Instructor: Dr. Anne Collins Smith

Office hours:

- Preset office hours:
  - Face-to-face: Tuesdays from 1-2 p.m. in my office, LAN 410A.
  - Zoom: Thursdays from 7-8 p.m.

- In addition, I would like to offer a rotating selection of at least two additional hours per week 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.

- how you prefer to meet: via Pager (the instant-messaging system built into Brightspace/D2L), by Zoom, or in my office.

- Please note that I prefer not to hold office hours on Friday because I set that day aside for research.

Contact information: The best way to contact me is through the "Mail" function within D2L. Regular university email also works, but your message may get lost among the many other messages I receive there, where D2L mail has no such distractions.

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


- The bookstore has ordered the book: it costs $22.49 to purchase a new physical copy; they also have some used copies to buy for $16.87. It is also possible to rent the textbook through the bookstore.

- The textbook is also available electronically from Amazon as a Kindle book, which costs $9.99. If you have a Kindle Unlimited subscription, the Kindle version of the textbook is included at no extra cost.

- If the cost of the textbook is an obstacle for you, please contact me privately.
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.

Course Contact Hours and Study Hours:

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.

Core Curriculum Objectives

PHIL 1301 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.

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. The chart below indicates: (a) the core objective(s) required to be taught in this course per the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), and (b) how the required core objectives will be addressed.
<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 4 Discussion of the videos on <em>wu wei</em>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:**

*N.B. The Visual Course Schedule provides specific due dates for each online assignment; there will also be reminders in the News Announcements on the front page of the Brightspace/D2L site for the course.*

*Also note that all external readings (that is, readings from sources other than the textbook) are provided free on Brightspace/D2L.*

August 28-September 19  
**Unit One: What is Philosophy? and Critical Thinking**

Readings:

- Textbook reading: Chapter 7, "Lead with Logic"
- External reading: Lawhead on Defining Philosophy
- Lecture on the external reading

Online Assignments:

- Get Acquainted discussion
- Critical Thinking video reflection
- Philosophy in Culture assignment
- Quiz #1
September 20-October 17
Unit Two: Epistemology

Lectures and reading assignments on Epistemology; Epistemology online assignments; Quiz #2

October 28-November 14
Unit Three: Philosophy of the Person

Lectures and reading assignments on Philosophy of the Person; Philosophy of the Person online assignments; Quiz #3

November 15-December 8
Unit Four: Ethics: Daoism

Lecture and reading assignments on Daoism; Daoism online assignments; Quiz #4

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Online Assignments: 60% of your total grade

There are three online assignments in each unit. Your completion of each assignment is graded on a scale of 0-5. Each one is worth 5% of your final grade. Late assignments are not accepted.

Each unit includes a Philosophy in Culture assignment, for which you will (a) attend an on-campus activity such as a panel or lecture, or (b) view a TV show, movie, or other video, and write a short essay relating the activity or video to the course material for the unit. The essay will be submitted online. At least one video option will be provided free of cost through Brightspace/D2L; students may choose to watch something different at their own expense.

Quizzes: 40% of your total grade

Every unit includes a quiz based on the lectures and readings. Each quiz is worth 10% of your final grade.
COURSE POLICIES

**Zoom flexibility** is intended to support students in many situations. Especially now, in our virtual learning space, with many children learning from home and schools facing sudden closures, I expect children to be present during Zoom sessions such as office hours or other meetings from time to time. I also understand that students may be caring for other family members who need assistance, such as siblings or parents.

- **There is no requirement for any student to be visible during Zoom office hours or other Zoom meetings related to the class, and students do not need to state a reason for preferring to turn off their video.**
- Breastfeeding babies, as well as children of all ages are welcome during office hours and other meetings and may be visible on screen even when other students are present. Alternatively, parents and caregivers may turn the camera off when more privacy is required.
- Stepping away momentarily for family care reasons is completely understandable and expected. Simply mute and/or turn off your camera as necessary and rejoin when you are able.
- **Do not take any photos, audio, or video of any children on screen.** Students who do so are subject to censure.
- All students participating in a Zoom session are encouraged to support and respect caregivers as they mute and/or turn off their video and use the chat function as needed.
- Please consider disclosing your student-caregiver status to me. This is the first step in my being able to accommodate any special needs that arise. While I maintain the same high expectations for all students in my classes, I am happy to problem-solve with you in a way that makes you feel supported as you strive for school-caregiver balance.

Zoom office hours for this class are available by request.

**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
Academic integrity

The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (https://www.sfasu.edu/docs/policies/10.4.pdf) outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing
that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one's own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

**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.