Stephen F. Austin State University
Department of Languages, Cultures, and Philosophy
PHIL 1301.50: Introduction to Philosophy

{Spring 2024 – 2nd Term}

Instructor: Dr. [Mr.] Kelly Joseph Salsbery -- [Pronouns: he/him]

[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 (in LAN 434): Monday and Wed.: 2:30-3:45 pm.
- [Online (using D2L Chat or Zoom)]: TH: 3-5:30 pm or by appointment.
  [Link information TBA.]

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

>>> Note: The best (and preferred) way to contact me is through the "Mail" function within Brightspace 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, two essays in addition to extra credit 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:

- For the **Connect Version [the Interactive Version of the 8th edition of the Lawhead text]** you can order/purchase an access 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 (and other information) regarding this!**

**Textbook Options:**

1) **The Connect [Interactive Version of the 8th edition of the Lawhead text].** This is required to earn Connect/Learnsmart Extra Credit Points.

2) **The Non-interactive electronic version of the 8th edition of the Lawhead text.**

3) **Any paper/hardcopy version of either the 6th, 7th or 8th edition of the Lawhead text.**

   **Note:** Page numbering and some content differs in the 6th edition, but the difference is not significant.
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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

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

>>> This is a standard online course [asynchronous, and not Livestream].

March 18-TBA

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

TBA
Unit One: The Philosophical Journey

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

TBA
Unit Two: Mind and Body

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

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

TBA
Unit Four: Ethics

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Note: The Discussion Instructions quiz and the Get Acquainted Exercise are gateways to the graded unit discussions. They do not count toward your final grade, but they are required!

- **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**: 40% of your total grade.
  - 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.
  
  - 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.
  
  - Your participation in the discussions is graded on a scale of 0-100 (each worth 10% of your final grade) for the Unit 1 & Unit 2 Discussions and for the Unit 3 & Unit 4 Discussions.
  
  - 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.

- There will be a special dropbox essay assignment for Unit #3 (worth extra credit/bonus points): up to +50 points (+5%) of your total grade.

- McGraw-Hill Connect [Learnsmart] Exercises associated with our required interactive text (worth extra credit/bonus points): up to +100 points (+10%) 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

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**ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES**

**Institutional Absences** *(HOP 04-110)*

An Institutional Absence may be granted to a student who participates as a representative of the University in academic (including research), extra- or cocurricular, or athletic activities. Students will be excused for institutional purposes from otherwise required academic activity only when a valid Institutional Absence is approved by the appropriate administrative unit or official and the documentation of approval is provided to the faculty member at least five (5) days in advance.

Institutional absences will not be approved for keystone events, defined as: a special or unique assignment, test, project, experience, or other academic exercise identified by the Faculty member as critical for successful completion of standards of the class and unable to be missed. These events must be identified on the syllabus at the beginning
of the semester and communicated to the students. Events added to the syllabus at a later date will not qualify for Keystone Event status. Keystone Events where the date/time is changed will no longer be considered a Keystone Event. Students should make themselves aware of any Keystone Events identified in the syllabus to ensure there are no conflicts.

For keystone events where the assignment dates vary, it is incumbent upon the students to work with their faculty member to not select a conflicting date.

More information on Institutional Absences, including how to apply, can be found at https://www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents/student-resources/institutional-absences.

**Academic Integrity**

The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity 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. **[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.

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (5.5)**
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 coursework 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 to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to [https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf](https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf).

**Students with Disabilities**
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 promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).

**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)
[www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents](http://www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents)
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu

**SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic** Human Services, Room 202
[www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp)
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

www.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)
- johCrisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741