Kennesaw State University

Fall Semester 2011

Philosophy 3000: Ancient and Medieval Philosophy
Monday and Wednesday, 8 – 9:15 a.m.
Social Sciences 2033

Read the statement on the last page of the syllabus, print the page, sign and date it, and submit it no later than the beginning of the second class, August 22, 2011

Professor: Dr. Hugh C. Hunt

Appointment times: See me before or after class, call, or send an email to make an appointment. Designated appointment times are 9:15 – 10:15 a.m., Monday and Wednesday. Other times by arrangement.

Contacts: Phone: 770-423-6294, department (leave message)
Email: please use the email system in GeorgiaView

The Course

Prerequisite: English 1102.

Course Description: Ancient and Medieval Philosophy is a study of the topics, problems and doctrines of ancient and medieval western philosophers including, among others, the pre-Socratics, Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, and Aquinas.

Objectives: When you complete this course, you should have working knowledge of the following discipline-specific topics

- Vocabulary of philosophy
- Nature and purpose of philosophical inquiry
- Major areas of study in the discipline of philosophy

and the following course-specific themes

- Major characteristics of the ancient and medieval periods in the history of philosophy
- The way selected ancient and medieval philosophers defined and addressed the basic nature and purpose of philosophy, in particular the problems of the one and the many, the nature of knowledge, and how to live a good, moral life
- The methods of inquiry used by selected ancient and medieval philosophers to address the problems they encountered
- The influence of selected ancient and medieval philosophers on subsequent philosophers and the philosophical tradition
Teaching Methods: This course combines lecture and discussion. I introduce each topic with a short lecture, but the major portion of each class is centered on discussion. Even during the lecture, I invite questions and comments. In fact, I thrive on questions that lead to open, serious, and honest debate. Many of the topics we study in this course lend themselves to good, healthy debate. When we debate, however, let us focus on the issue-at-hand and avoid generalizations and other comments that do not foster intellectual grappling with the topic under consideration. In order for this process to work to the satisfaction and benefit of everyone, be prepared to reflect over and respond to questions I pose in class and to questions about the readings. As I will explain in introductory comments during the first lecture, principally, philosophy is about *philosophizing*.

The Requirements

Examinations: This course has two essay examinations (a midterm and a final). Each exam asks for your response with an expository essay to at least one, maybe two questions. **Each essay counts 30% of the course grade.**

Important note: **everyone must take the midterm and final exams on the scheduled dates and submit all written work on the due dates (all dates are listed below and on the calendar in GeorgiaView). If, because of an emergency, you have to miss a scheduled date, let me know beforehand and I will work with you. Otherwise, the grade for is zero for the assignment. **Note, I do not give make-up exams or accept late work—except as noted above.**

I apply this policy strictly and do not make exceptions. Please make sure you pay careful attention to the dates listed below and on the calendar in GeorgiaView.

Paper: Select a theme/question/controversy that emerges in the material we study this semester and in an argumentative research paper, address the issue. I will be glad to work closely with you to help you select a topic. By September 19, please submit a one-page proposal in which you present the theme of your paper, the way you plan to address it, and a list of the sources you will use. **The paper counts 30% of the course grade.**

Grading: For the midterm/final essays and for the paper, I use grading rubrics. The rubrics help you organize your written work and help me evaluate it. The rubrics are posted on GeorgiaView. I assign a letter grade according to the following scale: A+ is 98, A is 95, A- is 92; B+ is 88, B is 85, B- is 82, and the same for the other letters. F is any grade below 60.

Summary of Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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To calculate the letter grade for the course, I use the following scale: A is 90 – 100 points; B is 80 – 89 is B; C is 70 – 79; D is 60 – 69; F is below 60.

**Readings:** All readings for this course are in electronic form. The assignments are given in class and posted on GeorgiaView.

**Discussion:** As noted above, each class involves reflection and discussion. We will conduct the discussions sometimes as a class; sometimes in small groups. In addition, there will be ongoing discussions via the discussion board in GeorgiaView. **Active participation in all the discussions serves as the basis for the participation grade of 10%**.

**About Participation:** Learning involves active participation in the entire course experience—both in and out of the classroom. Active participation can take many forms, some of which are: listening, asking questions, and offering your interpretation of the readings, my lectures, and the observations of your classmates. The topics we study in this course are basic to the meaning of human existence and thus, by definition, lend themselves to different points of view. Actively present and defend your perspective on a theme, but allow everyone else the same right. Respect for others is fundamental to the success of the classroom dynamic and guarantees an open, inviting atmosphere where we all can share our thoughts and feelings. Humor, directness, and a healthy, positive cynicism are welcome. Hostility, narrow-mindedness, and personal attacks are not. Your sensitivity to the atmosphere of the class is very important. Think about that throughout the semester and make an effort to contribute positively to the development of a community of learners committed to the pursuit of knowledge and wisdom. **Note: since discussion is 10% of the grade; and since this may seem to be—but actually is not—a subjective part of the grade, at any point along the way (especially after the mid-point of the course), if you want to know how I am evaluating you in this area, check with me and I'll be glad to tell you.**

**Additional Information**

**Academic Honesty:** Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section II of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the University's policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to University materials, misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct are handled through the established procedures of the University Judiciary Program, which includes either an "informal" resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct's minimum one semester suspension requirement.
If you have any questions about the meaning and significance of KSU’s academic honesty policies and procedures, please consult the documents mentioned above or consult with me.

**Attendance:** Regular attendance is necessary to achieve the objectives of this course. In the final analysis, attendance is your responsibility. However, please see the section above, About Participation.

**Courtesy:** I request your attention to several areas where courtesy is essential to the proper functioning of the class:

- "Better late than never," but please try to be on time. I begin each class on-time and latecomers are distractive
- If you need to leave early, please inform me at the beginning of the class and sit near the door to the classroom.
- Comments and observations about the lectures, readings, and other things germane to the course are welcome. Side conversations are not—even if about the material we are discussing.

**Extra Credit:** Students often ask about extra credit, so note: I do not give extra-credit assignments. From the outset, approach the course in general, the individual assignments in particular, with an attitude of commitment and seriousness and you should not have to concern yourself with thinking about extra credit. Also, see About Participation (above).

**Laptops and Cell phones:** Do not use a laptop or cell phone during class. Often, it is convenient to have the Internet available so I will have the computer and projector in the classroom up and running and ready for immediate use.

**Support Services:** There are many support services available to you at KSU. First, I am here to support you both inside and outside class. I have office hours exclusively devoted to providing time for you to consult with me about any aspect of the course—especially the paper (see above). Second, the writing center provides assistance with some of the details of writing essays. Third, there are extensive computer facilities available in labs across campus. Fourth, Student Success Services provides an array of support services. Fifth, the library has a wealth of material that supplements what we do in class. Finally, wise use of the Internet will lead you to many philosophical riches.
### Important Dates (also, see the Calendar in GeorgiaView)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First day of class</td>
<td>August 17, 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Syllabus statement due</td>
<td>August 22, 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labor Day Holiday—no class</td>
<td>September 5, 2011</td>
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<td>Paper proposal due</td>
<td>September 19, 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Examination</td>
<td>October 3, 2011</td>
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<td>Last day to withdraw without penalty</td>
<td>October 12, 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper Due</td>
<td>November 21, 2011</td>
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<td>Thanksgiving break—no class</td>
<td>November 23, 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last day of class</td>
<td>December 5, 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>December 12, 2011, 7 – 9 a.m.</td>
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I have read the syllabus for this course and I understand all of the policies and requirements.

Name: _______________________________________

Signature

Date: ________________________________________