



Instructor: B. Kyle Keltz

Office: RC318G

Phone: (806) 716-2585

Email: bkeltz@southplainscollege.edu

Office Hours: M/W 1:00pm–3:00pm; F 10:30am–11:30am

Department: English

Campus: Reese Center

Course Number: Phil 1301-200

Course Title: Introduction to Philosophy

Semester/Year: Fall 2021

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.

III. Credit: 3 Lecture: 3 Lab: 0

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. Student Learning Outcomes Assessment

In-person exams will be used to determine course comprehension, and students will write journal entries designed to promote exploration of course concepts.

VII. Textbook

Required Text

William F. Lawhead. *The Philosophical Journey: An Interactive Approach*. 7th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill Education, 2019. ISBN: 978-1259914263.

Recommended Text (optional; not necessary for the course)

Weston, Anthony. *A Rulebook for Arguments*. 5th ed. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 2017. ISBN: 978-1624666544.

VIII. Computer Help

Need help with your computer, laptop, email address, username/password?

- helpdesk@southplainscollege.edu
- 806-716-2600

IX. Blackboard Help

1. Get Help by Email: blackboard@southplainscollege.edu
 - Be sure to include your full name, your instructor's name, the course and section you are enrolled in, and a detailed description of the problem.
 - The blackboard@southplainscollege.edu account is monitored from 8:00am–10:00pm, Monday–Sunday.
 - You can expect a response within 24 hours by email; however, the average response time is less than one hour.
2. Get Help by Phone: 806-716-2180 (available between 8:00am and 4:00pm Monday–Friday, except on holidays)
3. Get Help Online: click on the Help link listed in the Blackboard course menu.

X. Course Syllabus and Organization

- This syllabus is available on the Syllabus and Schedule page in our Blackboard course.
- The course calendar is available on the Syllabus and Schedule tab.
- The course is organized into sixteen weeks. Each week has its own folder on the Course Content page in our Blackboard course.
- A weekly planner and assignment checklist is provided for each week.

XI. Assignment Deadlines

- The weekly assignment deadline is Monday at 9:00am

XII. Course Evaluation

A final letter grade will be assigned based on this grading scale: A (90–100), B (80–89), C (70–79), D (60–69), F (59 and below).

Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	20%
Final Exam	20%*
Blackboard Reading Quizzes	15%
Blackboard Journal Entries	15%
<u>Blackboard Journal Surveys</u>	<u>10%</u>
Total	100%

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

XIII. Student Responsibilities

Students are expected to:

1. Be on time and regularly attend class
2. Be responsible for the learning process, including preparation for class, such as reading and homework; participation in class discussions, including asking relevant questions; getting assignments and/or notes if absent; and accepting responsibility for not understanding an assignment or failing an assignment
3. Be responsible for having an appropriate attitude and using appropriate language in academic environments; not use condescending, inflammatory, threatening, or profane rhetoric, whether verbally or in written form, in academic environments
4. Have respectful behavior toward instructor and classmates in order to contribute to the atmosphere necessary for learning
5. Be responsible for courteous actions to others, especially by putting away cell phones and other distractions while in class
6. Be responsible for writing down all grades and applying them to the grading scale used for the class, which is shown in the course's policy statement/syllabus
7. Submit all assignments in accordance with due dates, formats, and requirements
8. Avoid all forms of cheating and plagiarism on all assignments, including improper collaboration
9. Ask questions when something is unclear.

XIV.Attendance Policy

Any student who accrues **more than four** unexcused absences (or **eight** excused) **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.

XV.Late Work

Unless prior approval is received, late submission of assignments will result in a grade deduction of one half-letter grade (5%) for each calendar day (not including Saturdays, Sundays, or holidays) that the assignment is late.

XVI.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.

XVII. In-Person 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."

XVIII. 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.

XIX. Non-Discrimination Statement

South Plains College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President for Student Affairs, South Plains College, 1401 College Avenue, Box 5, Levelland, TX 79336. Phone number 806-716-2360.

XX. Diversity Statement

In this class, the teacher will 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 of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about

ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

XXI. Title IX Pregnancy Statement

If you are pregnant, or have given birth within six months, Under Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education.

To activate accommodations you must submit a Title IX pregnancy accommodations request, along with specific medical documentation, to the Director of Health and Wellness. Once approved, notification will be sent to the student and instructors. It is the student's responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations.

Contact the Director of Health and Wellness at 806-716-2362

or email cgilster@southplainscollege.edu for assistance.

