# Liberal Studies 300

**Spring 2016**

**Schedule Number**

## COURSE INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructor: Kelly Johnson</th>
<th>Office Hours Times (and by appointment): By appointment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Days: Monday</td>
<td>Office Hours Location: EBA 207A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Times: 4:00 – 6:40 PM</td>
<td>Class Location: EBA 260</td>
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## Course Overview

You are on the road toward becoming a teacher! This course is a prerequisite for entering the 5th year Multiple Subject Program at SDSU. In this class, we read about and discuss ways of thinking or “the habits of mind” in the disciplines that are typically taught in grades K-8. The goal of our efforts is to enhance understanding of the nature of these disciplines.

You will explore issues of diversity in contemporary society through directed field experiences, selected readings, research and participation in class discussions. We will explore the concept of a liberally educated person and the significance of broad based knowledge in the teaching profession. Additionally, we will address the importance of clear academic writing including recognizing and using basic writing conventions.

You should arrive in class on time ready to participate in the class. All cell phones need to be turned off and miscellaneous items such as newspapers, magazines, etc. are to put away. Laptops should be used for notetaking only.

## Enrollment Information

Please include information about enrollment for the course including, but not limited to:

- Prerequisites
- Adding/Dropping Procedures

## Course Materials

Please provide information about the materials for the course including, but not limited to:

- Required Materials (including all acceptable text editions)
- Recommended Materials
  - Options for Accessing Course Materials (eg., SDSU Library Circulation/Course Reserves)

Materials include textbooks, course readers, iClicker, etc. Please be as specific as possible when listing materials.

## Success in an Online Course

This online course offers the advantage of learning anyplace and anytime. Despite this flexibility, to succeed in the online learning environment students should keep in mind the following requirements:

- A computer - PC or Macintosh- with a stable Internet connection. Higher speed Internet connections (cable modem, DSL) are strongly recommended.
- Basic computer skills - email, surf the Internet, and create basic word processor files.
- Microsoft Office 2010, or higher (Must include Word and PowerPoint).
- A reliable email address that will not change from the beginning until the end of the semester.
- A "technology back-up" plan. Students should plan out an alternative location to do assignments and quizzes in the event their computer or Internet connection is not working!
- Time. Distance learning courses require as much time as traditional (classroom) instruction. The primary difference is that online instruction allows flexibility.
- Self motivation. Online students must be "self starters" and have the ability to work with a minimum of supervision. Students who procrastinate are rarely successful in distance learning courses.

Students are also required to:
• Make use of the online course materials available via Blackboard. Access to these materials is available once you have registered to the course.
• Participate in asynchronous online discussions.
• Complete readings and assignments by the dates indicated on the syllabus.
• Check email on a daily basis.

Course Structure and Conduct

Please provide information about the structure of the course including, but not limited to:
• Style of the Course (e.g., Traditional Lecture, Lecture-Discussion, Distance Education (fully on-line), Hybrid, Activity, Seminar, etc.)
• Individual and Group Activities Required (e.g. Individual Projects, Group Projects, etc.)
• Technology Utilized in the Course (e.g. iClicker, Blackboard, Other Course Management Systems, etc.)

Course Assessment and Grading

Please explain how the course will be assessed and graded by including, but not limited to:
• Approximate Due Dates for any Major Assignments or Exams
• Scored activities and weighting by percentage of total score (eg. Exams, Quizzes, Participation, etc.)
• Grading Scale
• Excused Absence Make-up Policies

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473. To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that accommodations based upon disability cannot be provided until you have presented your instructor with an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Academic Honesty

The University adheres to a strict policy regarding cheating and plagiarism. These activities will not be tolerated in this class. Become familiar with the policy (http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/srr/conduct1.html). Any cheating or plagiarism will result in failing this class and a disciplinary review by Student Affairs.

