Phil 2200: Ways of Knowing
Kennesaw State University
Department of History & Philosophy
Brandie Martinez Bedard
Fall 2012

Course Meeting Information- MW 6:30-7:45pm Social Sciences Building Room 3010
CRN- 81317

CONTACT INFO
Email: bbedard@kennesaw.edu
Telephone: 770-331-2731 (cell)
Office Hours: MW 5-6pm and by appointment
Office: Social Sciences Building Room 4005

COURSE FOCUS AND OBJECTIVES
This course will critically examine different ways of knowing and thinking by emphasizing the nature and purpose of philosophical inquiry that is used in academia and relevant to everyday life. We will survey some of the most important figures in Western philosophy, from the ancient Greeks through the 19th century. We will also examine some non-Western philosophical systems, such as a few Arabic, Hindu, and Buddhist schools. Emphasis will be placed on understanding each thinker and school within historical context. The student will develop an understanding of the historical tradition of Western philosophy and a selection of non-Western philosophical schools, as well as a grasp of the basics of each figured covered. The course will trace the dialogue concerning epistemological, metaphysical, and ethical problems through the ancient, medieval and modern periods in the West and the formation of philosophical schools in Arabic, Hindu, and Buddhist society.

Learning Objectives:
1. Demonstrate a basic understanding of the major figures, themes, and movements from the history of philosophy through reading, exams, and writing assignments;
2. Compare and contrast different philosophical schools of thought and their cultural and historical roots in both Western and non-Western contexts, as evidenced in classroom discussion activities, exams, and writings assignments;
3. Identify and employ philosophical language, analysis, and argumentation by participating in dialogue and writing expository compositions;
4. Critically examine her/his own social, cultural, and historical situation and its effects on individual and national beliefs about the self, others, and the world through evaluating and discussing the social and historical origins and implications of those positions;
5. Research, critically formulate, and present evaluative appraisals of contemporary social and ethical issues through open discussion and writing assignments; and
6. 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.

REQUIRED TEXT
Steven Cahn, Classics of Western Philosophy 7th ed, (Hackett, 2006).
ISBN: 0-87220-859-1
GRADING COMPONENTS
Exams 39%
Paper 25%
Quizzes 10%
Critical Responses 16%
Miscellaneous 10%

EXAMS
There will be three exams. The exams will consist of multiple choice questions and short essay questions. They will require that you understand the terms and theories we discuss in class and ask you to critically evaluate the theories and arguments we look at. More information will be given in class.

PAPER
Your final paper and draft should be 2000—3300 words. Failure to meet the minimum required words or exceeding the maximum number of words will result in a 10 point penalty. Each component of your paper will be typed in 12 point font, times new roman, and double spaced. Failure to correctly format your paper proposal, draft, and/or final paper will result in a 10 point penalty on the individual assignment. You will be required to demonstrate that you can critically evaluate one of the theories discussed in class through one of the following methods: (1) Compare and contrast two different philosophers or philosophical schools (2) Evaluate a contemporary social and ethical issue in light of one of the positions we have discussed. Paper topics may vary according to your interests, but must specifically fulfill one of the three methods listed above. If you have trouble finding a paper topic, one will be assigned to you. Paper proposal should be 300-400 words, describe the topic you will discuss, describe your critical evaluation of the topic, include an outline of the paper, and include a bibliography in MLA style format. In addition you will be required to turn in a draft of your paper. A good writer is someone who writes several drafts. Therefore, a draft of your paper is a necessary requirement for passing the essay. Paper proposals and at least one draft are necessary for a passing grade on the paper. I will not accept any final papers without a proposal and a draft already turned in. This means that if you fail to turn in a paper proposal and a draft, you will receive a failing grade on the paper. More details on the specific requirements of the essay will be discussed in class. Paper proposals, drafts, and final paper will be turned in at the beginning of the class in which they are due. Late proposals, drafts, and final papers will be penalized 10 points per calendar day they are late regardless of the reason.

QUIZZES
All class meetings will begin with a quiz. The quizzes will be administered promptly at the beginning of class and will last 3 minutes. If you come to class late, you will not be able to take the quiz. The quizzes will be composed of two multiple choice questions which cover the reading assigned for that day's class. The questions will be written so that they will be easy if you have done the reading. For merely taking the quiz, you will get 50 of a possible 100 points. You will get 75 of 100 if you get one question right and 100 of 100 if you get both questions right. Your three lowest scores will be dropped. Quizzes cannot be made up for any reason. The quizzes will cover the reading assigned for that day’s class.
CRITICAL RESPONSES
There will be five critical responses due throughout the semester. The due dates are listed on the tentative schedule, but are subject to change which will be announced in class and/or by email. It is your responsibility to keep up with any changes made to the schedule and due dates of assignments. You must turn in a printed copy of your critical response at the beginning of class on which they are due. I will not accept late or hand written critical responses for any reason. The critical responses should be at a minimum one page and not exceed two pages. 10 points will be deducted for not meeting the minimum page requirement or exceeding the page requirement. The critical responses will require that you explain a specific argument in support of a certain position that one of the philosophers holds that we are discussing in that two week time frame and give a critical response of that argument. The lowest two grades will be dropped. The critical responses should be in this format:
   1. Briefly explain the philosopher’s position and their argument for that position. Be sure to include at least two quotes.
   2. Critique the argument given by the philosopher. Your critique can take many forms: contradictions arise in the position, there is a logical gap in the argument, etc. It is not appropriate to critique their position on the basis of later scientific findings.

MAKE-UPS and LATE ASSIGNMENTS
The only possibility for making up the exams is a well documented, last minute emergency. Critical responses and quizzes are never accepted late and cannot be made up for any reason. Any missed critical response or quiz will result in a zero. Late paper proposals, drafts, and final papers will be penalized 10 points per calendar day regardless of the reason. The last day that any assignment can be accepted is December 5th.

