

Introduction to Philosophy 1301
Summer Session II of 2025
Sul Ross State University
SYLLABUS

Professor: Benjamin Barrientes
Email: benjamin.barrientes@sulross.edu
Cell phone: (432) 299-8527
307 Lawrence Hall Office
Office Hours by appointment only

Course Description:

This “Introduction to Philosophy” course examines topics in Western/Eastern Philosophy through the lens of influential thinkers.

Your instructor for this course does not presuppose prior experience in philosophy but does affirm Aristotle’s first line in his *Metaphysics* that “All wo/men by nature desire to know.”

Course Objectives- upon completion of the course students will be able:

1. To communicate about the various topics that shape the discipline of philosophy;
2. Think critically about the foundations of the Western Philosophical Traditions;
3. Think critically about their own philosophical ideologies;
4. Appreciate and respect the views of their classmates;
5. Through group inquiry participate in a dialogue that started many years ago;
6. Work on reaching a level of logical precision in expressing and writing their ideas.

Texas Domain III Competency 19: The teacher understands and applies critical thinking knowledge and skills to plan, organize/implement instruction, and assess learning.

Texas Domain III Competency 23: The teacher understands and applies knowledge of core concepts of philosophy including ways that individuals and groups achieve their goals through distinct and unique systems and approaches for thought.

Americans with Disability Act Statement:

In order to receive accommodations on exams or assignments, proper documentation must first be provided to the Office of Counseling and Accessibility Services. Contact Mary Schwartze (Office: 112 Ferguson Hall) to set up an accommodations meeting, or call (432) 837-8203. Students must then present this documentation to the instructor as soon as possible so that accommodations may be arranged.

Attendance and Plagiarism Policies:

Each class meeting informs subsequent class meetings. Participation and regular class attendance is the minimal expectation of each student.

Sul Ross State University has a zero tolerance policy on cheating, plagiarism, or collusion. Procedures for dealing with these acts are addressed in the Scholastic Dishonesty Policy. Plagiarism is a serious matter; thus, if anyone needs clarification please let me know.

There is no textbook required for this course; our readings will be available online.

Course Requirements & Grading

- 1. Weekly Journal entries consist of a conversation on questions stemming from the readings. Due every week on FRIDAY by 11:59pm beginning July 18, 2025**
- 2. Midterm 3rd week – Date TBD**
- 3. Final Exam- August 13, 2025, due by 11:59pm**

Grading system: A: 100-90 B: 89-80 C: 79-70 D: 69-60 F: 59 or less

Course Content

1 st Week	What is Philosophy; The Weekly Journal Project; Why is the role of the Philosopher significant? <i>Plato's Symposium & Apology</i>
2 nd Week	<i>Aristotle's Poetics & Descartes's Meditations</i>
3 rd Week	MIDTERM and Machiavelli's <i>The Prince</i>
4 th Week	Nietzsche's <i>Twilight of the Idols</i>
5 th Week	Russell's <i>A Free Man's Worship</i>
6 th Week	Final Exam is comprehensive on August 13, 2025

****This schedule serves as our guide; however, it is subject to change(s).**