Examples of Plagiarism include but are not limited to:
• Using sources verbatim or paraphrasing without giving proper attribution (this can include phrases, sentences, paragraphs and/or pages of work)
• Copying and pasting work from an online or offline source directly and calling it your own
• Using information you find from an online or offline source without giving the author credit
• Replacing words or phrases from another source and inserting your own words or phrases
• Submitting a piece of work you did for one class to another class

If you have questions on what is plagiarism, please consult the policy (http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/srr/conduct1.html) and this helpful guide from the Library: (http://infodome.sdsu.edu/infolit/exploratorium/Standard_5/plagiarism.pdf)

Turnitin

Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. You may submit your papers in such a way that no identifying information about you is included. Another option is that you may request, in writing, that your papers not be submitted to Turnitin.com. However, if you choose this option you will be required to provide documentation to substantiate that the papers are your original work and do not include any plagiarized material.
Online Classroom

Before your first session
- Visit the Behind the Blackboard Web Conferencing – First Time Users and complete Step 1: Checking System Requirements and Step 2: Configuring Your System
- View a 7-minute Participant Orientation

In-Session
- Be sure to join the session 5-10 minutes prior to the start.
- Set your Connection Speed to the Internet.
- Use the Audio Setup Wizard to test your microphone and speakers.
- Participate in the session by responding to polls and providing feedback.
- Raise your hand when you have a question or a comment.
- Use Chat to send text messages during the session.
- Remember that running other applications on your computer can slow your connection to the session.

Participant User Interface

Contact Blackboard Collaborate Technical Support
- Available 24 hours/day - 7 days/week
- North America, Toll Free: 1 (877) 382-2293

Participate from a Mobile Device (iPhone / iPad)
- A free mobile app for iOS devices is available that allows you to participate in a session directly from your iPhone, iPod touch, or iPad! Students are able to fully interact during the session:
  - Join live classes or meetings from iPhone or iPad
  - Interact via text chat and two-way audio
  - View whiteboard content and shared applications
  - Use emoticons, hand raising, polls, breakout rooms
  - Connect directly from Blackboard on your mobile device

Exam and Quiz Instructions

[Be sure to adapt these instructions based on the settings you choose under Blackboard’s Edit the Test Options (such as whether you are prohibiting backtracking).]

REMINDER: The best browser for Blackboard is Firefox. There are known problems with using other browsers to take tests and quizzes in Blackboard. Download Firefox for free: http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/

Suggestions for successful completion
- Choose the best answer, then click the little arrow on the bottom right to advance to the next question.
- Test must be completed the first time it is launched.
• Do not resize or refresh the browser window while taking the exam. Be aware that going onto another browser tab or window will close out the exam. In other words, do not change screens during the assessment.
• You can't go backwards. If you attempt to do so the exam will crash. Be sure of each answer before submitting it and moving on.
• If you have trouble for some reason email me (_____@mail.sdsu.edu) immediately with an explanation of what happened. I will view your exam attempt. Please avoid having to do this by following all the previous instructions.

Upon completion of the exam click on "Save and Submit" and check your score. Then go to "My Grades" to be certain the score has been recorded. If your score has not been recorded in "My Grades" you must contact me immediately via email.

**Exams and Assignments [example from an Eastern Religions course]**

**Number, Description, Points Each, Total Points**

**14 Online Quiz Experiences** @ 10 points each = 140 points
Based on textbook, course packet, and online course materials (including my comments on discussion topic postings). Open notes, two tries, timed (15 minutes each try). 28 Twice-Weekly Online postings @ 10 points each = 280 points
Each “posting” includes an original comment on the assigned topic and at least one substantive response to another student’s comment. Once the discussion topic is locked no further comments may be added (though they may be read). I may assign students throughout the semester to read a group of postings and summarize the discussion in an additional posting.

**1 Microtheme (500 words) due through Blackboard** @ 500 points = 500 points
See the online course calendar for the due date. In 500 brilliant words, which I'll grade for grammar, spelling and content, you'll discuss how Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoism view ordinary human desires. You'll select (and explain) an appropriate quotation, drawn from the works presented in the text, for each of the traditions. (You'll be submitting a rough draft which I will return with comments, ungraded, to help in preparing the final Microtheme.)

**10 weekly short answer writing assignments on WebCT** @ 20 points = 200 points
You'll respond to a question dealing with the current assigned reading in one or two brilliantly written paragraphs.

3 objective unit exams @ 25 points for Hinduism, 25 for Buddhism, 30 for the Chinese worldview (Confucianism and Daoism) = 80 points
Based on textbook, course packet, and online course materials. Open notes, one try, timed (60 minutes).

**3 collaborative writing projects** @ 100 points = 300 points
You and two others will work together on writing a short essay on a series of three “think pieces” dealing with Eastern philosophy. The same grade will be given to each of the three participants (the number of participants may vary depending on the size of the class).

