Philosophy 2200 Ways of Knowing  
Course Description, Fall 2012

Instructor: Joe Johnson
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Office hours: after class M-F, or by appointment
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COURSE DESCRIPTION: A philosophical, critical examination of the different ways of knowing and thinking in the humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences—including ethical and religious perspectives. Emphasis is on the nature and purpose of philosophical inquiry as applied to selected issues within philosophy and the broader implications of these methods and questions for other disciplines and in everyday contexts.

PREREQUISITES: ENGL 0099 and READ 0099, if required; ENGL 1101 recommended.

REQUIRED TEXTS: Introduction to World Philosophy—A Multicultural Reader,

ATTENDANCE: One will not be able to do well in this course without complete attendance, which, together with participation, counts for 10% of the final grade. Attendance will not be counted in the case of tardiness or early departure. Responsibility for material covered while absent is the sole responsibility of the student.

GRADING: There will be three exams, each worth 30% of the final grade, all of which must be completed in order to receive course credit. Exams will include both multiple-choice and essay questions. Study questions will be provided. Makeup exams will be given only in the case of unavoidable and dire circumstances. If not arranged in advance, prompt notification—i.e., within the same day—by e-mail or voice message must be given, along with verification of excuse at the next class. Acceptance of excuses is at the sole discretion of the instructor. There will be no opportunities for extra-credit work; rather, students should wholeheartedly focus their efforts on mastering the material at each stage, raising one’s grade by doing as well as possible on the next exam.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: 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 that 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).
Part I: Plato’s Epistemology, Metaphysics, and Ethics

14.1.1 Plato, from Meno (epistemology)
14.1.2 Plato, from Theaetetus (epistemology)
19.1.1 Plato, from Republic (metaphysics; Forms)
9.1.1 Plato, from Phaedo (immortality)
3.1.1 Plato, from Laches (ethics)
3.2.1 Plato, from the Republic (ethics)

Part II: Ethics

3.3.1 Aristotle, from Nichomachean Ethics
5.2.1 David Hume, from A Treatise of Human Nature (From Is to Ought)
5.3.1 Immanuel Kant, from Fundamental Principles of the Metaphysics of Morals
5.5.1 John Stuart Mill, from Utilitarianism

EXAM 1 (Sep. 26, Wednesday)

Part III: Rationalism, Empiricism, Personal Identity

16.1.1 René Descartes, from Meditations on First Philosophy (Meditation I)
10.1.1 René Descartes, from Meditations on First Philosophy (Meditation II)
20.1.1 René Descartes, from Meditations on First Philosophy (Meditation VI)
10.2.2 Princess Elizabeth, Letter to Descartes--The Hague, June 20, 1643
10.2.3 Princess Elizabeth, Letter to Descartes--The Hague, July 1, 1643
16.2.1 John Locke, from An Essay Concerning Human Understanding (Empiricism)
10.3.1 John Locke, from An Essay Concerning Human Understanding (Personal Identity)
10.4.1 David Hume, from A Treatise of Human Nature (The Constructed Self)

Part IV: Philosophical Theology

23.2.1 Anselm, from Proslogion
25.3.1 Thomas Aquinas, from Summa Theologica
25.5.1 David Hume, from Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion
21.4.2 Friedrich Nietzsche, from The Cheerful Science

EXAM 2 (Nov. 5, Monday)

Part V: Comparative Philosophy: Hinduism & Buddhism

Hinduism

1.1.1 Karma and Dharma in Hindu Thought
7.1.1 From the Brhadaranyaka Upanishad
7.1.2 From the Chandogya Upanishad
7.1.3 From the Mundaka Upanishad
7.1.4 From the Svetasvatara Upanishad
7.1.5 From the Maitri Upanishad
7.1.6 From the Taittiriya Upanishad
7.1.7 From the Katha Upanishad

Buddhism

1.3.1 The Buddha, from The First Sermon
1.4.1 From Psalms of the Sisters
7.3.1 From Questions to King Milinda
1.5.1 From The Lankavatara Sutra
8.3.1 From the Heart Sutra
8.3.2 From The Recorded Conversations of Zen Master Yixuan

EXAM 3 (Dec. 10, Monday)