Dr. Owen M. Smith  
Professor of Philosophy and Classical Studies  
OFFICE: Paul L. Boynton Building 208B (BO 208B)  
OFFICE HOURS:  
   MW 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon and 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.  
   TR 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
   and by appointment
OFFICE PHONE: (936) 468-2367  
E-MAIL ADDRESS: osmith@sfasu.edu  
NOTE: Students can also contact the instructor by using the email and Pager functions on the D2L site for the course.

Course Meeting Time and Place:  
Since this course meets entirely online, no meeting time or classroom has been assigned to this course.

Prerequisites for Course: None

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

Required Textbook:  
N.B. In order to obtain access to an electronic version of the course textbook, including interactive content designed to help you comprehend the material, purchase a code at a local textbook store or contact the publisher directly at <http://shop.mheducation.com/highered/product.M0078038340.html>.

Course Requirements:  
• Quizzes – 20% of final course grade  
• Unit Discussions – 40% of final course grade  
• Dropbox Assignments – 40% of final course grade

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.
General Education Core Curriculum:
This course has been selected to be part of Stephen F. Austin State University’s core curriculum. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has identified six objectives for all core courses: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, Teamwork, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. SFA is committed to the improvement of its general education core curriculum by regular assessment of student performance on these six objectives. However, no core curriculum objectives will be assessed in this course this semester.

Student Learning Outcomes:
1. Students will acquire factual information concerning the nature of philosophy and the practice of critical thinking.
2. 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.
3. Students will recognize the importance of basic philosophical issues and distinctions in their own lives; students will also begin analyzing and evaluating the choices they make in regard to these issues.

Course Policies:
1. **Student Conduct**: 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 (cf. 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 course requirements may be referred to the iCare Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

2. **Office Hours**
   a. The instructor is available to meet with students either in his office (BO 208B) or online.
   b. Students who wish to meet with the instructor in his office during regularly scheduled office hours do not need to make an appointment; the instructor will meet with students on a first come, first served basis.
   c. Students can also meet with the instructor during regularly scheduled office hours by using the Pager function on the university's Desire2Learn (D2L) website. The instructor will respond within ten (10) minutes to instant messages sent during his office hours.
   d. Students who wish to meet with the instructor in his office outside of regularly scheduled office hours must make an appointment with the instructor ahead of time. Appointments can be made by email at the instructor's university email address (omsmith@sfasu.edu) or by telephone at the instructor's office phone number (936-468-2367).
3. Getting Started Module – Mandatory Assignments

a. In order to be eligible to participate in required course activities, all students must complete four (4) ungraded, but mandatory assignments at the beginning of the semester. Each of these assignments may be found in the Getting Started module in the Content Browser section of the D2L site for the course.

b. The first mandatory assignment is the Syllabus Quiz, which covers material included on the course syllabus. This short quiz consists of a combination of multiple-choice and true/false questions. Students must pass this quiz with a score of 100% and will be permitted to take this quiz as many times as necessary to achieve this score. Students who do not earn the required score on this mandatory assignment will not be permitted to take any quizzes in this course, participate in any unit discussions, or submit any dropbox assignment essays. Therefore, students should complete this mandatory assignment as soon as possible at the beginning of the semester.

c. The second mandatory assignment is participation in the Getting Acquainted Exercise, in which students participate in an online discussion designed to familiarize them with the discussion function of the D2L site for the course. Students must make at least four posts to this discussion: an initial post introducing themselves to the rest of the class and at least three posts responding to introductions posted by other students. Students who do not make the required posts for this mandatory assignment will not be permitted to participate in the unit discussions. Therefore, students should complete this mandatory assignment as soon as possible at the beginning of the semester.

d. The third mandatory assignment is the Discussion Instructions quiz, which covers material from the Discussion Instructions document. This quiz is designed to familiarize students with the requirements of the unit discussions as well as strategies for performing well on these course requirements. This short quiz consists of a combination of multiple-choice and true/false questions. Students must pass this quiz with a score of 100% and will be permitted to take this quiz as many times as necessary to achieve this score. Students who do not earn the required score on this mandatory assignment will not be permitted to participate in the unit discussions. Therefore, students should complete this mandatory assignment as soon as possible at the beginning of the semester.

e. The fourth mandatory assignment is the Dropbox Assignments quiz, which covers material from the General Guidelines for Dropbox Assignments document. This quiz is designed to familiarize students with the requirements of the dropbox assignments as well as strategies for performing well on these course requirements. Students must pass this quiz with a score of 100% and will be permitted to take this quiz as many times as necessary to achieve this score. Students who do not earn the required score on this mandatory assignment will not be permitted to submit any dropbox assignment essays. Therefore, students should complete this mandatory assignment as soon as possible at the beginning of the semester.

f. The deadline for each of these assignments is Wednesday, February 03, 2016, at 5:00 p.m. Any student who wishes an extension on any of these mandatory assignments must submit a written request to the instructor and provide some form of credible written documentation for the reason cited by the student for missing the deadline for the quiz.
4. **Unit Quizzes**
   a. During each unit of the course, students will be required to take an open-book quiz to demonstrate their comprehension of the unit readings and course lectures.
   b. Each unit quiz will be worth a total of five (5) points and will typically consist of a combination of multiple-choice and true/false questions.
   c. Unit quizzes will be available through the Course Tools menu on the D2L website for the course.
   d. At his discretion, the instructor may grant an extension to a student who cannot take a unit quiz during the designated period owing to serious illness or another similarly compelling reason. Any student who wishes an extension on a unit quiz must submit a written request to the instructor and provide some form of credible written documentation for the reason cited by the student for missing the deadline for the quiz.