**TOTAL POINTS= 1500**

**Description of the course environment [example from an online course]**

The projects for the course are described thoroughly in class and in handouts and models. Students are encouraged to develop a timeline for the semester for accomplishing the tasks required.
Participation in online activities, including video analyses and threaded discussions, take place on Blackboard (https://blackboard.sdsu.edu/webappslogin).
Threaded discussions and video analyses require synthesis of course readings, video information, classroom experience and interaction with peers and instructors. See the discussion rubric, attached.

**Estimated time commitment [example from a Learning Design & Technology course]**

**Table 1: Module and Estimated Hours**

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<th>Module</th>
<th>Estimated hours</th>
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### Guidelines for students' participation [example from an online course]

In calculating each student's participation points, the instructor will take into consideration the following:

- Total number of hours logged
- Total number of log-ins
- E-mail activity (number of emails initiated, number of emails replied to)
- Total number of discussion forum posts
- Peer evaluation results

At the end of the course, students will be ranked from first to last for each category (i.e. worst to best). The number of participation points allocated will then be based on each student's overall relative ranking score.

### How to participate in the course [example from an Eastern Religions course]

This is not a do-it-yourself, work-at-your-own-speed course. Philosophy involves many difficult concepts and we need to bounce ideas off of each other in order to begin to understand those concepts. That means we, as a class, need to stay together from week to week so we are all studying the same material. At the same time I recognize work and family schedules make it difficult to devote two hours each day to the course.

Here's the compromise: New course materials will be released Mondays and Thursdays each week, and all assignments for the week must be completed by the following Monday morning at 8am Pacific Time. The course will not be as effective, however, if you wait until Sunday to do all the work. Try to log in every day, at least for a few minutes, and make the required postings and take the quiz experiences and do the short writing assignments (as they become available) throughout the week.

The bottom line is that I want us all to stay together and track with the same material as it would be taught in a face-to-face class from week to week. Course materials will not be posted in advance, and you'll have only a limited time to make up missed work. If you get too far behind you might find it better to withdraw and take the course on campus; that's preferable to a mad scramble at the end to cram in all the reading and writing and posting assignments.

Let me know how you're doing. Send me an email if you're facing difficulties and together let's see what we can work out!

### Texts and materials [example from a Methods of Inquiry course]

**Required Texts**


To take the quizzes, go to the [Book Website]: Chapter Overviews, Self-Assessment, Web Destinations, & Checklists


You can also buy the E-version of this book from the Aztec Bookstore but no sell-back. Get them at the campus bookstore or Visit bigwords.com or Amazon.com
Optional Texts


*The Tao of Statistics.* SAGE Publications.

APA job aid
APA online

Excellent Online Resources

Hybrid course [example from an Ethics course]

This will be a "hybrid" course, that is, part of it takes place in the classroom and part online. That means that in some weeks there may be more emphasis on the classroom aspects of the course and in other weeks more emphasis on the online aspects.

The Online Component: Because this is an on- and off-campus class, components of online learning are integral to the course. We will meet with each other and the primary faculty for a 3 hour session weekly, during which time we will cover questions, lecture material and some seminar material in preparation for the rest of our week of “online” study. It is expected that you will spend as many hours online as you would in class as well as continue to put in all of the hours necessary for homework for a 3-unit class.

All assignments and announcements will be made online. Seminar discussions will be held online as well as in class. Questions for such seminars will be posed in the Blackboard course discussion forum and students will be expected to post their ideas and responses to other students in that forum. Assignments will be submitted both online and in class.

Interacting with me [example from an Eastern Religions course]

I’ll try to respond within 24-48 hours to emails sent me from within Blackboard. For quick questions, the turnaround time may be much shorter. (If Blackboard is not working or for non-course-related communications, write to me using my outside email address: soandso@maxinet.com.)

For questions that involve, say, the clarification of a philosophical concept, you may want to call me in my office at (530) 895-2973. My message phone works most of the time, but email is to be preferred. My regular office hours are MW 2-3pm and TTH 11am-12pm Pacific Time, but I’ll probably be in my office on the Fungal College campus much more than that. Feel free to call anytime. (Later in the semester, after I see the logs of your login times, I may set up a "virtual office" hour in which you can chat with me online.)