Dr. Owen M. Smith
Professor of Philosophy and Classical Studies
OFFICE: Vera Dugas Liberal Arts North 410B (LAN 410B)
OFFICE HOURS:
TBA
and by appointment
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Course Meeting Time: TR 12:30 - 1:45 p.m.
Classroom: T. E. Ferguson Liberal Arts Building G78 (F G78)

Prerequisites for Course: None

Course Description:
Development of Western philosophy from pre-philosophical mythology through the philosophy of Aristotle with a focus on the origin of our contemporary scientific world view within the philosophical systems of this period

Required Textbook:
(Additional readings will be supplied by the instructor)

Course Requirements:
• Online Quizzes – Six online quizzes totaling 60% of final course grade
• Online Group Discussions – Two small group discussions totaling 20% of final course grade
• Individual Project – 10% of final course grade
• Final Examination – 10% of final course grade

Program Learning Outcomes:
A student will be able to trace the development of a philosophical issue within a historical period or across historical periods.
Student Learning Outcomes
1. Students will gain an appreciation of the circumstances surrounding the origin and early development of philosophy as a discipline within Greek culture.
2. Students will understand the insights, technical terminology, and theoretical systems proposed by the philosophers and philosophical schools of the classical period of Western intellectual history.
3. Students will understand the relationships and influences among the philosophers and philosophical schools of the period.
4. Students will gain an appreciation of the influences of the philosophers and philosophical schools of the classical period on the philosophical, literary, and scientific views of later historical periods, especially our contemporary scientific world view.

Course Contact Hours and Study Hours:
The course typically meets twice each week (Tuesday/Thursday) in 75-minute segments for 15 weeks and also meets for a 2-hour final examination. Students have significant weekly reading assignments, a set of online quizzes, an individual project, two online discussions, and a final examination. These activities average a minimum of 6 hours of work per week to prepare outside of classroom hours.

Course Policies:
1. Class Attendance and 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. 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 an early-alert student assistance 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 verbally or in the form of an attendance sheet to be signed by each student. Each student is responsible for making sure that his/her 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. A student who accumulates more than six (6) absences during the semester are subject to receiving a variety of penalties up to and including 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 three 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 and Contact Information
a. The instructor is available to meet with students in his office during his regularly scheduled office hours. 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.

b. 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.

c. Students can contact the instructor outside of regularly scheduled office hours by email at the instructor's university email address (omsmith@sfasu.edu), by telephone at the instructor's office phone number (936-468-2367), or by using the email function or the instant message function on the university's Desire2Learn (D2L) website.

d. Students are encouraged to ask questions of general student interest by making a post to the Open Question Forum discussion available on Brightspace/D2L site for the course.

3. Online Quizzes
a. Periodically throughout the semester, students will be required to take online quizzes emphasizing complex, higher-order thinking skills to demonstrate understanding of the material contained in the textbook readings, supplemental readings, and course lectures. Owing to differences in the length of each unit, the precise point value of the unit quizzes will vary.
b. The online quizzes will be available through the Course Tools menu on the D2L website for the course. Students may attempt each quiz a maximum of two (2) times. A student’s grade on this quiz will the the higher of the two scores earned on these attempts.

c. At his discretion, the instructor may grant an extension to a student who cannot take an online quiz during the designated period owing to technical (internet) limitations, serious illness or another similarly compelling reason. Any student who wishes an extension on an online 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. Online Group Discussions

a. During the course of the semester, students will be required to participate in two discussions to explore the course material in greater detail. The instructor will post a Discussion Instructions document on the Desire2Learn (D2L) site for the course; this document will govern the issue discussions. Issue discussions will be available through the Course Tools menu on the 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 and their distribution throughout the discussion period. In their posts, students must demonstrate their understanding of the theoretical material covered during the course. In general, 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. Individual Project
a. Each student will be required to complete an individual project concerning a particular philosopher from the classical or medieval periods of philosophy. The focus of the project will be the exposition of the philosopher’s views and the relation of these views to the philosophers and philosophical schools addressed during the course. An assignment sheet identifying the specific requirements and due date of the project will be provided to students.

b. The project will take the form of a class presentation. The student will be able to choose from multiple platforms in the creation of the presentation. Presentations will be submitted to a dedicated dropbox on the Brightspace/D2L site for the course.

c. Students will be required to demonstrate their understanding of the material included in these presentations by answering questions in the final examination.

