

**Introduction to Knowledge and Reality
Philosophy 102 / Section 2 / Sched #22359**

**San Diego State University
Fall Semester 2013**

INSTRUCTOR Dr. Penafuerte-Neuner (Dr. Neuner, pronounced noy-ner)

CLASS MEETINGS Mon and Wed 1:00-1:50 pm at LT 161



OFFICE HOURS at Arts and Letters 444
Tues 10:30 am – 1:00 pm
Thursdays by appointment

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We shall try to abide by the conditions set forth in this syllabus; however, we reserve the right to make changes as needed to ensure that we fulfill our course objectives. You will be given fair notice about such changes.

Are you ready for a hybrid course?

This hybrid course is a blended class where we have face-to-face class meetings twice a week, usually on Mondays and Wednesdays 1-1:50 pm. Our third meeting of the week will take place online. On Fridays, students will either view a prerecorded lecture through blackboard or complete an online quiz or assignment.

1) To see whether you meet the distance learning prerequisites, please take SDSU's "readiness survey" at https://sunspot.sdsu.edu/pls/webapp/survey.hybrid_learning.main

2) Download Mozilla's **Firefox** (other browsers such as Explorer, Safari, or Chrome do not work as well with Blackboard).



3) Download (for free) all **necessary software**, including the latest versions of: Adobe's **Acrobat Reader** and **Flash Player**, **QuickTime Player**, and **Java**.

4) Have a **backup plan** for fulfilling course obligations when/if your computer malfunctions. For example, to find out about computers at the library; go to <http://scc.sdsu.edu/home.php>.

5) If you need to learn how to use Blackboard, go to: <http://its.sdsu.edu/blackboard/student/>

TECHNOLOGY

The instructor cannot provide IT support. You are responsible for your computing needs. When problems occur on the SDSU end (blackboard crash, our clerical errors), you will not be penalized. However, when problems occur on your end, you must fix them **prior to any deadlines**. Student IT problems are *not* an acceptable excuse for non-completion of work. You can **go to Student Computing Center** in Love Library for help or to use their computers; call (619) 594-3189; email scc@rohan.sdsu.edu; or click <http://scc.sdsu.edu/home.php>.

What will we be learning?

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This is an introductory philosophy course focusing on questions about knowledge (epistemology) and about reality (metaphysics). What is knowledge and how does it differ from mere opinion? Is sense experience necessary for all types of knowledge? What part does reason play in knowledge? What can we prove with certainty or probability? Can we prove that God exists? What is it to be a human being? Does every person have a mind or soul that is separate from the body? What is personal identity? What makes a person the same person from birth to death? In pursuit of answers to these questions, this course will:

- Introduce students to original writings of major philosophers such as Plato, Anselm, Aquinas, Descartes, Locke, Hume, Kant, Kierkegaard, de Beauvoir, Sartre, Hakuin, etc.
- Broaden students' perspectives and help them appreciate well-structured arguments and significant conceptual distinctions
- Present standard theories about knowledge and reality: skepticism, rationalism, empiricism, idealism, Kantian theory etc.
- Teach students how to critically evaluate a variety of opposing philosophical views regarding knowledge and reality.
- To broaden students' perspectives and help them appreciate well-structured arguments and significant conceptual distinctions

GENERAL EDUCATION OUTCOMES

Philosophy 102 is a General Education course aimed at “providing the breadth of knowledge necessary for meaningful work, life-long learning, socially responsible citizenship, and intellectual development. Among the “seven essential capacities” emphasized by San Diego State’s General Education program, Philosophy 101 develops in students the ability to

1. Construct, analyze, and communicate arguments;
2. Apply theoretical models to the real world;
3. Contextualize phenomena;
4. Negotiate differences;
5. Integrate global and local perspectives;
6. Illustrate relevance of concepts across boundaries;
7. Evaluate consequences of actions.



