



**Instructor:** B. Kyle Keltz

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**Office Hours:** M/W 9:30am–11:30am

**Department:** English

**Campus:** Levelland

**Course Number:** Phil 1301-001

**Course Title:** Introduction to Philosophy

**Semester/Year:** Spring 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*. 8<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: McGraw-Hill Education, 2022. ISBN: 978-1264951017.

Recommended Text (optional; not necessary for the course)

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

## **VIII. Computer Help**

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

- [helpdesk@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:helpdesk@southplainscollege.edu)
- 806-716-2600

## **IX. Blackboard Help**

1. Get Help by Email: [blackboard@southplainscollege.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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). 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 Journal Entries	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. 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 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 30 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](mailto:dedens@southplainscollege.edu) or at (806) 716-2376.

#### **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, 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 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 the individual's 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, Lubbock Centers (located at the Lubbock Downtown Center) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302.

## **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. Intellectual Exchange Statement**

In South Plains College courses, the instructor will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group difference 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 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 parenting (paternal or maternal) with children under the age of 18 per [Texas Education Code 51.982](#) and Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education. To activate accommodations you must submit a [Title IX pregnancy and parenting accommodations request](#), along with specific medical documentation, to the Health and Wellness Center. 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 Health and Wellness Center at 806-716-2529 or email [r canon@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:r canon@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 only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. 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, license holders 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>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all South Plains College campuses. Report violations to the College Police Department at 806-716-2396 or 9-1-1.

## **XXIII. SPC Syllabus Statement Link**

Here is a link to the official SPC page with institution policies that are updated as needed: <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 - Spring 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	Jan 12	Introduction to Course	Course Syllabus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All assignments are due on Mondays by 9:00am unless otherwise noted</li> <li>• Always check Blackboard for assignments and deadlines</li> </ul>
	Jan 14	Introduction to Philosophy	Ch. 1 (pp. 3–36)	
2	Jan 19	<b>MLK Day</b>	<b>No Class</b>	<b>No Class</b>
	Jan 21	Logic	Ch. 1 (pp. 37–52)	Ch. 1 Reading Quiz (Jan. 26)
3	Jan 26	Metaphysics	Ch. 2 (pp. 53–70)	
	Jan 28	Philosophy of Mind - Dualism	Ch. 2 (pp. 71–82)	Journal Entry 01 (Feb. 02)
4	Feb 02	Philosophy of Mind - Physicalism	Ch. 2 (pp. 83–112)	
	Feb 04	Freedom and Determinism	Ch. 2 (pp. 113–123)	Ch. 2 Reading Quiz (Feb. 09)
5	Feb 09	Exam 1	Exam 1 Study Guide	Exam 1 (Feb. 09)
	Feb 11	Epistemology	Ch. 3 (pp. 167–188)	
6	Feb 16	Epistemological Viewpoints	Ch. 3 (pp. 189–192, 205–208, 234–239, 249–259)	
	Feb 18	Philosophy of Science	Ch. 3 (pp. 285–293)	Ch. 3 Reading Quiz (Feb. 23)
7	Feb 23	Philosophy of Religion	Ch. 4 (pp. 305–333)	
	Feb 25	Natural Theology	Ch. 4 (pp. 348–362)	Ch. 4 Reading Quiz (Mar. 02)
8	Mar 02	Eastern Philosophy of Religion	Ch. 4 (pp. 363–383)	
	Mar 04	Exam 2	Exam 2 Study Guide	Exam 2 (Mar. 04)
9	Mar 09	Ethics	Ch. 5 (pp. 399–414)	
	Mar 11	Ethical Relativism/Objectivism	Ch. 5 (pp. 415–435)	Journal Entry 02 (Mar. 24)
10	Mar 16	<b>Spring Break</b>	<b>No Class</b>	<b>No Class</b>
	Mar 18			
11	Mar 23	Ethical Relativism/Objectivism	Ch. 5 (pp. 415–435)	
	Mar 25	Egoism/Altruism	Ch. 5 (pp. 436–452)	Journal Entry 03 (Mar. 30)
12	Mar 30	Applied Ethics	Ch. 5 (pp. 522–527)	
	Apr 01	Meaning of Life	Ch. 7 (pp. 625–648)	Ch. 5 Reading Quiz (Apr. 06)
13	Apr 06	Death and the Afterlife	Ch. 7 (pp. 625–648)	
	Apr 08	Religious Relativism	Ch. 7 (pp. 625–648)	Ch. 7 Reading Quiz (Apr. 13)

Week	Start Date	Lesson Topic	Textbook Chapters	Assignments and Due Dates
14	Apr 13	Catch-up/Review		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All assignments are due on Mondays by 9:00am unless otherwise noted</li> <li>• Always check Blackboard for assignments and deadlines</li> </ul>
	Apr 15	Exam 3	Exam 3 Study Guide	
15	Apr 20	Political Philosophy	Ch. 6 (pp. 539–544)	Exam 3 (Apr. 15) Journal Entry 04 (Apr. 27)
	Apr 22	Political Philosophy	Ch. 6 (pp. 545–557)	
16	Apr 27	Philosophy of Law	Ch. 6 (pp. 558–577)	Ch. 6 Reading Quiz (May 04)
	Apr 29	Catch-up/Review		
17	May 4	Finals Week	<b>No Class</b>	<b>No Class</b>
	May 6	Finals Week	Final Exam Study Guide	<b>Final Exam (10:15am–12:15pm; May 06)</b>