



SOUTH  
PLAINS  
COLLEGE

## *Policy Statement*

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**Instructor: B. Kyle Keltz**  
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**Office Hours: M/W 9:30am-11:00am**

**Department: English**  
**Campus: Levelland**  
**Course Number: Phil 1301-001**  
**Course Title: Introduction to Philosophy**  
**Semester/Year: Fall 2018**

### **I. Course Description**

This course presents a study of major issues in philosophy and the work of major philosophical figures in philosophy. Topics in philosophy include theories of reality, theories of knowledge, theories of value, and their practical applications.

### **II. Prerequisites**

ENGL 1301 and ENGL 1302 are recommended but not required.

### **II. Course Purpose**

Philosophy 1301 introduces students to general philosophical topics that explore various traditional and contemporary philosophical problems and issues. Both historical and current materials will be employed to access the relevance of these issues as they have developed throughout history and are experienced in today's world.

### **III. Required Resources for the Course**

William F. Lawhead. *The Philosophical Journey: An Interactive Approach*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: McGraw-Hill Education, 2014. ISBN: 978-0078038341

#### **Recommended Text (optional, if book review is chosen)**

Beckwith, Francis J. and Gregory Kousser. *Relativism: Feet Firmly Planted in Mid-Air*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2005. ISBN: 978-0801058066

### **IV. Core Curriculum Objectives Addressed:**

- **Communications skills**—to include effective written, oral, and visual communication
- **Critical thinking skills**—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information

- **Social Responsibility**—to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
- **Personal Responsibility**—to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

## V. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students will:

1. Read, analyze, and critique philosophical texts.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of key concepts, major arguments, problems, and terminology in philosophy.
3. Present logically persuasive arguments both orally and in writing.
4. Demonstrate critical thinking skills in evaluation and application of philosophical concepts to various aspects of life.

## VI. Grading of Course Work:

Exam 1	20%	Grade Total:	
Exam 2	20%	A (Excellent):	90-100
Exam 3	20%	B (Good):	80-89
Final Exam	20%*	C (Average):	70-79
Blackboard Reading Quizzes	15%	D (Below Average):	60-69
Blackboard Journal Entries	15%	F (Failure):	0-59
Blackboard Journal Surveys	10%		
Optional Paper	10%**		

\*I will drop the lowest of the four exam grades.

\*\*This assignment is optional, and can possibly add up to 10% to your overall grade.

## VII. Late Work:

Unless prior approval is received, late submission of assignments will result in a grade deduction of one half-letter grade for each calendar day (not including Saturdays, Sundays, or holidays) that the assignment is late.

## VIII. Attendance:

Any student who accrues **more than four** unexcused absences **shall be dropped** with a grade of “X” if the student has a passing grade average at that time. If the student is failing, due to poor work or missing assignments, the student will be given a grade of “F.” An absence will only be excused if the student misses class for a legitimate, unavoidable reason (for example, because of an illness or official trip authorized by the

college), the student notifies the instructor before the class is missed, and the student provides confirming documentation (for example, a doctor's note).

A student accrues an absence each time he or she accumulates a total of three tardies. A 'tardy' is defined as being between 1-10 minutes late. Whenever possible, students should let the instructor know about expected absences as soon as possible and before the class meeting. If a student is more than 30 minutes late to class, that student will be counted absent.

#### **IX. Student Code of Conduct Policy:**

Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect on the part of the student and the instructor. Neither instructor nor student should be subject to others' behavior that is rude, disruptive, intimidating, aggressive, or demeaning. Student conduct that disrupts the learning process or is deemed disrespectful or threatening shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

If a student is exhibiting disruptive behavior (for example, talking loudly without permission), I will give him or her a warning. The second time this happens, I will tell the student to leave class, and the student will be counted absent for the day. I will also contact the dean. The dean will usually contact the student to schedule a time to discuss the cause of the disruptions. After this, if there is a third disruption, I will ask the student to leave class and drop the student from the course with a grade of "F."

#### **X. Plagiarism and Cheating:**

Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy will result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F for the course if circumstances warrant it.

Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student, an online term paper site, or a mail order term paper mill;
2. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation;
3. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them; or
4. Giving an in-text citation only at the end of a paragraph.

Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion;
2. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given;
3. Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, text messaging, internet) during an examination, quiz or homework assignment;

4. Entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage;
5. Taking an examination for another;
6. Altering grade records; or
7. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment.

