PHIL2200-11: Ways of Knowing  
Fall 2011, TR 9:30am-10:45am  
Classroom – Social Sciences Bldg. 3010

Course Syllabus

Instructor: Zane Yi  
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Office: Social Sciences Building (22), #4120  
Office Hours: TR, 11:00am-12:00pm and by appointment

Course Description:

“Philosophy,” it has been said, “begins with wonder” (Plato, *Theaetetus*). As humans, we wonder about the world we inhabit, about ourselves, and the lives that we live. This class is designed to introduce students to some of the classical philosophical questions regarding reality, knowledge, and ethics. We will examine the views of important figures in the history of philosophy, such as Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Descartes, Locke, Hobbes, Rousseau, Mill, and Kant, and the contexts in which these thinkers lived. The systematic focus on the issues these figures address is intended to help students become more philosophically informed and better critical and self-reflective thinkers.

Prerequisites: None

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course students should be able to:

- Understand basic philosophical terms and concepts  
- Identify and engage philosophical arguments  
- Identify key philosophical figures and their views  
- Understand the historical contexts of philosophers and their ideas  
- Critically read, assess and interact with original works of philosophers  
- Articulate their own views through clear, effective writing

Required Text(s)

Steven M. Cahn, ed. *Classics of Western Philosophy*, 7th ed. (Hackett, 2007)  
(ISBN 0-87220-89-1)

All other readings that will be available through VISTA.

Course Work/Expectations

*Attendance and Participation:* Students are expected to participate in each class. Obviously, participation requires attendance. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class by reading quizzes. (See below.)
Four unexcused absences will result in failure of the course. An excused absence is an absence due to university related activities, personal illness (verified by a doctor's note), family emergency, religious holiday, required military duty, etc. It is the responsibility of the student to communicate the reason for an absence, if they wish it excused, no more than one week after the missed class.

If a student is late to class, and misses the reading quiz, the student should submit a quiz sheet with his/her name and date on it at the end of class to receive attendance credit.

Beyond regular attendance, students are expected to be adequately prepared for each class by having assigned reading completed before class and by bringing a copy of the assigned readings/text to each class.

Active participation will be considered in the calculation of the final grade, particularly when the student is on the cusp between two grades. Indications of active participation are regular involvement in classroom discussion, as well as, continued discussion about the material; this can take place on-line via e-mail or the VISTA discussion board, after class, or during office hours.

During class, students are expected to refrain from cellphone and smartphone use (please turn off ringers), eating, and reading/working on materials that are unrelated to this course. Infractions of this stipulation will negatively affect the participation grade.

Reading quizzes: Reading should mirror the schedule below. Reading quizzes will be given at the beginning of class and will ask basic questions from the assigned readings. Quizzes may not be made up due to tardiness or unexcused absences. At the end of the semester the lowest quiz grade will be dropped. On certain days, the instructor reserves the right not to give a quiz. There will be a minimum of six (6), 2 point, reading quizzes given throughout the semester.

Critical Essays: Each student will write two (2) critical essays by the end of the semester. Each essay should be a maximum of 1000 words in length (3-4 pages). Essay(s) should demonstrate an understanding of crucial philosophical ideas, succinctly summarizing and citing relevant readings or figures. Secondly, essays should also critically engage these ideas and the author's argument(s), expressing a student's agreement or disagreement with the author and why. Papers should be double-spaced, with one-inch margins, and written in 12pt. Times New Roman font. Points will be deducted for failing to abide by these guidelines.

Students must submit one critical summary from two different historical periods/areas that are covered in this course—ancient, medieval, modern/contemporary.

Further instructions on these essays will be provided as the semester progresses.

Essays are due on at the beginning of the classes indicated below. All papers should be submitted through www.turnitin.com, which detects for plagiarism.

Late Work: All papers are due at the beginning of the class specified. This means papers should be uploaded before the beginning of class. Otherwise it is considered late, resulting in a loss of points (1 point a day) for each day the paper is late.
Exams: Two (2) exams, including the final exam, will be administered throughout the semester as scheduled below. The exams will be combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. The mid-term exam will cover the first half of the semester and the final will cover the second half. The final exam will not be comprehensive. Both exams will be equally weighted.

All students must take the final exam at the scheduled time. Missed exams cannot be made up, unless due to exceptional circumstances. Please plan holiday travel times and work schedules accordingly.

E-mail Policy

E-mails will normally be answered within 24 hours during the week, but may not be on weekends or over holidays. All emails should be properly addressed and signed with the student's first and last names. The subject line of each email should read, “PHIL 2200.11--” followed by the subject matter to be discussed.