SPECIFIC LEARNING GOALS

This GE course fulfills the goals for GE Courses in the Humanities and Fine Arts. Students will acquire “capacities for reflection, critique, communication, [and] cultural understanding.” Upon completing this area of Foundations, students will be able to:

Goal 1: Analyze written, visual, or performed texts in the humanities and fine arts with sensitivity to their diverse cultural contexts and historical moments.

Goal 2: Develops a familiarity with various aesthetic and other value systems and the ways they are communicated across time and cultures.

Goal 3: Argue from multiple perspectives about issues in the humanities that have personal and global relevance.

Goal 4: Demonstrate the ability to approach complex problems and ask complex questions drawing upon knowledge of the humanities.

What books should I buy?

Textbooks are very expensive. We have found philosophical reading materials and placed them online for your use free of charge. You may access reading materials for this class in two ways:

- **Via Blackboard (online for free).** All texts are uploaded into Blackboard, in the Readings Folder
- Check out a binder with all the required readings from the **Love Library Reserves** (at the second floor checkout counter) for a four-hour period.



READINGS

This class will require roughly 15-20 pages of difficult reading each week. Students should try to complete a substantial amount of their readings per week. Waiting until an upcoming exam or quiz to cram one's reading will probably lead to poor understanding and retention of the material. As a consequence, one's test performance and grades will likely suffer. Just as some test questions will cover only concepts presented in class and not in the readings, so some test questions will be based on concepts found in the reading material but not discussed in lecture.

LECTURE NOTES AND SUMMARIES

For many of the readings and lectures, students will be provided a short outline, lecture notes or a summary. Later in the semester, the best of student summaries will be combined and made available to the class. These documents are intended to give students a brief introduction and sense about the philosophical article they have been assigned to read, but they are not meant to replace reading the primary sources themselves. Directions for the two page article summaries will be made available in the "Summaries" folder of blackboard.

POWERPOINT SLIDES

Much, but not all, of the lecture material will be contained in powerpoint slides; some concepts introduced in class will be written on the white board, printed in handouts or explained verbally. All the powerpoints shown during Monday and Wednesday classes will NOT be made fully available. Instead, "review slides" will be uploaded into blackboard by Friday mornings. These slides will contain much of the concepts that were shown in the class powerpoints, but they will be simpler and probably contain mostly text and few pictures. This semester, we will adopt the policy of offering review slides available by the end of each week. These review slides are plainer for three reasons: (1) students who attend class should have a slight advantage over those who do not attend; (2) plainer slides make for easier printing; and (3) engaging in philosophy involves understanding complex ideas and arguments; this often entails interpreting the text and grappling with the written word, not flipping through powerpoint slides. Nonetheless, powerpoint is a crutch which we will use during class to allow for the expedient communication of ideas in a short amount of time.

PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE

It is recommended that students attend all classes and participate occasionally. Students who miss class are responsible for acquiring the material and keeping pace with the course. Although regular attendance and keeping up with the reading does not count as part of a student's final grade, students will find that these things have a positive impact on their exams and papers. No extra credit will be offered to just a single student any time during or after the semester.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

Use of lap top computers in class is allowed for the purposes of note-taking only; other computer activities can prove distracting. Students should also refrain from any behavior that may be disturbing to other students who are making the effort to be attentive. Cell phones and other electronic devices should be turned off and stored away. PLEASE **RESPECT OTHER STUDENTS** by **NOT TALKING** to one another during class. Certain students may be asked to leave the lecture hall due to their disruptive behavior or technological devices may be taken away.



Students should try to be punctual, but are encouraged to show up to class even if they may be a little late due to unforeseen circumstances. The instructor will never keep the class beyond the allotted class period and requests that students wait until class has been dismissed before they begin closing notebooks and packing away their school gear. If class must be cancelled on a given date, an announcement will be made by the instructor or a note will be posted on the classroom door or via Blackboard. If the instructor is more than 15 minutes late, please assume that the class is cancelled and that advance notice was not possible.

