

## **PHIL 1301-903: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY**

**Spring 2022**

**Hybrid**

**online:**

asynchronous

**face-to-face:**

Monday

3:30 pm – 4:45 pm

Classroom Hall 207

### **INSTRUCTOR:**

Marshall Naylor

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Office: Central Academic Building #325 (Bullpen) 337

Office: <https://tamusa.zoom.us/j/6250585021>

Office Hours: by appointment

Office Phone: (210) 784-2433 (email is preferred)

### **OVERVIEW:**

Do physical objects exist? How do you know? Who is the thing that knows? These are the kinds of questions we engage in this course. The answers to these questions lead us to consider evidence for and against the existence of the physical world, theoretical knowledge, how we persist as persons, and what is right and wrong. Students should demonstrate, orally and in writing, basic problems in philosophy and their proposed solutions. This course meets the standards for the “Language, Philosophy, and Culture” category of courses under the core curriculum. Prerequisite: TSI Reading/Writing.

### **REQUIRED TEXT:**

All required materials will be available on Blackboard or available through TAMUSA’s library.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

1. Critical Thinking Skills (CT) - creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
2. Communication Skills (COM) - effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
3. Social Responsibility (SR) - intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
4. Personal Responsibility (PR) - ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.

- Problems in Philosophy (PP) - understand, analyze, and express verbally and in writing standard problems in philosophy,

### WRITING OUTCOMES (ODFR):

- Outline Essays (O) – create an overall structure that explicitly states every major point.
- Draft (D) – write in paragraph form, descriptions, explanations, comparisons, and arguments in a rational and organized way.
- Feedback (F) – make drafts and excerpts available for comments, critiques, suggestions, and edits.
- Rewrite (R)-- Integrate comments, critiques, suggestions, and edits in subsequent drafts.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- There will be a set of essay exams, quizzes, and discussions serving as assessments.
- Reviewing the course modules and readings are recommended.
- Watching recorded lectures is recommended.

### GRADING SYSTEM

Grade	Points
A	600–540
B	539–480
C	479–420
D	419–360
F	359–below

### POSSIBLE POINTS

Evaluation	Value	Week Due	Calendar Date Due
Essay #1	100 points	Online, 4 <sup>th</sup> week	Online, February 14
Essay #2	100 points	Online, 8 <sup>th</sup> week	Online, March 21
Essay #3	100 points	Online, 12 <sup>th</sup> week	Online, April 20
Essay Final	100 points	Online, 16 <sup>th</sup> week	Online, May 9
Ten Quizzes	100 points	Any, Every week	Any, Mondays
Ten Discussions	100 points	Online, any day	Online, any day

**TOTAL**

**600 POINTS**

## DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS:

1. **Quizzes:** Find and apply factual information from the material and answer true/false questions.
2. **Discussions:** Engage, debate, critique, analyze, and elaborate on material with other students in a courteous way.
3. **Essays:** Create clear, well-organized, edited, and polished pieces of collegiate philosophical writing based on pre-determined prompts.

## ASSIGNMENT TIPS:

1. **Quizzes:** Make sure to study your notes prior to the exam. Have the material accessible to review during the quiz if it is allowed. Avoid hunting for exact wording to answer questions. Instead, focus on whether the quiz question accurately reflects concepts from the material.
2. **Discussions:** Follow the task instructions exactly. Always obey netiquette guidelines. Express your opinion when the task specifies you to do so. Incorporate class material when the discussion task specifies you to do so.
3. **Essays:** I think that students who engage in ODFR tend to earn more points on their essays. Send me your drafts for feedback as you work. Write in a plain English. Use your own words. The more worried you are about essays, the closer we should work together on them. Comments and feedback before and after the deadline are by request only. I do not offer unsolicited feedback on essays.

## COURSE POLICIES:

### Deadline Extensions:

A valid excuse, sometimes with documentation, is needed to support the request. These include but are not limited to medical reasons, work conflicts, child care conflicts, authorized University activities, personal travel, or established religious holidays. Students must contact the instructor before the deadline via email or in-person.

### Make-up Essays:

There are no make-up essays are offered for this course.

### Makeup Quizzes:

There are no makeup quizzes offered for this course.

### Makeup Discussion:

There are no makeup discussions offered for this course.

### Extra Credit:

Extra credit may be offered. Extra credit may include but is not limited to quizzes, discussions, or submitting drafts or excerpts for feedback from the instructor.

## **IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES:**

### **Disability Support Services (DSS):**

The Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Title II of the ADAAA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act require that students with disabilities be guaranteed equal access to the learning environment through the provision of reasonable and appropriate accommodation of their disability. If you have a diagnosed disability that may require an accommodation, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for the coordination of services. The phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and email is [dss@tamusa.edu](mailto:dss@tamusa.edu).

### **Academic Learning Center:**

All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. The Academic Learning Center is an appointment based center where appointments are made through the Navigate platform. Students access Navigate through Jagwire in the Student Services tab. The Center is active on campus outreaching to students to highlight services offered. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing [tutoring@tamusa.edu](mailto:tutoring@tamusa.edu) or calling (210)-784-1332. Appointments can also be made through JagWire under the services tab.