ATTENDANCE is required and expected.
1. Everyone’s presence is an intrinsic and vital feature of the class.
2. Even if you do not speak, your presence has an effect on what is said by others.
3. If your final course grade is on the borderline, your presence or absence can be the deciding factor.

CLASS FORMAT
The class will be a combination of lecture and discussion. This format demands that students be well prepared for class. You do not have to understand all the readings before class, but you do need to read all the readings before class, be prepared to discuss the readings, answer questions, and be prepared to ask questions about what you do not understand. It is essential that you bring your book to class every day.
ACADEMIC DISHONESTY
“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)” (Statement on "Plagiarism and Cheating" from Section II A of the KSU Student Code of Conduct, modified for Fall semester 2011. Emphasis added).

“Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section II of the Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities 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 will be 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” (New Faculty Guidebook, Department of History and Philosophy, KSU).

LANGUAGE NOTE
Understanding philosophical writings and lectures is hard for those who are native speakers of English as well as those who are not native speakers. Moreover, spelling, grammar and punctuation are part of what is considered when grading assignments. Those who are not native speakers of English and/or who have not successfully completed composition courses in writing essays in English, should be aware of these facts. You will need to make special efforts to compensate for language problems.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES
No cell phones, PDAs, pagers, computers, or other electronic devices may be used in the classroom. If you carry such a device, it should be turned off before entering the room. Please note that using any electronic device during the exams or quizzes counts as cheating and will be reported (see the statement on Plagiarism and Cheating from the KSU Student Code of Conduct). Each occurrence of one of these devices going off during class will result in 2 points deducted from your grade.

FINAL NOTE
Everything in this syllabus can change (and something always does). You are responsible for all changes, which will be announced in class, whether or not you are absent on the day it is announced. Therefore it would be wise to acquire email addresses of several classmates to contact when you miss class.
**Course Schedule:** All dates, content, and due dates of assignments scheduled are tentative, and subject to change by the Instructor! It is your responsibility to keep up with these changes which will be announced in class and/or by email.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20 Aug:</td>
<td>Introduction to Course</td>
<td>What is Philosophy?</td>
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<td>Logic 101</td>
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<td>27 Aug:</td>
<td>Plato, <em>Meno</em> (pp. 3-19)</td>
<td>Meno’s Paradox &amp; Theory of Recollection</td>
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<td>29 Aug:</td>
<td>Plato, <em>Phaedo</em> (pp. 57 (72e)-81)</td>
<td>Forms &amp; the Soul</td>
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<td>(1) CR Due</td>
<td>No class Sept 3</td>
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<td>5 Sept:</td>
<td>Plato, Republic VI-VII (pp. 154-163)</td>
<td>Allegory of the Cave &amp; The Divided Line</td>
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<td>12 Sept:</td>
<td>Aristotle, <em>Nicomachean Ethics</em> I-II (pp. 260-275)</td>
<td>Virtue Ethics</td>
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<td>17 Sept:</td>
<td>Catch up</td>
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<td>(2) CR Due</td>
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<td>19 Sept:</td>
<td>Review</td>
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<td>24 Sept:</td>
<td><strong>Exam 1</strong></td>
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<td>26 Sept:</td>
<td>Descartes, <em>Meditations</em> I – II (pp. 490-496)</td>
<td>Radical Doubt &amp; the Cogito &amp; Dualism</td>
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<td>Paper Proposals Due</td>
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<td>1 Oct:</td>
<td>Descartes, <em>Meditations</em> III - V (pp. 496-509)</td>
<td>Cosmological Arg &amp; Ontological Arg</td>
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<td>3 Oct:</td>
<td>Descartes, <em>Meditations</em> VI (pp. 509-516)</td>
<td>External World</td>
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<td>8 Oct:</td>
<td>Discussion of Papers/ Citations and Plagiarism</td>
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<td>(3) CR Due</td>
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<td>October 12 Last Day to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty</td>
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<td>The Prob of Induction 2-4 (pp. 767-776)</td>
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<td>Paper Drafts Due</td>
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<td>17 Oct:</td>
<td>Hume, <em>Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion</em> II (pp. 862-867)</td>
<td>The Arg from Design</td>
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<td>(4) CR Due</td>
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24 Oct: Kant, *Grounding of the Metaphysics of Morals* (pp. 998(421)-1003(431))
“Moral Law Within”

29 Oct: Mill, *Utilitarianism* I & II (pp. 1060-1070)
Principle of Utility

31 Oct: Review

**(5) CR Due**

**5 Nov:** Exam 2

7 Nov: Arabic Philosophy, *An Invitation to World Phil* (handout p.125-139)
Religion, History & Greek Works

12 Nov: Arabic Philosophy, *An Invitation to World Phil* (handout p. 139-149)
Al-Kindi, Al-Farabi, Avicenna, & Averroes

**Final Drafts of Papers Due**

14 Nov: Hindu Phil- The *Dasanas, An Into to Hinduism* (handout p. 225-236)
Religion, terms,
Samkhya, & Yoga

19 Nov: Hindu Phil- The *Dasanas, An Into to Hinduism* (handout p. 236-249)
Vedanta

**No classes November 21-25**

26 Nov: Mahayana Buddhist Phil, *An Intro to Buddhism* (handout p. 95-104)
Terms & Emptiness
Teaching

28 Nov: Mahayana Buddhist Phil, *An Intro to Buddhism* (handout p. 104-113)
The Yogacara School

3 Dec: Catch up day

5 Dec: Review for Exam 3

**Exam 3- December 12th 8:30-10:30pm**