DISABLED STUDENT SERVICES

If you have special needs due to a learning disability, please avail yourself of the resources in the Student Disability Services in Calpulli Center, room 3101 (594-6473). The CSU Office of the Chancellor defines a learning disability as "... a generic term that refers to the heterogeneous group of disorders manifested by significant difficulties in the acquisition and use of listening, speaking, reading, writing, reasoning or mathematical abilities. These disorders occur in persons of average to very superior intelligence and are presumed to be due to central nervous system



dysfunction. Even though a learning disability may exist concomitantly with other handicapping conditions (e.g., sensory impairments) or environmental influences (e.g., cultural/language difficulties), it is not the direct result of these conditions or influences." If you think something might prevent you from doing well in this course, you should discuss this with me so that proper arrangements may be made to accommodate your needs.

Students with disabilities or religious needs who require special accommodation must give us at least one weeks' notice. Disability accommodation requires documentation from SDS.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES, ATHLETICS, ETC.

By the end of the first week of classes, students should notify the instructor of planned absences for religious observances. The above also holds for student athletes and supportive groups (like the marching band, not fans). They must inform faculty members within the first week in order to be excused from scheduled tasks on scheduled days.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

September 9 is the last day to drop classes or change grading basis. No adds and drops are allowed after 11:59 pm on this date.

How do we communicate?

EMAIL: I will be communicating with you by email. Please be sure that you can receive email from Blackboard. **Make sure that your email address within the system is correct.** Some email systems block Blackboard mailings as if they are spam. Either fix this, or obtain an SDSU email account (<http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/newstudacct.shtml>.)



When sending email to me or to a TA, please include your **full name** and **the course Phil 102** in the subject line.

We have many students in our class, but we do wish to respond to your questions and concerns as soon as we can. Please **allow for a 24-hour turnaround**. If you do not hear back from us in due time, please try again with a different heading (in case the original was recognized as spam) and email all of us, instructor and TA's.

COURSE SCHEDULE

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topics/Readings</i>
Week 1, Aug 26, 28 (Online lecture, Fri 8/30)	<u>WHAT IS REALITY?</u> Plato: The Apology The Meno
Week 2, Sep 2, 4 (Online lecture, Fri 9/6)	<i>Labor Day Holiday Mon 9/2</i> The Myth of the Cave Epicurus: Letter to Herodotus
Week 3, Sep 9, 11 (Online Quiz 1, Fri 9/13)	Descartes: Meditations Berkeley: Three Dialogues Locke: An Essay Concerning Human Understanding
Week 4, Sep 16, 18 (Summary 1 assigned 9/20)	Hume: An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding EXAM 1 on Wed, Sept 18
Week 5, Sep 23, 25 (Online lecture, Fri 9/27)	Kant: The Critique of Pure Reason <u>DOES GOD EXIST?</u> Aquinas: Summa Theologiae
Week 6, Sep 30, Oct 2 (Online Quiz 2, Fri 10/4)	Paley: Natural Theology Anselm: Proslogium
Week 7, Oct 7, 9 (Summary 2 assigned, 10/11)	Pascal: Pensees, EXAM 2 on Wed, Oct 9
Week 8, Oct 14, 16 (Online lecture, Fri 10/18)	Clifford: The Ethics of Belief James: The Will to Believe

Week 9, Oct 21, 23
(Online Quiz 3, Fri 10/25)

HOW CAN WE KNOW?
Nagel: What's it like to be a bat?
Parfit: Divided Minds and the Nature . . .