6. Final Examination
a. During the final examination period, students will be required to complete a final examination focusing on the philosophers and philosophical schools addressed during the semester. The final examination will have two components: a quiz concerning the content of the individual presentations made by students and a set of reflective essay topics.

b. The quiz concerning the individual presentations will consist of multiple choice questions. This component of the examination will be available through the Course Tools menu on the D2L website for the course.

c. The focus of the essay topics will be comparison/contrast among the views of particular philosophers and philosophical schools as well as the influence of these philosophers and philosophical schools upon each other. Students will have a choice among essay topics in this component of the final examination. This component of the examination will be submitted to a dedicated dropbox on the Brightspace/D2L site for the course.

d. The final examination will take place during the examination period at the end of the semester.

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. Academic Integrity  
a. 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.

b. 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.

c. 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.

d. 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.

e. 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.

f. 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.

9. Grades  
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.

Tentative Course Schedule

Unit One: Foundations (August 29 - August 31)
  • Orientation
  • Sources for Classical Philosophy
  • Timeline of Greek History
  • Timeline of Classical Philosophy
  • Geography of Classical Philosophy

Unit Two: The Protophilosophical Matrix (September 05 - September 14)
  • The Homeric Cosmogony
  • Survey of Greek Cosmogenies in the Archaic Period
  • FIRST ONLINE QUIZ

Unit Three: The Ionian Materialists (September 19 - September 28)
  • Thales of Miletus
  • Anaximander of Miletus
  • Anaximenes of Miletus
  • Heraclitus of Ephesus
  • Empedocles of Acragas
  • SECOND ONLINE QUIZ

Unit Four: The Pythagoreans (October 03 – October 10)
  • Pythagoras of Samos
  • Philolaus of Croton and Pythagoreanism in the fifth century B.C.E.

Unit Five: The Eleatics (October 12 – October 19)
  • Parmenides of Elea
  • Zeno of Elea
  • THIRD ONLINE QUIZ
  • FIRST ONLINE DISCUSSION: XENOPHANES OF COLOPHON

Unit Six: The Atomists (October 24 – October 31)
  • Leucippus of Miletus
  • Democritus of Abdera
Unit Seven: The Problem of the One and the Many (November 02)

Unit Eight: Socrates (November 07 - November 09)
• The Sophists
• The Socratic Problem
• FOURTH ONLINE QUIZ

Unit Nine: Plato (November 14 - November 28)
• Ontology: The Allegory of the Cave, the Analogy of the Sun, and the Analogy of the Divided Line (Republic)
• Resolution of the Problem of the One and the Many
• FIFTH ONLINE QUIZ
• SECOND ONLINE DISCUSSION: PLATO

Unit Ten: Aristotle of Stagira (November 30 - December 07)
• Ontology: Fundamental Principles and the Unmoved Mover (Metaphysics)
• Resolution of the Problem of the One and the Many
• SIXTH ONLINE QUIZ
• EXTRA CREDIT ONLINE DISCUSSION: ARISTOTLE (OPTIONAL)
• INDIVIDUAL PROJECT DUE
• FINAL EXAMINATION (FINALS WEEK)

Mental Health and Fitness
1. 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.

2. On-campus Resources:
   a. SFASU Counseling Services
      www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices
      Health and Wellness Hub (corner of E. College and Raguet)
      936-468-2401
   b. SFASU Human Services Counseling Clinic
      www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
      Human Services Room 202
      936-468-1041

3. Crisis Resources:
   a. Burke 24-hour Crisis Line: 1(800) 392-8343
   b. National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
   c. Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1(800) 273-TALK (8255)
   d. Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741