I. DESCRIPTION

Philosophical Analysis is the philosophy department’s official introduction to current philosophical methods. We will learn how to read philosophical texts and write philosophical papers, and in the process acquire greater mastery of the concepts and argumentative moves used by philosophers today.

II. GOALS & PREREQUISITES

This course has three basic goals. First, we will learn the art of philosophical analysis, as modeled by current philosophers. Although their work may sometimes seem obscure, most in fact take great pains to make themselves understood, and they really can be understood—so long as one is familiar with the concepts they use and the (largely unstated) formulas and rules on which they rely. Second, we will learn how to write papers in this tradition. Although academic philosophers (and their students) are not generally aware of it, most of their written work falls in line with a number of broad conventions. Familiarizing ourselves with these conventions will go a long way toward preparing us to produce advance work in the field (and help us write more sophisticatedly on topics outside of philosophy as well). Finally, like all philosophy courses, this one aims to cultivate our ability to think in a clear and systematic way about difficult and fundamental problems. A prior course in critical thinking is required.

III. TEXTS

Other material available on iLearn.

IV. REQUIREMENTS

As a paper-writing course, the largest share of the final grade (80%) will come from the papers we write throughout the semester. However, more than most philosophy courses, this course also consists of homework assignments, which will constitute the other 20% of the final grade.

In addition, regular attendance and thoughtful participation in class discussion can enhance your final grade by up to one gradation. For example, a “B-” might become a “B” if you have contributed productively to the class.
Productive participation includes such things as contributing regularly and constructively to class discussion and actively participating in group work.

There will be two papers total—one shorter essay (3-5 pages) and a term paper (10-12 pages). The papers will be completed in stages. The first complete draft of the shorter paper is due on March 19 and a final draft is due on iLearn on the noon of March 20. The first complete draft of the term paper is due in class on May 14, and a final draft due on iLearn on May 22.

There will also be ten homework assignments. Each assignment will be discussed in the class before it is due and the relevant prompt will then be posted on iLearn. The submitted assignments will not be returned to the students, and the instructor will check to make sure they are relevant and coherent (incoherent and/or irrelevant submissions will not be credited). All homework assignments are weighed equally (i.e., each credited submission is worth 2% of the final grade). Late homework assignments will not be credited (except in cases of verified emergency).

The final grade for the course will be calculated by combining the letter grades you receive on the papers and homework assignments. These will be weighted as follows:

- Homework assignments: 20%
- First paper: 30%
- Term paper: 50%

A final word about attendance. This course is structured in such a way that the later portions of the course depend heavily on the earlier portions. Not unlike a course in language or mathematics, missing the earlier class sessions come at great cost to your work in the rest of the semester. If you know that you will have to miss more than two class sessions, it is recommended that you not take the course this semester.

V. POLICIES

Missed or Late Work
Assignments turned in late will be docked 1/3 a letter grade per day (e.g. a B+ would become a B). This does not apply to the homework assignments. Late homework assignments will not be credited (except in cases of verified emergency).

Electronic Communication
The best way to get in touch with me is via email (azad@sfsu.edu). Feel free to email me at any point during the semester if you have any questions or concerns. I do not answer emails in the evening, but you can expect to receive a response within a day from my receiving your email.

Laptops and Cellphones
Laptops are permitted in class for the sole purpose of taking notes. Please do not visit any websites (especially social media), as it distracts other students and disrupts the learning environment of the class. Please do not text or browse the Internet on your cellphone during class. If you feel that you must use your cellphone, please leave the classroom and do so outside.

Plagiarism
Students are responsible for knowing what plagiarism is, and for not committing it in any of their submitted work. For more details see: http://conduct.sfsu.edu/plagiarism. Any assignment found to be plagiarized will be given an "F" grade. All instances of plagiarism in the College of Humanities will be reported to the Dean of the College.

Religious Holidays
Students who must be absent from class in order to observe religious a holiday must inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays during the first two weeks of the class each semester. If such holidays occur during the first two weeks of the semester, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. Students who meet these conditions will not be penalized for their absence, and will be able to make up the work missed.
The Learning Assistance Center
The Learning Assistance Center (LAC) provides free, on-campus writing tutoring for SF State students. It offers both one-time and ongoing tutoring sessions, with some same day appointments available. The LAC is open Monday through Friday from 9am-4pm and Friday from 9am-12pm. For more information and to schedule an appointment, see http://www.sfsu.edu/~lac/index.html.

Disability Accommodation
Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor. The Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC: http://www.sfsu.edu/~dprc) is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. The DPRC is in the Student Services Building 110. They can be reached by telephone (voice/TTY 415-338-2472) or by email dprc@sfsu.edu.

VI. SCHEDULE: This schedule is subject to revision. Major changes will be discussed with the students.

1. January 27, 29: Introduction to Philosophical Analysis: Arguments
   Toolkit, pp. 1-23.

2. February 3, 5: Fallacies and Refutation
   First Homework Assignment Due, Feb. 5.

3. February 10, 12: Mind and World
   Second Homework Assignment Due, Feb. 10.

4. February 17, 19: Tools for Argument & Assessment
   Third Homework Assignment Due, Feb. 19.

5. February 24, 26: Concepts and Intuitions
   Mind and World, Lecture 1, pp. 3-23.
   Fourth Homework Assignment Due, Feb. 24.

   Toolkit, 141-151, 156-161, 164-190.
   Fifth Homework Assignment Due, March 5.

7. March 10, 12: The Unboundedness of the Conceptual
   Mind and World, Lecture 2, pp. 24-45.
   Sixth Homework Assignment Due, March 10.
   Paper Assignment Submitted and Discussed on March 12.

8. March 17, 19: Short Paper
   March 17: Continue with Lecture 2 of Mind and World.
   March 19: Complete Draft Due. Workshop.

March 20: First Paper DUE on iLearn, by noon.

March 24, 26: No Class. Spring Recess
March 31: No Class. Cesar Chavez Day

9. April 2: Review
10. April 7, 9: Non-Conceptual Content
   Seventh Homework Assignment Due, April 9.

11. April 14, 16: Reason and Nature
    *Mind and World*, Lecture 4, pp. 66-86.
    Eighth Homework Assignment Due, April 14.

    *Mind and World*, Lecture 5, pp. 87-107.
    Ninth Homework Assignment Due, April 21.

12. April 28, 30: Rational and Other Animals
    Tenth Homework Assignment Due, April 28.

13. May 5, 7: Objection and Reply
    Brandom: “Perception and Rational Constraint,” on iLearn
    McDowell’s Reply, on iLearn.
    Paper Assignment Submitted May 7.

13. May 12, 14: Draft of the Final Paper
    May 12: Discuss the Assignment
    May 14: Complete Draft Due. Workshop.

May 22: Final DUE on iLearn, by noon.