Week 10, Oct 28, 30
(Online lecture, Fri 11/1)

Code: Is the Sex of the Knower Epistemologically...?
EXAM 3 on Wed, Oct 30

Week 11, Nov 4, 6
(Online Quiz 4, Fri 11/8)

Beauvoir: The Second Sex (Introduction)
Kierkegaard: Truth is Subjectivity

Week 12, Nov 11, 13
(Online lecture, Fri 11/15)

Veterans Day Holiday! Monday, Nov 11
WHAT AM I?
Sartre: Being and Nothingness, No Exit

Week 13, Nov 18, 20
(Online lecture, Fri 11/22)

Hakuin: Song of Zazen,
EXAM 4 on Wed, Oct 25

Week 14, Nov 25
(Online lecture, Wed, 11/27)

Dogen: The Time-Being and Other Writings

Week 15, Dec 2, 4
(Online Quiz 5, Wed 12/4)

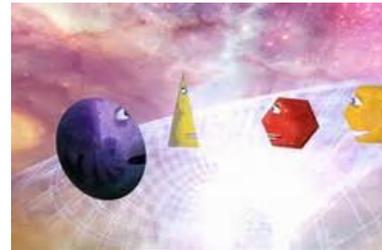
Sutra: The Discourse
on the Not-Self Characteristic

Week 16, Dec 9, 11

Abbott: Flatland

Finals Week
Friday, Dec 13

FINAL EXAM
1:00-3:00 pm



The course schedule is subject to revision. Please refer to weekly updates and announcements for changes.

GRADES

Grades will be based on four out of five major assignments (80%) and four out of five minor assignments (20%).

Major Assignments: 4 out of 5 exams 20% each = **80% Subtotal**

Minor Assignments: 4 out of 5 quizzes 5% each = **20% Subtotal**

* Optional Summary – A summary grade can replace a lower or missing quiz grade. Twice you will be given an opportunity to write a two-page summary on a future article which the class has not yet been assigned. Directions for this summary will be made available in the Summary Folder of blackboard. The summary will be assigned on a Friday and will be due the following Friday.

* There are a total of five exams, which includes the final exam. Students may opt to take all five exams, in which case their lowest exam score would be dropped. Students may also decide to take four exams only.

GRADING SCALE

The grading scale:	89.9%-87%	B+	79.9%-77%	C+	69.9%-67%	D+
100%-94% A	86.9%-84%	B	76.9%-74%	C	66.9%-64%	D

93.9%-90% A- 83.9%-80% B- 73.9%-70% C- 63.9%-60% D-

SDSU Grading Guideline

A – Outstanding achievement; available only for the highest accomplishment.

B – Praiseworthy performance; above average work.

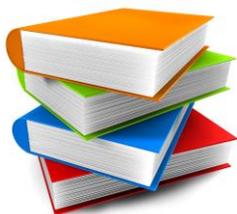
C – Average; awarded for satisfactory performance.

D – Minimally passing; less than average achievement.

F – Failing.

I – An incomplete grade will only be granted for extenuating circumstances.

What should I know for a quiz?



Not Cumulative: Most quizzes will not be cumulative and will be limited to three to four articles. Please check the announcement page to know what will be covered on a Friday quiz.

More Text-Dependent: You are provided with more time on a quiz than a 50 minute in-class exam, even though a quiz has one-third the number of questions and is worth less than an exam. The reason for this is because quiz questions will typically be closely related to the articles and will thus be a little more challenging. You should have read the articles prior to taking the quiz, but you are given more time so that you can carefully reread the text.

Only Objective Questions: A quiz will contain about 15- 25 multiple choice questions.

Time constraints: A given quiz will be available during a 48-hour window. Once you open up the quiz, you will have 2 hours to submit all your answers. This should be more than plenty of time; however, this will not be enough time to begin and complete all the prep work needed for the quiz.

The 48-Hour Window of Availability: In most cases a “Friday” quiz will be available by Thursday noon until Saturday noon. The quizzes are scheduled a week prior to each major exam.



Open Up Every Quiz: Even if you don't plan to take a particular quiz, you should open it up anyway. If you don't open the quiz you will not be able to access the test questions. Seeing the quiz questions can help you prepare for the upcoming exam. It is also possible that one or two of these quiz questions will later reappear on the exam.

What should I know for an exam?

Not Cumulative: Most exams will test you on material covered since the last major exam.

Emphasis on Study Guide Questions: About a week prior to an exam, a study guide will be made available. Most exam questions will be related, but not



limited to, the study guide questions. Thus, a good understanding of the answers to the study questions will best help you to prepare for exams.

