Philosophy 2200: Ways of Knowing
Gabriel Soldatenko, Asst. Prof. of Philosophy
MW 12:30-1:45, Room SO 2031, Fall 2011

Office Hours: Monday 11-Noon, Tuesday 10-Noon, and by appointment.
Social Science #4091

Office Phone: (770) 794-7759

Email Address: gsoldate@kennesaw.edu

Course Description: “Ways of Knowing” is meant to introduce students to philosophy as a practical activity, or vocation. That is, to answer the questions; what is the purpose of philosophy? And, what does it mean to be a philosopher? Or, put another way, to think and explore philosophy as a tool for life. To that end, this course will provide students with a general picture of the history of Western philosophy, some of its major figures, and its core themes. In addition, this general understanding of the discipline of philosophy will be tempered by a brief investigation of Non-Western traditions (particularly those of Amerindian and Latin American origin), and feminist critiques.

Text: All course materials will be provided through Georgia View.

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of the course students will have
- a general knowledge of the social context and history of Western philosophical thought;
- a general understanding of the major themes and concepts that have come to constitute the discipline of philosophy;
- an appreciation for the critical contributions made by those who were historically denied the capacity to reason;
- an understanding of the relationship of philosophy to other disciplines and areas of inquiry; and
- an understanding of philosophy as a vocation and praxis.

Evaluation: There will be four in-class writing exams covering each of the major sections of the course. Each will be worth 22% of your grade. The other 12% of your grade will be an evaluation of students’ in-class participation, movie summaries (three are required), and short writing assignments.

Extra Credit: You may acquire extra credit, but all exams must have been completed to receive points. Extra credit is obtained by completing a 500-word summary of any philosophically relevant lecture you attended at KSU or off campus (check with instructor for eligibility). A summary is an objective (no critique) account of the presenter’s main ideas that also includes the specific details of when and where the event took place, who spoke, and the title of the speaker’s presentation.

Academic Integrity Statement: Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct. Section II of the Student Code of Conduct
addresses the University’s policy on academic honesty, including but not limited to provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, and misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the University Judiciary Program.

**Absence Policy:** There are no excused absences in college. Students are responsible for making up class by conferring with classmates (i.e. getting notes and discussing the main topics of conversation). Students are responsible for all material covered: readings, lectures, and documentary presentations. I will allow make-up exams only if I’m contacted at least two days prior to the exam date.

**Schedule of Readings:**

August 17: Introduction

**The Western Philosophical Tradition**


“The Spiritual Universe of the Polis”


“Euthyphro”


“Apology”

“Crito”

August 29: Michel Foucault, *Fearless Speech* (Semiotext(e): Los Angeles, 2001)

“The Word Parrhesia”


“Aristotle: Metaphysics, Natural Science, Logic”

September 5: (No Class)


“Aristotle: Ethics, Politics, Art”


“On the Tranquility of Mind”


“On the Shortness of Life”

September 19: Exam #1

  “Introduction”
  “Three Authorities”
  “The Beginnings of Medieval Philosophy”

  “Introduction”
  “Meditations”

  “Meditations”

  “Immanuel Kant: Rehabilitating Reason (within Strict Limits)”

  “On the Prejudice of Philosophers”
  “The Free Spirit”

  “Preface”
  “Good and Evil”, “Good and Bad”

October 12: Karl Marx, *The Early Writings*
  “Wages of Labor”
  “Profit of Capital” (1 & 2)
  “Estranged Labor”

October 17: Karl Marx, *Capital Vol. 1*
  “The Labor Process and the Valorization Process”
  “Constant Capital and Variable Capital”

October 19: Exam #2

  “Society Against the State”

  “The Aboriginal World and Christian History”
*Indian Traditions*
“The Ways of Our Grandmothers”

November 2:  Enrique Dussel, “Philosophy in Latin America in the 20th Century”

November 7:  Leopoldo Zea, “Identity, A Latin American Philosophical Problem”

November 9:  Agusto Salazar-Bondy, “Can There Be a Latin American Philosophy?”

November 14:  Exam #3

**Philosophy, Feminism, Gender, and Sexuality**

“Introduction”
“Oppression”
“Sexism”

“The Problem that has No Name”
“On Being White”

November 23:  (No Class)

November 28:  Sandra Bartky, *Femininity and Domination*
“Toward a Phenomenology of Feminist Consciousness”
James Baldwin, *Collected Essays*
“Freaks and the American Ideal of Manhood”

November 30:  Audre Lorde, *Sister Outsider*
“Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic of Power”
“The Transformation of Silence into Language and Action”
“Poetry is Not a Luxury”

December 5:  Elsa Barkley-Brown, “African-American Women’s Quilting” (*Signs*, vol. 14, no.4)

December 7 (11-1pm):  Exam #4