Grading

Exams: 50%  
Reading Quizzes: 10%  
Critical Essays: 25%  
Attendance and Participation: 15%

Grading Scale

Kennesaw State University uses the following scale to determine final letter grades:

90-100 A 4.0 Excellent.
80-89 B 3 Good
70-79 C 2 Satisfactory/Average
60-69 D 1 Below Average/Barely passing
<59 F 0 Failing

Class Schedule

Week 1 8/18 Introduction and syllabus
Week 2 8/23 Pre-Socrates “What Is a Philosopher?” Vista
8/26 Socrates Apology 1-2; 29-34
Week 4 8/30 Socrates Apology 35-41
9/1 Plato Crito 42-48
Week 5 9/6 Plato Phaedo 58-62; 68-70
9/8 Plato The Republic 150-154
Week 6  
9/13  Plato  *The Republic*  158-162 (Paper #1 due)  
9/15  Aristotle  *Physics, Book II*  178-179; 200-204

**Medieval Philosophy**

Week 7  
9/20  Augustine  *On Free Choice*  355-360; 363-364  
9/22  Aquinas  *Summa Theologiae*  440-41, 450-52

Week 8  
9/27  Aquinas  *Summa Theologiae*  452-53, 455-456

9/29  Mid-term review

**Modern Philosophy**

Week 9  
10/4  Mid-term exam
10/6  Descartes  *Meditations*  482-83; 490-492

Week 10  
10/11  Descartes  *Meditations*  496-503  
10/13  Descartes  *Meditations*  503-506

Week 11  
10/18  Locke  *An Essay Concerning*  627-28, 630-633  
10/20  Locke  *Human Understanding*  637-640

(Paper #2 due)

Week 12  
10/25  Hume  *Human Understanding*  761-762; 822-828  
10/27  Kant  *Critique of Pure Reason*  903-04; 918-921

**Ethical Philosophy**

Week 13  
11/1  Hobbes  *Leviathan*  517-18, 534-537; 547-48  
11/3  Rousseau  *Discourse on Inequality*  Vista

Week 14  
11/8  Kierkegaard  *Fear and Trembling*  Vista (Paper #3 due)  
11/10  Mill  *Utilitarianism*  1056-57, 1060-1063

Week 15  
11/15  Kant  *Groundwork*  998-1001  
11/17  No class

Week 16  
11/22  Gilligan  *Care, Justice, and Gender*  Vista  
11/24  Fall break

Week 17  
11/29  Dharmasiri  *Buddhist Ethics*  Vista  
12/1  Last day – Final exam review  

12/6  **Final Exam**  (9:30am-11:30 am)
Academic Integrity and Discipline

The Kennesaw State University’s Student Code of Conduct states:

The high quality of education at Kennesaw State University is reflected in the credits and degrees its students earn. The protection of high standards of academic integrity is crucial since the validity and equity of the University’s grades and degrees depend upon it. Any student found to have violated any KSU academic honesty regulation after a hearing before a university hearing panel or before a hearing officer shall be suspended for at least one semester, unless the student persuades the deciding body or hearing officer that the circumstances of his or her behavior substantially mitigate the gravity of the violation. These regulations are designed to assist students in (1) developing appropriate attitudes about, and (2) understanding and following the university’s standards relating to academic honesty. The regulations protect students by helping them avoid committing infractions that may compromise the completion of their KSU degrees or damage their reputations...

No student shall receive, attempt to receive, knowingly give or attempt to give unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any work required to be submitted for credit (including examinations, laboratory reports, essays, themes, term papers, etc.). Unless specifically authorized, the presence and/or use of electronic devices during an examination, quiz, or other class assignment is considered cheating. Engaging in any behavior which a professor prohibits as academic misconduct in the syllabus or in class discussion is cheating. When direct quotations are used, they should be indicated, and when the ideas, theories, data, figures, graphs, programs, electronic based information or illustrations of someone other than the student are incorporated into a paper or used in a project, they should be duly acknowledged. No student may submit the same, or substantially the same, paper or other assignment for credit in more than one class without the prior permission of the current professor(s).

Do not cheat or plagiarize. It is taken very seriously! You will fail this class if you are caught doing so and will also be reported to administration. Cheating involves representing someone else’s work/knowledge as your own, and also intentionally allowing others to represent your work as their own, i.e. allowing others to copy your work or submitting something on behalf of someone else. Using a smartphone for answers during an exam or quiz is cheating. An all too common form of cheating is plagiarism, i.e. cutting and pasting a portion of a website into your paper. If you have any questions of if something counts as plagiarism, it is better to be safe than sorry; check with your instructor and always cite where you are getting your information.

*The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus to better promote the learning objectives of this course and to make exceptions to the stated policy when appropriate and in such a way to preserve fairness to all students.