This class is held entirely online; there are no face-to-face meetings or Zoom sessions that students are required to attend.

Instructor: Dr. Anne Collins Smith

Office hours:

- There will be no office hours during the first week of classes because your instructor will be recovering from knee surgery.
- Beginning January 25:
  - Zoom office hour: Thursdays from 7-8 p.m.
  - Link:
    
    https://sfasu.zoom.us/j/98355995810?pwd=NnZiK3pNS2ViTFloZnpGczdSWExGZz09
  
    Meeting ID: 983 5599 5810
    Passcode: 434881

- I will offer additional hours based on student preferences; please post to the Open Question Forum and let me know
  - what times would you find most convenient if you have questions during the semester, and
  - how you prefer to meet: via Pager (the instant-messaging system built into Brightspace/D2L), or by Zoom.

- 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 Brightspace/D2L. Regular university email (acsmith@sfasu.edu) also works, but your message may get lost among the many other messages I receive there, whereas D2L mail has no such distractions. For questions about course material, I strongly recommend using the Open Question Forum so that your classmates may benefit from the additional exploration/explanation.

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.

General Education Core Curriculum:

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 Critical Thinking 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>
</table>
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.

January 18 - February 9
Unit One: What is Philosophy? and Critical Thinking

Readings:
- Textbook reading: Chapter 7, "Lead with Logic" and Chapter 11: "Analyze the Arts"
- External reading: Lawhead on Defining Philosophy
- Written lecture on the external reading

Online Assignments:
- Get Acquainted discussion:
  - Introduce yourself by January 24
  - Respond to at least three other people's introductions by January 31
- Critical Thinking Videos assignment - due February 7
- Philosophy in Culture assignment 1 - due February 7
- Quiz #1 - due February 9

February 12 - March 1
Unit Two: Epistemology

Readings:
- Textbook reading: Chapter 4, "Be the Hero the World Needs: Analyze Truth-Claims!"
- External reading: Descartes on Epistemology from the Meditations
- Written lectures on Descartes's Epistemology

Online Assignments:
- Reflection on Chapter 4 - due February 21
- Epistemology worksheet (as a group) - due February 21
- Philosophy in Culture assignment 2 - due February 28
- Quiz #2 - due March 1
March 4 - April 5
Unit Three: Philosophy of the Person

Readings:
Textbook reading: Chapter 12: "The Limits of Education"
External Reading: Descartes on Mind and Body
Written Lectures on the Mind/Body Problem

Online Assignments
Reflection on Chapter 12 - due March 20
Philosophy of the Person worksheet (as a group) - due March 20
Philosophy in Culture assignment 3 - due March 27
Quiz #3 - due April 5

April 8 - May 3
Unit Four: Ethics - Daoism

Readings:
Textbook reading: Chapter 10, "Navigating with Excellence: Taking Care of You"
External reading: Excerpts from the Dao de Jing of Laozi, translated by Stephen Mitchell

Lectures on Daoist Ethics

Online Assignments
Reflection on Chapter 10 - due April 17
Daoism Videos on Wu Wei assignment - due April 17
Philosophy in Culture assignment 4: Discussion
Initial post due April 24; subsequent response posts due April 26, April 29, and April 30. Discussion closes May 1.
Quiz #4 - due May 3
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 an assignment to reflect on a chapter of the textbook, a worksheet or external resource assignment to reinforce the material, and finally a Philosophy in Culture assignment, in which students will bring their new learning to bear on a pop culture product such as a song, a movie, or an episode of a television show, thus honing their ability to recognize embedded messages in cultural products.

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.

Grading policy:

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

COURSE POLICIES

Student Wellness and Well-Being

SFA values students' overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, 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:

The Dean of Students Office (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)

sfasu.edu/deanofstudents

936.468.7249

dos@sfasu.edu
SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic  
Human Services, Room 202

sfasu.edu/humanservices/clinics-labs/counseling-clinic

936.468.1041

The Health and Wellness Hub “The Hub”

Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.

To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:

- Health Services
- Counseling Services
- Student Outreach and Support
- Food Pantry
- Wellness Coaching
- Alcohol and Other Drug Education

sfasu.edu/thehub

936.468.4008

thehub@sfasu.edu

Crisis Resources:

- Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
- National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
- johnCrisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

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.