical Imperative
• Procedure for Making Moral Judgments, Part II: The Principle of Voluntary Informed Consent
• FOURTH UNIT QUIZ
• FIRST SHORT ESSAY: DEONTOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF A MORAL DILEMMA
• FIRST ISSUE DISCUSSION: TORTURE

Unit Five: Utilitarian Ethics (October 28 – November 11)
• Introduction to Utilitarianism
• The Utilitarianism of Jeremy Bentham: Bentham's consequentialist hedonism and the Happiness Calculus
• The Utilitarianism of John Stuart Mill: Mill’s revisionist hedonism
• The Development of Utilitarian Ethics
• FIFTH UNIT QUIZ
• SECOND SHORT ESSAY: UTILITARIAN ANALYSIS OF A MORAL DILEMMA
• SECOND ISSUE DISCUSSION: VEGETARIANISM (USE OF ANIMAL PRODUCTS)

Unit Six: Virtue Ethics and Daoism (November 18 – December 02)
• Foundations of Daoism
• Key Taoist Philosophical Concepts: The Bipolarity of Nature, Dao, and De
• The Ethical Principles of Daoism
• SIXTH UNIT QUIZ
• THIRD SHORT ESSAY: INTERPRETATION OF A DAOIST STORY
Student Resources:

a. 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.

b. 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

c. 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