Instructor: Dr. Anne Collins Smith

Office hours:

- Face-to-face (in Boynton 208A and online using Pager, the instant-messaging function within D2L):
  Monday and Wednesday 2-4 pm
  Tuesday 10:30-11:30 & 1:30-2:30
- Online only:
  Tuesday 3-5 pm
- I am also available by appointment. Please note that I do not make student appointments on Thursdays.

Contact information: The best way to contact me is through the "Mail" function within D2L. You can also contact me by regular email at acsmith@sfasu.edu, or call me at 936-468-2327 (x2327 from a campus phone). Please note that if you call me long distance, I cannot call you back.

Course description
An introduction to philosophy through the examination of prominent philosophical problems, topics and theorists.

Text:

Program Learning Outcomes:
This is a general education core curriculum course and no specific program learning outcomes for this major are addressed in this course.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Students will acquire factual information concerning the nature of philosophy and the practice of critical thinking.
- Students will gain an understanding of certain fundamental philosophical problems and historically prominent conceptual systems associated with the philosophical disciplines of philosophy of the person, epistemology, and ethics.
Students will come to recognize the importance of basic philosophical issues and distinctions in their own lives, and to analyze and evaluate the choices they make in regard to these issues.

PHI 153 is part of the university's Core Curriculum. As such, the work assigned in this course recognizes the general goals of the core and the specific objectives attached to those classes designated for inclusion in the Language, Philosophy, and Culture Foundational Component Area as defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:**

N.B. See Course Timeline for a more detailed schedule.

January 19-February 12
Unit One: Getting Started and The Philosophical Journey

February 15-March 11
Unit Two: Mind and Body

March 21-April 15
Unit Three: Epistemology - The Search for Knowledge

April 18-May 6
Unit Four: Ethics

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

- **Quizzes:** 20% of your total grade
  - There will be an open-book quiz during each unit to test your comprehension of the readings and lectures.
  - Quizzes will be available through the Quizzes tool in D2L.
  - Quizzes typically have 5 multiple choice questions, each worth 1 point; they are graded on a scale of 0-5. Each quiz is worth 5% of your final grade.
  - Your score on the discussion instructions quiz does not count toward your course grade.

- **Dropbox Assignments:** 40% of your total grade
  - There will be two dropbox assignments during each unit to allow you to demonstrate your understanding of the material in greater depth.
  - Each assignment will be drawn from one of the Boxed Exercises in your textbook.
  - There is a set of general requirements for all the Dropbox Assignment as well as specific requirements for each individual Dropbox Assignment. Pay close attention to these requirements; they are designed to help you earn a higher grade.
  - Dropbox Assignments are graded on a scale of 0-5. Each one is worth 5% of your final grade.
• **Discussion Participation:** 40% of your total grade  
  o Students are required to participate in graded group discussions during each of the four units. Your discussion grade is not solely based on the number of posts but on their clarity, thoughtfulness, and collegiality.  
  o There are detailed discussion requirements available in the Getting Started module; you will need to earn a perfect score on a quiz on these requirements before you can participate in the first graded discussion.  
  o Your participation in each graded discussion is graded on a scale of 0-10. Each one is worth 10% of your final grade.  
  o The Getting Acquainted discussion (in the Getting Started module), while required, is not graded; in addition to offering you an opportunity to get to know your classmates, it also offers you the opportunity to become experienced in using the discussion function in a low-stress situation.  

• **A note on deadlines:** In the case of extenuating circumstances, you may be able to receive an extension on a quiz or an ordinary dropbox assignment, because you do these as an individual. When it comes to the online discussions, however, your classmates need you to make your contribution in a timely manner; extensions are not possible for the discussion portion of your grade. Extensions are also not possible for the Core Assessment Assignment.

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**COURSE POLICIES**

**Midterm grades** will be provided this semester. A passing midterm grade does not guarantee that you will pass the course, nor does a failing midterm grade automatically mean that you will fail the course.

**Course requirements will be graded** in a timely fashion. As course requirements are graded, the instructor will publish student grades to the D2L site for the course; if a grade has not been published on the D2L site for the course, the grade is not yet available. The instructor does not generally respond to requests to specify the date by which a particular course requirement will be graded, to provide unpublished grades to students, or to compute current course averages for students.

**Academic integrity** is the responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism. According to the SFA policy located at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student_academic_dishonesty.pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student_academic_dishonesty.pdf),

> Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is
presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit.

Please note that quoting or closely paraphrasing the textbook or lecture without citation is plagiarism and will be penalized. Anyone who commits an act of cheating or plagiarism will receive a grade of F for the course. Moreover, the student is required to meet with the instructor to discuss the incident, and a formal Report of Academic Dishonesty will be submitted to the student's permanent file. If you feel that the instructor's determination of academic dishonesty is in error, there is an appeals process described in full at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic-appeals-by-students.pdf.

Disability accommodations: To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Withheld Grades [Semester Grades Policy (A-54)]
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Acceptable Student Behavior
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and
may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. *This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.*

**Extra credit is not available.** The grade you receive in this class will be the grade you earn on course requirements.