Objective and Written Questions: Some exams will be totally objective and contain 50 multiple choice questions. If there is a written component to an exam, then it will include fewer objective questions. So, you might have an exam with two short answer questions that require you to write a total of two paragraphs. In that case, there may be only 30 multiple choice questions in that same exam. In another exam, you may be expected to write a short essay and then be given 25 multiple choice questions. An announcement will be placed at least three days before an exam to let you know what you can expect.

Test Conditions: Exams will take place in class on the date indicated on the course syllabus. We will not change this date but may adjust the materials covered on an exam because of time constraints. Please bring a green scantron #882 and a no. 2 pencil to an exam.

MAKEUP EXAMS - MAYBE

If a student can offer good reason for missing an exam (documentation needed), then a makeup exam will be given during the semester. Sometimes, students do not have documentation to verify their excuse. In such cases, Dr. Neuner may still allow a makeup exam but may add a late penalty. As a rule, makeup exams will be different in format from the exam taken by the rest of the class and will consist of written questions rather than scantron questions. Due to the format, makeup exams will probably be more difficult than the regular exam, but students will be given additional time to prepare for it. Makeup tests can be deferred until the end of the semester; this would give students time to see how well they do with their other scores before determining whether a makeup test is needed to raise their grade.



CRASHED OR MISSED QUIZZES

Sometimes technology problems occur even during a test. If your computer crashes while you are taking a test, email the instructor and TA's right away. We can reset the crashed test for you at our discretion. We will judge the conditions and circumstances and decide what course of action is justified. It may be possible to retrieve some of your saved answers, but if not, your newly opened test will contain different questions.

Computer Problems? Go to [Student Computing Center](#) at Love Library for help or to use their computers or call (619) 594-3189

MAKEUP QUIZZES - NO

Because you are allowed to drop one quiz or replace a missing or low-scoring quiz with a written summary, we will not offer any makeups for quizzes (exams are a different matter). Even if you are sick or experience an unforeseen emergency, we will not offer a different makeup quiz for students to take. An exception to this policy can be made for only the most extreme circumstances such as an extended illness (hospitalization, incarceration, etc.). If you miss a quiz, you will probably have to count it as one of the assignments you will need to drop. Also, for extreme cases, we may make an exception and open up a quiz to a particular student after the window of availability has closed. If we allow this exception, the student will be given a password and may be given an extra evening to complete the quiz. Since students are given a 48-hour

window to take the quiz, it is unlikely that a student will have a good enough excuse to warrant our extending the already broad window of time for taking a quiz.

What if I submit my online quiz late?

LATE QUIZZES? You are allotted 2 hours to complete a quiz. The blackboard timer starts once you open up your test. The Blackboard timer does not stop when your time runs out nor will an alarm sound. Blackboard does not grade tests submitted after the time runs out. If your test is late, we may still accept it but a late penalty will apply.

- 1-2 minutes late - No penalty. Maybe transmission time takes that long?
- 3-5 minutes late – 5% penalty.
- 5-10 minutes late – 10% penalty.
- More than 10 minutes – No longer acceptable. Student will receive 0 (F).

How will quizzes and exams be graded?

QUIZ PROCESSING: After you have successfully submitted your quiz, you will see a green exclamation point in My Grades. When we are in the process of grading the quizzes, we will temporarily hide that grade column and then you will neither be able to see the exclamation point nor your score. Once all the test grades for the class have been determined, then we will make the scores visible to you.

GRADING CURVE: Despite how challenging a given test might be, we expect that there is usually at least one student who will earn a 100%. A test or assignment whose average falls around the B-/C+ range seems fair to us. If the average falls below this range, then a curve may be applied to raise the average.

GRADE CALCULATIONS: Grades for exams, quizzes and papers will be converted into percentages. Your raw score will be divided by the total number of points on a given assignment or by a lesser number of points if the assignment is curved.



