PHIL 4460: Major Themes in Philosophy: Temporality
Instructor: Tom Pynn
Autumn 2012

Office Hours: SO 2008. MW 10-12 and 2-3; TR 10-10:45 and 12:30-1:45; Fri 10-12 and by appointment.

E-mail address: tpynn@kennesaw.edu. Use only for communication purposes. If you use the email on Georgia View Vista, there is a chance that I may not respond for a couple of days. You are more likely to get a quicker response by using my KSU address. Exams submitted electronically and without authorization will be deleted as received.

Course Description: PHIL 4460 · Major Themes in Philosophy
3 Class Hours 0 Laboratory Hours 3 Credit Hours

Prerequisite: At least two upper-division courses in philosophy or permission of the instructor.

An in-depth examination of a major theme in the history of philosophy. Topics may include time, justice, love and friendship, beauty, materialism, aesthetics, epistemology, and metaphysics. Course may be repeated if the course content is different.

PHIL 4460 is an in-depth study of selected western and non-western philosophies of time. The philosophers we will study are St. Augustine, Paul Ricouer, Dogen, William James, Edmund Husserl, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Emmanuel Levinas, and Julia Kristeva. The emphasis in our study of time is on theories of temporality, rather than scientific, religious and aesthetic theories of time.

Required Texts

On the Phenomenology of the Consciousness of Internal Time. Edmund Husserl.
Time & the Other. Emmanuel Levinas.
Time and Sense. Julia Kristeva.
Misc. essays posted on Georgia View

Suggested Texts

A Companion to Phenomenology and Existentialism. Hubert L. Dreyfus
The Deconstruction of Time. David Wood
Time and Free Will. Henri Bergson.
Existence and Existents. Emmanuel Levinas.
**Evaluation:** The student will demonstrate **performative competence** in communicating (through writing and speaking) his/her understanding of the material. Essay composition helps the student practice a range of writing and thinking skills, most important among these are development of ideas and appropriate idea transitions. The following are the three parts of a student’s performance with respective %s of grade. The grading scale is as follows: A: 90-100, B: 80-89, C: 70-79, D: 60-69; F: 59 and below.

- **Exams:** (80%) Four exams will be offered. All exams must be turned in to receive credit for the course. Each exam is take-home and will emphasize readings and what is done in class. The take-home exams are in composition format with several prompts from which to choose one. Exams will be posted on Georgia View at least one week prior to the due date. Each exam emphasizes composition and critical thinking skills as well as content knowledge. If you are unsure of your composition skills please visit the writing center in the Humanities building. If you are unsure of your critical thinking skills please see me during the above office hours.

- **Attendance at Philosophy related events:** (10%) Students will attend five course related lectures of their choice. Credit is acquired by meeting me at the lecture venue and recording your name on the roll. If you cannot attend any of the lectures, then you may choose to complete five summaries of *New York Times* articles. See *NYT* guidelines on Georgia View.

- **Class participation:** (10%) Class participation is willingly and spiritedly engaging in reading aloud, asking questions and freely participating in discussion of the topics at hand.

**Extra credit:** all exams must have been turned in order to receive extra points. Extra credit is obtained by completing a 500 word (minimum) summary of any presentation you attend outside of class that is directly relevant to the course. Each summary/critique you complete is worth up to 5 points and the points will be attached to the most recent exam relative to when you turn in the extra credit work. You may attend and compose summaries for as many lectures and/or presentations as you wish. **NOTE:** You may turn in only 2 extra credit writings with the last exam.

**Expected Outcomes:** By the end of the semester the student will

- Demonstrate a college-level understanding of the major figures and their respective views of temporality through reading, exams and writing assignments;
• use the philosophical concepts of the various philosophers and philosophical periods we have studied in reading, reading, exams and writing assignments;
• compare and contrast different philosophical perspectives on time and their cultural and historical roots in both Western and non-Western contexts as evidenced in classroom discussion, reading, exams and writing assignments;
• identify and employ philosophical language by participating in classroom dialogue and writing expository compositions;
• be ethically sensitive to the role of cultural, social and political diversity in human thought and action by exploring with and responding to others in open dialogue about human diversity;
• critically examine her/his own social, cultural, and historical situation and its effects on individual, group, and national beliefs about the self, others, and the world through evaluating and discussing the social and historical origins and implications of those positions; and
• apply the ideas we study to his/her life as evidenced in classroom discussion, reading, exams and writing assignments.

Academic Integrity Statement

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).

Absence Policy

The student will neither be punished for absence nor rewarded for presence; however, the student is responsible for material covered: all readings, lectures, and documentary presentations. I will allow late exams only if the student contacts me about the absence at least one week prior to the exam date and/or if the student finds himself/herself in dire straits: e.g., giving birth, comatose, hospitalization for an extended period of time, and, of course, being dead. A student may email me their assignment(s) only if prior arrangements have been made with me.
**Schedule of Events**

**August 21, 2012**: Introduction to Major Themes: Temporality.

**Aug. 23-Sept. 13**: Selected pre-20th century philosophical perspectives on the theme of time.
- Aug. 23-28: St. Augustine and Paul Ricouer (pdf)
- Aug. 30-Sept. 6: Dogen and Katagiri Roshi (pdf)
- Sept. 11-13: William James (pdf)

**Exam 1 due**: September 20, 2012

**Sept. 18-Oct. 11**: Phenomenological Perspectives on Temporality.
- Sept. 18-27: Edmund Husserl's conception of time
- Sept. 18: XI-LVII
- Sept. 20: 3-20
- Sept. 25: 21-75
- Sept. 27: 77-103
- Oct. 2-11: Maurice Merleau-Ponty’s conception of temporality
- Oct. 2: “What is Phenomenology?”
- Oct. 4-11: “Temporality”

**Exam 2 due**: October 18, 2012

**Oct. 16-Nov. 6**: Emmanuel Levinas’ Conception of Time and the Other.
- Oct. 16: vii-37
- Oct. 18: 39-57
- Oct. 23: 58-79
- Oct. 25: 80-94
- Oct. 30: 97-120
- Nov. 1-6: 121-138

**Exam 3 due**: November 15, 2012

**Nov. 8-Dec. 4**: Julia Kristeva’s Conception of Time
- Nov. 8-13: 165-198
- Nov. 15: 199-226
- Nov. 20: 227-276
- Nov. 27: 277-304
- Nov. 29: 305-328
- Dec. 4: 329-341

**Exam 4 due**: December 12, 2012

**NOTE**: Schedule of events and evaluation percentages subject to change by Fate, the insightful awareness of the instructor, and/or the collaboration between students and instructor.
Summary of Grading Percentages and Grading Scale

Four Essay Exams: 80%
Lecture Attendance: 10%
Participation: 10%
A: 90-100; B: 80-89; C: 70-79; D: 60-69; F: 59 and below

Important Dates
- Last day to withdraw with a W: October 12, 2012
- Fall break: Nov. 21-25, 2012
- Last Day of Class: December 5, 2012