XXII. Campus Concealed Carry

Texas Government Code 411.2031 et al. authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College buildings by individuals and in accordance with Texas Government Code 411.209 (a). All holders of a valid Texas License to Carry may carry on their person a handgun that is concealed in accordance with Texas Penal Code 46.03 (a-2).

Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and South Plains College policy. Individuals may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations and Frequently Asked Questions, please refer to the Campus Carry page at: <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/campuscarry.php>.

Report violations to the College Police Department at 806-716-2396 or 9-1-1.

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.

PHIL1301 - Fall 2021 Course Calendar

Textbook: *The Philosophical Journey*, 7th ed., by William F. Lawhead

Note: Assignment and deadlines may be changed, deleted, or added, so always check in Blackboard and with the instructor.

Week	Start Date	Lesson Topic	Textbook Chapters	Assignments and Due Dates
1	Aug 30	Introduction to Course	Course Syllabus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All assignments are due on Mondays by 9:00am unless otherwise noted • Always check Blackboard for assignments and deadlines
	Sep 01	Introduction to Philosophy	Ch. 1 (pp. 1–37)	
2	Sep 06	Labor Day Holiday	No Class	No Class
	Sep 08	Logic	Ch. 1 (pp. 37–47)	Ch. 1 Reading Quiz (Sep. 13)
3	Sep 13	Metaphysics	Ch. 2 (pp. 54–71)	Journal Entry 01 (Sep. 20)
	Sep 15	Philosophy of Mind - Dualism	Ch. 2 (pp. 71–82)	
4	Sep 20	Philosophy of Mind - Physicalism	Ch. 2 (pp. 83–115)	Ch. 2 Reading Quiz (Sep. 27)
	Sep 22	Freedom and Determinism	Ch. 2 (pp. 116–127)	
5	Sep 27	Exam 1	Exam 1 Study Guide	Exam 1 (Sep. 27)
	Sep 29	Epistemology	Ch. 3 (pp. 172–193)	
6	Oct 04	Epistemological Viewpoints	Ch. 3 (pp. 193–196, 208–212, 236–244, 252–270)	Ch. 3 Reading Quiz (Oct. 11)
	Oct 06	Philosophy of Science	Ch. 3 (pp. 295–304)	
7	Oct 11	Philosophy of Religion	Ch. 4 (pp. 316–344)	Ch. 4 Reading Quiz (Oct. 18)
	Oct 13	Natural Theology	Ch. 4 (pp. 344–357)	
8	Oct 18	Eastern Philosophy of Religion	Ch. 4 (pp. 373–393)	Exam 2 (Oct. 20)
	Oct 20	Exam 2	Exam 2 Study Guide	
9	Oct 25	Ethics	Ch. 5 (pp. 410–424)	Journal Entry 02 (Nov. 01)
	Oct 27	Ethical Relativism/Objectivism	Ch. 5 (pp. 425–445)	
10	Nov 01	Ethical Relativism/Objectivism	Ch. 5 (pp. 425–445)	Journal Entry 03 (Nov. 08)
	Nov 03	Egoism/Altruism	Ch. 5 (pp. 446–462)	
11	Nov 08	Applied Ethics	Ch. 5 (pp. 532–538)	Ch. 5 Reading Quiz (Nov. 15)
	Nov 10	Meaning of Life	Ch. 7 (pp. 636–659)	
12	Nov 15	Death and the Afterlife	Ch. 7 (pp. 636–659)	Ch. 7 Reading Quiz (Nov. 22)
	Nov 17	Religious Relativism	Ch. 7 (pp. 636–659)	
13	Nov 22	Exam 3	Exam 3 Study Guide	Exam 3 (Nov. 22)
	Nov 24	Thanksgiving Holiday	No Class	No Class

Week	Start Date	Lesson Topic	Textbook Chapters	Assignments and Due Dates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All assignments are due on Mondays by 9:00am unless otherwise noted • Always check Blackboard for assignments and deadlines
14	Nov 29	Political Philosophy	Ch. 6 (pp. 550–554)	
	Dec 01	Political Philosophy	Ch. 6 (pp. 555–569)	Journal Entry 04 (Dec. 06)
15	Dec 06	Philosophy of Law	Ch. 6 (pp. 569–588)	
	Dec 08	Review		Ch. 6 Reading Quiz (Dec. 13)
16	Dec 13	Finals Week	Final Exam Study Guide	Final Exam (10:15am–12:15pm; Dec 13)
	Dec 15	Finals Week	No Class	No Class