



SOUTH
PLAINS
COLLEGE

Policy Statement

Instructor: B. Kyle Keltz

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Office Hours: T/R 1:00pm–2:30pm; F 8:30am–9:30am

Department: English

Campus: Online

Course Number: Phil 1301-151

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

Online exams will be used to determine course comprehension, and students will write discussion board posts 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: 978-1264951017. (This textbook is included in the course, so you don't need to buy it; see VIII below)

Recommended Text (optional; not necessary for the course)

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

VIII. SPC TexBook Syllabus Statement

This course is part of your TexBook program, which means **you don't need to purchase a textbook or access code for this course**. TexBook is the required content (either an eBook or online Courseware) for your course, and is provided for you via the Bibliu platform from Day 1 of class.

Cost of TexBook: this required content is provided as part of a Program called "Inclusive Access," which means that content is provided for you at the lowest price available from the publisher. The cost for this is included in your tuition.

How to access your digital content via Bibliu: you can access your material via the Bibliu link inside your Blackboard Course, or directly via the Bibliu app. If you have issues with this, please contact your professor, the Bookstore Manager or Bibliu Support (see below).

The Bibliu platform: you can use the Bibliu platform to enhance your learning experience, with features including highlighting, notes, and reading text aloud. For more details and support on how to use Bibliu, please visit the BibliU support pages, or contact Bibliu support via the email: support@bibliu.com.

Opting out: you can opt-out of the TexBook Program, up until the opt-out deadline, via the banner displayed when you open the Bibliu platform. Remember that opt-out deadlines vary by term, and if you choose to opt-out, you will lose access to this low price option and will need to purchase the content through a different method. If you opt-out, the fee will be refunded to your account.

Useful contacts:

Bibliu Support: email support@bibliu.com

Bookstore Manager: Christian Bruno - christian.bruno@bibliu.com

Bookstore Text Coordinator: Trish Wells - patricia.wells@bibliu.com

IX. Computer Help

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

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

X. 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.

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). No extra credit assignments are offered in this class.

Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	20%
Final Exam	20%*
Blackboard Reading Quizzes	15%
Blackboard Discussion Boards	15%
<u>Blackboard 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. Participate in all class assignments/quizzes/exams and log into Blackboard regularly.
2. Be responsible for the learning process, including preparation for class, such as reading and homework; participation in class discussions; 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

In this online class, attendance will be assessed through assignment submissions and Blackboard logins. A login on our class's Blackboard website or a submission of an academic assignment (reading quiz, discussion board, etc.) will count as attending class for the week.

Any student who fails to login to the class's Blackboard website or submit an assignment for **three consecutive weeks will be dropped** from the course with a grade of "X" if the student does not have a passing grade average at that time.

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. 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.

XVII. 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, making demeaning statements in a discussion board forum), that student will receive a zero for the assignment. The second time this happens, I will 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 drop the student from the course with a grade of “F.”

XVIII. 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 Introduction to Philosophy	Course Syllabus Ch. 1 (pp. 3–36)	Discussion Board 01 (Aug. 31)
2	Aug 31	Logic Metaphysics	Ch. 1 (pp. 37–52) Ch. 2 (pp. 53–70)	Ch. 1 Reading Quiz (Sep. 08)
3	Sep 07	Labor Day (Sep. 07) Philosophy of Mind - Dualism Philosophy of Mind - Physicalism	Ch. 2 (pp. 71–82) Ch. 2 (pp. 83–112)	Discussion Board 02 (Sep. 11/Sep. 14)
4	Sep 14	Freedom and Determinism	Ch. 2 (pp. 113–123)	Ch. 2 Reading Quiz (Sep. 21)
5	Sep 21	Epistemology Exam 1	Ch. 3 (pp. 167–188) Exam 1 Study Guide	Exam 1 (Sep. 25)
6	Sep 28	Epistemological Viewpoints Philosophy of Science	Ch. 3 (pp. 189–192, 205–208, 234–239, 249–259) Ch. 3 (pp. 285–293)	Ch. 3 Reading Quiz (Oct. 05)
7	Oct 05	Philosophy of Religion Natural Theology	Ch. 4 (pp. 305–333) Ch. 4 (pp. 348–362)	Ch. 4 Reading Quiz (Oct. 12)
8	Oct 12	Eastern Philosophy of Religion Exam 2 SPC Fall Break (Oct. 16)	Ch. 4 (pp. 363–383) Exam 2 Study Guide	Exam 2 (Oct. 15)
9	Oct 19	Ethics Ethical Relativism/Objectivism	Ch. 5 (pp. 399–414) Ch. 5 (pp. 415–435)	Discussion Board 03 (Oct. 23/26)
10	Oct 26	Ethical Relativism/Objectivism Egoism/Altruism	Ch. 5 (pp. 415–435) Ch. 5 (pp. 436–452)	Discussion Board 04 (Oct 30/Nov 02)
11	Nov 02	Applied Ethics Meaning of Life	Ch. 5 (pp. 522–527) Ch. 7 (pp. 625–648)	Ch. 5 Reading Quiz (Nov. 09)
12	Nov 09	Death and the Afterlife Religious Relativism	Ch. 7 (pp. 625–648)	Ch. 7 Reading Quiz (Nov. 16)
13	Nov 16	Exam 3	Exam 3 Study Guide	Exam 3 (Nov. 20)
14	Nov 23	Political Philosophy Thanksgiving (Nov. 25–27)	Ch. 6 (pp. 539–557)	
15	Nov 30	Philosophy of Law	Ch. 6 (pp. 558–577)	Discussion Board 05 (Dec. 04/07) Ch. 6 Reading Quiz (Dec. 07)
16	Dec 07	Finals Week	Final Exam Study Guide	Final Exam (Dec. 09)