



SOUTH
PLAINS
COLLEGE

Policy Statement

Instructor: B. Kyle Keltz
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Office Hours: M/W 2:30pm–4:30pm

Department: English
Campus: Levelland
Course Number: Phil 1301-001
Course Title: Introduction to Philosophy
Semester/Year: Fall 2026

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*. 8th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill Education, 2022. ISBN: 9781264951017.

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. Assignment Deadlines

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

XI. 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 Surveys</u>	<u>10%</u>
Total	100%

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

XII. 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.

XIII. Attendance Policy

Any student who accrues **more than five** absences **shall be dropped** with a grade of “X” if the student does not have a passing grade average at that time. No distinctions will be made between excused or unexcused absences.

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 10 minutes late to class, that student will be counted absent.

Missing class due to COVID-19 does not count towards the five allowed absences, but you must confirm that you have COVID-19 through the school nurse. If you have been exposed or have symptoms of COVID-19, contact DeEtte Edens, BSN, RN in Health Services at dedens@southplainscollege.edu or at (806) 716-2376.

XIV. 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.

XV. 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. Using Artificial Intelligence websites or apps to generate **and/or revise** all or part of a paper or other assignment;
2. Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student or from an online site;
3. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation;
4. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them;
5. Submitting an assignment for this course that you also submitted to another course without my express approval; or
6. Missing in-text citations and/or missing works cited entries.

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;
7. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment;
8. Rewriting another student's work in Peer Editing so that the writing is no longer the original student's; or
9. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.

XVI. 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."

XVII. SPC Syllabus Statements and Link

For college-wide statements and contact information regarding Intellectual Exchange, Disabilities, Non-Discrimination, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations, CARE Team, and Campus Concealed Carry, use the following link:

<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>.

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 2026 Course Calendar

Textbook: *The Philosophical Journey*, 8th 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 24	Introduction to Course	Course Syllabus	- All assignments are due on Mondays by 9:00am unless otherwise noted - Always check Blackboard for assignments and deadlines
	Aug 26	Introduction to Philosophy	Ch. 1 (pp. 3–36)	
2	Aug 31	Logic	Ch. 1 (pp. 37–52)	Ch. 1 Reading Quiz (Sep. 08)
	Sep 02	Metaphysics	Ch. 2 (pp. 53–70)	
3	Sep 07	Labor Day Holiday	No Class	No Class
	Sep 09	Philosophy of Mind - Dualism	Ch. 2 (pp. 71–82)	Journal Entry 01 (Sep. 14)
4	Sep 14	Philosophy of Mind - Physicalism	Ch. 2 (pp. 83–112)	Ch. 2 Reading Quiz (Sep. 21)
	Sep 16	Freedom and Determinism	Ch. 2 (pp. 113–123)	
5	Sep 21	Exam 1	Exam 1 Study Guide	Exam 1 (Sep. 21)
	Sep 23	Epistemology	Ch. 3 (pp. 167–188)	
6	Sep 28	Epistemological Viewpoints	Ch. 3 (pp. 189–192, 205–208, 234–239, 249–259)	Ch. 3 Reading Quiz (Oct. 05)
	Sep 30	Philosophy of Science	Ch. 3 (pp. 285–293)	
7	Oct 05	Philosophy of Religion	Ch. 4 (pp. 305–333)	Ch. 4 Reading Quiz (Oct. 12)
	Oct 07	Natural Theology	Ch. 4 (pp. 348–362)	
8	Oct 12	Eastern Philosophy of Religion	Ch. 4 (pp. 363–383)	Exam 2 (Oct. 14)
	Oct 14	Exam 2	Exam 2 Study Guide	
9	Oct 19	Ethics	Ch. 5 (pp. 399–414)	Journal Entry 02 (Oct. 26)
	Oct 21	Ethical Relativism/Objectivism	Ch. 5 (pp. 415–435)	
10	Oct 26	Ethical Relativism/Objectivism	Ch. 5 (pp. 415–435)	Journal Entry 03 (Nov. 02)
	Oct 28	Egoism/Altruism	Ch. 5 (pp. 436–452)	
11	Nov 02	Applied Ethics	Ch. 5 (pp. 522–527)	Ch. 5 Reading Quiz (Nov. 09)
	Nov 04	Meaning of Life	Ch. 7 (pp. 625–648)	
12	Nov 09	Death and the Afterlife	Ch. 7 (pp. 625–648)	Ch. 7 Reading Quiz (Nov. 16)
	Nov 11	Religious Relativism	Ch. 7 (pp. 625–648)	
13	Nov 16	Exam 3	Exam 3 Study Guide	Exam 3 (Nov. 16)
	Nov 18	Political Philosophy	Ch. 6 (pp. 539–544)	

Week	Start Date	Lesson Topic	Textbook Chapters	Assignments and Due Dates • All assignments are due on Mondays by 9:00am unless otherwise noted • Always check Blackboard for assignments and deadlines
14	Nov 23	Political Philosophy	Ch. 6 (pp. 545–557)	
	Nov 25	Thanksgiving Break	No Class	Journal Entry 04 (Dec. 01) No Class
15	Nov 30	Philosophy of Law	Ch. 6 (pp. 558–577)	
	Dec 02	Catch-up/Review		Ch. 6 Reading Quiz (Dec. 07)
16	Dec 07	Finals Week	No Class	No Class
	Dec 09	Finals Week	Final Exam Study Guide	Final Exam (10:15am–12:15pm; December 09)