#### **XI. Disability Statement:**

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577, Reese Center (Building 8) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

#### **XII. Nondiscrimination Policy:**

The instructor will do his or her best not to discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, ethnic background, gender, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

#### **XIII. Diversity Policy:**

In this class, the instructor will endeavor to establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all participants to learn about others, about the larger world, and about themselves.

#### **XIV. Campus Concealed Carry**

South Plains College permits the lawful carry of concealed handguns in accordance with Texas state law and Texas Senate Bill 11. Individuals possessing a valid License to Carry permit, or the formerly issued Concealed Handgun License, may carry a concealed handgun at all campus locations except for the following:

- Natatorium

For a complete list of campus carry exclusions zones by event, please visit <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/campuscarry.php>.

Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify the course syllabus and policies, as well as notify students of any changes, at any point during the semester.

Week	Date	Topics	Readings	Assignments
1	Aug. 28 Aug. 30	Introduction to Course Introduction to Philosophy	Course Syllabus Chap. 1 Intro to the Philosophical Journey (pp. 1-37)	
2	Sep. 04 Sep. 06	Logic Metaphysics	Chap. 1 Intro to the Philosophical Journey (pp. 37-47) Chap. 2 The Search for Ultimate Reality (pp.50-66)	Ch. 1 Reading Quiz (Sep. 08)
3	Sep. 11 Sep. 13	Philosophy of Mind - Dualism Philosophy of Mind - Physicalism	Chap. 2 The Search for Ultimate Reality (pp. 67-78) Chap. 2 The Search for Ultimate Reality (pp. 79-111)	Ch. 2 Reading Quiz (Sep. 15)
4	Sep. 18 Sep. 20	Freedom and Determinism	Chap. 2 The Search for Ultimate Reality (pp. 112-122) Exam 1 Study Guide	Exam 1 (Sep. 20)
5	Sep. 25 Sep. 27	Epistemology Epistemological Viewpoints	Chap. 3 The Search for Knowledge (pp. 167-188) Chap. 3 The Search for Knowledge (pp. 189-192, 204-208, 231-240, 248-265)	
6	Oct. 02 Oct. 04	Philosophy of Science Philosophy of Religion	Chap. 3 The Search for Knowledge (pp. 291-300) Chap. 4 The Search for God (pp. 310-339)	Ch. 3 Reading Quiz (Oct. 06)
7	Oct. 09 Oct. 11	Natural Theology Eastern Philosophy of Religion	Chap. 4 The Search for God (pp. 340-353) Chap. 4 The Search for God (pp. 370-390)	Ch. 4 Reading Quiz (Oct. 13)
8	Oct. 16 Oct. 18	Journal Writing Catch-up/Review	Exam 2 Study Guide	Exam 2 (Oct. 18)
9	Oct. 23 Oct. 25	Ethics Ethical Relativism/Objectivism	Chap. 5 The Search for Ethical Values (pp. 406-420) Chap. 5 The Search for Ethical Values (pp. 421-443)	
10	Oct. 30 Nov. 01	Ethical Relativism/Objectivism Egoism/Altruism	Chap. 5 The Search for Ethical Values (pp. 421-443) Chap. 5 The Search for Ethical Values (pp. 443-460)	
11	Nov. 06 Nov. 08	Applied Ethics Meaning of Life	Chap. 5 The Search for Ethical Values (pp. 533-539) Chap. 7 Phil and the Meaning of Life (pp. 636-651)	Ch. 5 Reading Quiz (Nov. 10)
12	Nov. 13 Nov. 15	Death and the Afterlife Religious Relativism	Chap. 7 Phil and the Meaning of Life (pp. 636-651) Chap. 7 Phil and the Meaning of Life (pp. 636-651)	Draft of Optional Paper Due (Nov. 15) Ch. 7 Reading Quiz (Nov. 17)
13	Nov. 20 Nov. 22	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b>	Exam 3 Study Guide <b>No Class</b>	Exam 3 (Nov. 20) <b>No Class</b>
14	Nov. 27 Nov. 29	Political Philosophy Political Philosophy	Chap. 6 The Search for the Just Society (pp. 548-552) Chap. 6 The Search for the Just Society (pp. 548-552)	Journal Entries Due (Dec. 01)
15	Dec. 04 Dec. 06	Philosophy of Law Journal Writing Catch-up/Review	Chap. 6 The Search for the Just Society (pp. 553-567) Final Exam Review	Ch. 6 Reading Quiz (Dec. 08)
16	Dec. 11 Dec. 13	Finals Week	<b>No Class</b> Final Exam Study Guide	<b>No Class</b> <b>Final Exam (8:00am-10:00am; Dec. 13)</b>