Philosophy 2200/Honors: Ways of Knowing
Instructor: Tom Pynn
Fall 2013, TR 9:30-10:45

*Philosophy* [is] a critical disposition of wrestling with desire in the face of death, dialogue in the face of dogmatism, [and] democracy in the face of despotism.

–Dr. Cornel West

**Office Hours:** Social Sciences Building, 2008. MW, 10-11 and 2-3; TR 11-1:45; and by appointment.

**E-mail address:** tpynn@kennesaw.edu to be used only for communication purposes. If you use the email on D2L, it is likely that I will not respond for several days because I use D2L primarily to post class documents. You will get a quicker response by using my KSU address. *Exams submitted electronically without authorization will be deleted.*

**Course Description:** Philosophy 2200 presents the student with an opportunity to engage in a guided philosophical examination of the different questions, texts and concepts developed by thinkers from both Western and Non-Western traditions of thought and practice. The student reads primary works of philosophy and engages in thoughtful discussions about the ideas raised by and in these works. Students take essay examinations, give in-class presentations, engage in class discussion, and view documentaries. All in-class and out-of-class activities focus on elevating the student’s critical ability to read philosophical texts, comprehend concepts and conceptual frameworks, and apply the ideas we study to their own self-understanding, other-understanding, and understanding of the world they live in.

**General Education Description:** Philosophy 2200 is a Kennesaw State University general education requirement in the Institutional Options section and addresses the general education learning outcome of critical thinking: Students articulate a position on an issue and support it by evaluating evidence relevant to the position, considering opposing positions or evidence, and evaluate the implications and/or consequences of the issue. For more information about KSU’s General Education program requirements and associated learning outcomes, please visit [http://catalog.kennesaw.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=10&poid=704](http://catalog.kennesaw.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=10&poid=704)

**Primary Texts:** If you buy your books from the KSU bookstore, do not until mid-term because the bookstore sends un-bought copies back to the publishers. Below are the required texts for this course.

Plato, *The Last Days of Socrates*
Immanuel Kant, *Perpetual Peace and Other Essays*
Simone de Beauvoir, *Philosophical Writings*
Roger T. Ames and David L. Hall, *Daodejing: Making This Life Significant*

**Highly Recommended:** W. L. Reese, *Dictionary of Philosophy and Religion: Eastern and Western Thought* or a reputable dictionary of philosophy either in print or online.

**Evaluation:** The student will demonstrate performative competence in communicating (by writing and speaking) his/her understanding of the course material. Each exam emphasizes a close reading of the texts we study. *The student will not use outside sources or secondary sources whether Internet, World Wide Web, journal, or book.* If you want to use a text in addition to the ones required for this course you must have it OK’d by the instructor. Failure to cite outside sources on the exams, known as plagiarism, will result in an “F” for the exam. Continued plagiarism will result in your being brought before the school judiciary. See *Academic Integrity Statement* below.

All exams are due when class begins. I will conditionally allow an exam to be turned in on an alternative date only if the student contacts me about the absence at least one week prior to the exam date and/or 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 when prior arrangements have been made with me. See section *E-mail address.* *The student must complete and turn in all exams in order to receive credit for the course."

- **3 exams** (75%) covering each section of study. Each exam instantiates what is done in class: lecture, class discussion, readings, short videos and documentaries. The take-home essay exams are posted on Desire 2 Learn approximately one week prior to the due date. The exams emphasize close reading of texts, reasoning acuity, and composition skills. No outside or secondary sources other than those studied in class are to be used. Pay careful and strict attention to the instructions on the exam. *In case of turn-in date discrepancy, defer to the instructions on the exam."

- **In-class oral presentation** (15%): The student will give an in-class presentation with power-point, or its equivalent, on a chosen reading. The student will sign up for his/her presentation by coming to my office during the posted office hours (see above) and signing up. On the day of the student’s presentation, the student will give the instructor a printed copy of the evaluation form (to be found on D2L. See Appendices A (instructions for in-class presentation) and B (evaluation form for student in-class presentation).

- **Attendance at Philosophy related Presentations** (10%) Students will attend five philosophy related lectures of their choice. Credit is acquired by meeting me at the lecture venue and recording your name on the roll.
*Nota Bene:* All course work is to be typed in Times New Roman at 12 point, double-spaced, and in standard margins. I will not accept handwritten assignments. No covers or jackets or folders, please. The student must complete and turn in all exams in order to receive credit for the course. In each exam essay I am looking for: accurate presentation of the author’s ideas, use of relevant vocabulary items, your critique of the author’s ideas, accuracy of grammar, and college-level composition skills.

**Academic Integrity Statement:** Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate Catalog. 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 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.

**Electronic Devices Policy**
Cell phones, IPods, and other non-essential, to your performative competence in this course, devices are forbidden. Laptops, tablets, Nooks (et al) that you can use for internet access to retrieve information useful to class discussion, access pdfs, books, etc. are allowed. NO INTERNET SURFING, ANSWERING EMAIL OR FACEBOOKING (ANY SOCIAL MEDIA) IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN. Don’t make me be a cop.

**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.*

*Attendance* is neither rewarded nor punished; however, students who miss class do not perform as competently as students who attend class on a regular basis. Furthermore, students who are not in class do not participate and thus the absence counts against the class participation grade.
ADA Compliance:
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Public Law 101-336, gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities. This statute guarantees equal opportunity for this protected group in the areas of public accommodations, employment, transportation, state and local government services and telecommunications.

Should you require assistance or have further questions about the ADA, please contact: Ms. Nastassia Sanabria, ADA Compliance Officer for Students 770-423-6443.

Plagiarism Policy: See student handbook. If you are unsure of what constitutes plagiarism, please visit the writing center or see me during office hours. See Academic Integrity Statement.

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

- Demonstrate a college-level understanding of some of the major figures, themes, and movements in the history of philosophy, both western and non-western, through reading, exams and writing assignments;
- use the concepts of the various philosophers, philosophical traditions and philosophical periods we have studied in reading, reading, exams and writing assignments;
- 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, reading, exams and writing assignments;
- identify and employ philosophical language, analysis, and argumentation by participating in classroom dialogue and writing expository exam 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.

Schedule of Events

August 20: Introduction to Philosophy.

August 22-September 12: The Last Days of Socrates
Aug. 22-29: “Euthyphro,” 3-30
Sept. 3-5: “Apology,” 31-70
Sept. 10-12: “Allegory of the Cave” (the first 10 pages)
http://www.constitution.org/pla/repub_07.htm
Exam I: September 19, 2013

September 17-October 8: Immanuel Kant, *Perpetual Peace and Other Essays*
Sept. 26: “An Answer to the Question....”: 41-48
Oct. 1-8: “To Perpetual Peace....”: 107-144

Exam II: October 15, 2013

October 10-November 5: Simone de Beauvoir, *Philosophical Writings (PW)*

Exam III: November 12, 2013

November 7-December 3: *Dao de jing: Making this Life Significant*
Nov. 7: Introduction to Daoism; ix-10. *Taoism* (documentary)
Nov. 12-14: *Dao de jing*, 11-71
Nov. 19-21: *Dao de jing* and a philosophy of governance
Nov. 26-Dec. 3: *Dao de jing*, 77-204. Philosophy of War and Peace in *Daodejing*

Exam IV: December 10, 2013 *in my office between 12 and 2pm.*

NOTE: Schedule of events 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
Three Essay Exams: 75%
Oral Presentation: 15%
Attendance: 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 11, 2013
- Fall break: Nov. 27-Dec. 1, 2013
- Last Day of Class: December 3, 2013