### **Counseling Resources:**

As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you or someone you know is experiencing life stressors, emotional difficulties, or mental health concerns at Texas A&M University – San Antonio, please contact the Student Counseling Center (SCC) located in Modular C, Room 166 (Rear entrance) or call 210-784-1331 between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00PM. All mental health services provided by the SCC are free, confidential (as the law allows), and are not part of a student's academic or university record. SCC provides brief individual, couples, and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information, please visit [www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling](http://www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling)

In a crisis situation, please walk-in to the Student Counseling Center (SCC) any time between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00PM to be seen by a licensed clinician. After hours, please contact UPD at 911 or text "HOME" to 741-741 24/7/365 to connect with a trained crisis counselor. The National Suicide Prevention hotline also offers a 24/7/365 hotline at 1-800-273-8255.

### **Emergency Preparedness:**

JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email and/or phone call with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>.

More information about Emergency Preparedness and the Emergency Response Guide can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/upd/index.html>.

**Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance:**

According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

**Writing Center:**

The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. The Writing Center is currently holding all appointments digitally. Students can schedule appointments with the Writing Center in JagWire under the student services tab. Students wanting to work in realtime with a tutor can schedule an "Online Appointment." Students wishing to receive asynchronous, written feedback from a tutor can schedule an "eTutoring" appointment. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at [www.tamusa.edu/Writing-Center](http://www.tamusa.edu/Writing-Center). The Writing Center can also be reached by emailing [writingcenter@tamusa.edu](mailto:writingcenter@tamusa.edu)

**Meeting Basic Needs:**

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students ([DOS@tamusa.edu](mailto:DOS@tamusa.edu)) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources they may possess.

**Military Affairs:**

Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, and special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the Patriots' Casa in-person room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at [military@tamusa.edu](mailto:military@tamusa.edu) or (210)784-1397.

**Religious Observances:**

Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

### **Respect for Diversity:**

We understand that our students represent diverse backgrounds and perspectives. When we are equity-minded, we are aware of differences and inequalities and are willing to discuss them so we can act to resolve them. The University is committed to building cultural competencies, or the attitudes, skills, and knowledge that enable individuals and organizations to acknowledge cultural differences and incorporate these differences in working with people from diverse cultures. Respecting and accepting people different than you is vital to your success in the class, on campus, and as a future professional in the global community. While working together to build this community we ask all members to:

- Share their unique experiences, values, and beliefs.
- Be open to the views of others.
- Honor the uniqueness of their colleagues.
- Value each other's opinions and communicate respectfully.
- Keep confidential discussions that the community has of a personal (or professional) nature.
- Use this opportunity together to discuss ways in which we can create an inclusive environment in this course and across the A&M-San Antonio community.

### **The Six-Drop Rule:**

Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

### **Statement of Harassment and Discrimination:**

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality, diversity, pluralism and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the university. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and other healthcare providers are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator. If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331, Modular C.

## **Students' Rights and Responsibilities:**

The purpose of the following statement is to enumerate the essential provisions for the student freedom and responsibility to learn at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. All students are required to follow all policies and regulations as set forth by The Texas A&M University System. This includes the A&M-San Antonio Student Code of Conduct.

### **Students' Rights**

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no university rule or procedure that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the university, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, genetic information or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

### **Students' Responsibilities**

5. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty and the administration.
6. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our website, University Catalog and students must comply with them and the laws of the land.
7. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire university community.
8. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide an environment for learning.
9. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notification.
10. We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

## **COVID-19 Guidelines**

The safety of our campus community is paramount to our ability to provide our students, faculty, and staff with a productive and secure learning and working environment. While masks are not required, we do encourage everyone to wear a mask, particularly inside the buildings, in order to reduce the spread of covid-19. The university maintains a covid-19 web-site with current data, safety protocols, and reporting guidelines at <https://www.tamusa.edu/community-safety-together/index.html>.

## **Important Dates:**

January 10	Classes Begin
January 17	MLK Jr. Day
March 7-13	Spring Break
April 15	Last day to drop a course

April 29 Last day to withdraw from the University

May 5-6 Reading Days

May 9-14 Final Examinations

The complete academic calendar is available online: <https://www.tamusa.edu/provost/academic-calendar.html>

### PROJECTED COURSE CALENDAR

WEEK	REQUIRED READING
1-2	Hume, Of Scepticism with Regards to the Senses
2-3	Moore, Proof of the External World
4	Essay #1
5-6	The Standard View
6-7	Problems with the Standard View
8	Essay #2
9-10	Locke, Of Identity and Diversity
10-11	Parfit, Personal Identity
12	Essay #3
13-14	Introduction to Ethics
14-15	Ethical Egoism
16	Final Essay #4

\*Any dates, policies and content of the syllabus are subject to change at any time for any reason.