5. **Unit Discussions**
   a. During each unit of the course, students will be required to participate in a unit discussion to explore the course material in greater detail. The Getting Started module for the course contains a Discussion Instructions document that governs these unit discussions.
   b. Student participation in unit discussions will be graded on a ten (10) point scale. Students will be graded on the clarity, thoughtfulness, and collegiality of their discussion posts as well as on the number of their discussion posts.
   d. Unit discussions will be available through the Course Tools menu on the D2L website for the course.
   e. Because student contributions to group discussions must be made in a timely manner, no extensions will be granted by the instructor regarding participation in a group discussion.

6. **Dropbox Assignments**
   a. During each unit of the course, students will be required to complete two (2) dropbox assignments to demonstrate their understanding of the unit material. Each assignment will consist of a written essay, typically based on one of the boxed exercises found in the course textbook. The Getting Started module for the course contains a document that provides General Requirements for Dropbox Assignments. The module for each unit in the course will provide specific instructions and requirements for the dropbox assignments associated with that unit.
   b. Dropbox assignments will be graded on a five (5) point scale. A document containing the rubrics used in grading dropbox assignments is available in the Getting Started module for the course.
   c. Dropbox assignments must be submitted through the Course Tools menu on the D2L website for the course.
   d. At his discretion, the instructor may grant an extension to a student who cannot submit a dropbox assignment during the designated period owing to serious illness or another similarly compelling reason. Any student who wishes an extension on a dropbox assignment must submit a written request to the instructor and provide some form of credible written documentation for the reason cited by the student for missing the deadline for the dropbox assignment.
7. Grades
   a. Midterm Grades: In accordance with university policy, students will be assigned a midterm grade in this course. This grade will be based on all course requirements completed prior to midterm. A student’s midterm grade is no guarantee of the student’s final course grade. A student with a passing midterm grade may still fail the course; a student with a failing midterm grade may still pass the course.
   b. 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 compute current course averages for students.
   c. Final course grades will be published by 12:00 noon on Wednesday, May 18, 2016.

8. Technical Support: Students are responsible for the successful submission of all course requirements by the deadlines or due dates specified in the Course Timeline. Technical issues are not sufficient justification for failure to submit a course requirement by the specified deadline or due date. If students encounter technical issues or are uncertain that a course requirement has been submitted successfully, they should contact D2L Support, which is available by telephone at 936-468-1919 and by email at d2l@sfasu.edu. The D2L Support Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

9. Academic Integrity
   a. Academic integrity is a 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.
   b. Definition of Academic Dishonesty: 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 one’s 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 read the complete policy at <http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp>.
   c. Please note that quoting or closely paraphrasing the textbook or course lectures without providing proper citation is plagiarism and will be penalized.
   d. Students are required to be familiar with all items they submit in fulfillment of course requirements. If in the instructor’s opinion, a student does not demonstrate sufficient familiarity with any such item, the instructor may reject the item and assign the student a score of zero (0) for that item.
e. Students in this course are required to adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity. Any student who commits an act of cheating or plagiarism in this course is subject to receiving a final course grade of “F.” Moreover, the student will be required to meet with the instructor to discuss the incident, and a formal Report of Academic Dishonesty will be submitted to the student’s personal file.

f. A student who considers the instructor’s determination of academic dishonesty to be in error may take advantage of an appeals process described in full at <http:www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic-appeals-by-students.pdf>.

10. **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/>.

11. **Withheld Grades:** 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.

**Tentative Course Schedule:**

1. The specific due dates and deadlines for all course requirements are listed on the Course Timeline, which can be found in the Content Browser section of the D2L site for the course. Students are required to adhere to all the instructions contained in the Course Timeline.

2. At his discretion, the instructor may modify the due dates and deadlines listed in the Course Timeline. These modifications will be announced through the News feature of the D2L site for the course. Students are required to adhere to all instructions contained in announcements posted on the News feature of the D2L site for the course.

3. Tentative schedule of course material:
   • Getting Started Module (January 19 – February 03)
   • Unit One: The Philosophical Journey (January 19 – February 12)
   • Unit Two: Philosophy of the Person - The Mind/Body Problem (February 15 – March 11)
   • Unit Three: Epistemology (March 21 – April 15)
   • Unit Four: Ethics (April 18 – May 06)