PROBLEMATIC TEST QUESTIONS: If you see a test question that appears problematic (typo, wrong name, no correct option, too many acceptable options, etc.), go ahead and do your best to answer the question. Do not leave it blank. Also, do not waste your time, while you are under the time clock, to email us about it. If it is truly a problematic question, then it will be omitted or you will be given full or partial credit for your answer. However, please note that a question that seems problematic to you may reflect a confusion on your part with the course material rather than a problem with the actual question. Often a measure of whether a question is bad is not the fact that many students missed the same question, but that even the best-scoring students for that given test missed the question.

JUSTIFICATION OF YOUR “INCORRECT” ANSWERS: After a test is graded you will be able to view the questions, your answer and the correct answer. You may have one week to justify your answer to a test question by emailing us your explanation. You should provide textual support for your justification. Reconsideration of your test, if requested, may mean that your entire record will be placed under review and this may result in lower as well as higher grades.

What counts as cheating?

No Cheating: To prevent cheating, each test will be unique. **Each student will receive a randomly generated subset of questions drawn from a large pool of questions**, so that no two tests are alike. Although you will not be asked about every single concept or term, the questions you do receive will provide us with a good measure of your grasp of the materials.

Any student who cheats will receive an F for the assignment or for the course. Instances of cheating will be reported to University authorities. Please see SDSU's policy regarding cheating at <http://senate.sdsu.edu/policy/pfacademics.html#Cheat>

Examples of cheating include... (a) copying, in part or in whole, for another's test or examination; (b) discussing answers or ideas relating to the answers on a test or other examination without the permission of the instructor; (c) obtaining copies of a test, an examination, ... (i) plagiarizing, as defined; and (j) knowingly and intentionally assisting another student in any of the above.



Will there be written assignments?

In several exams, students will be asked to respond to short answer questions or to write short essays. Also, twice in the semester, students will have the opportunity to write two summaries approximately two pages each in length. Students will be asked to read a philosophical article to be assigned to the class at a future date and to summarize what they've read. Directions for these summaries will be placed in blackboard and the class will be provided examples of what is expected from a good summary. Summaries are expected to be well-written with careful attention to grammar and spelling. These summaries are to be submitted to Turnitin.com which will be located in the "Summaries" folder in Blackboard.



In regard to course writing assignments, please note: By taking this course, you agree that required reports will be submitted to Turnitin for plagiarism detection. Each text submitted to Safe Assign/Turnitin is included as a source document in SDSU's institutional archive. You may remove all personally identifying information from your reports prior to submission.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

All students are expected to follow the administrative rules and standards of conduct detailed in the San Diego State University catalog. Students are expected to submit only their own work on papers and examinations. While you may discuss the assignments with others in the class, collaboration on the preparation of a paper is not permitted. Unless the assignment specifically directs otherwise, papers should be based entirely on your own study of the assigned material and not on secondary sources of any kind.

What is plagiarism?

Turning in someone else's work, whether from printed sources or material available electronically, as if it were your own constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism is an act of intellectual dishonesty. The academic consequences of plagiarism range from failure for the tainted assignment to failure for the course, depending on the seriousness of the offense. All such offenses are reported to the college dean, who will impose additional administrative consequences, which can include suspension or expulsion from the university.



Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to the following: turning in another student's paper as if it were your own; collaboration with another student in writing the paper; quoting, paraphrasing, or borrowing ideas from published or unpublished material written by someone other than yourself, without specific acknowledgment of the source.

It is your responsibility to know and observe all the SDSU rules concerning academic integrity and plagiarism. You should familiarize yourself with SDSU Academic Senate Policy on Plagiarism [http://its.sdsu.edu/docs/TURN Plagiarism AcadSen.pdf](http://its.sdsu.edu/docs/TURN_Plagiarism_AcadSen.pdf). If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, how to credit the work and ideas of others properly, how to evaluate sources for quality and reliability, or any other related issues, please feel free to see me to discuss the matter.