PHIL 2200
Ways of Knowing
Semester: Fall 2013
Location: Social Sciences Bldg 2027
Time: T-TH 8:00-9:15am

Instructor: Adam Knowles
Email: aknowl11@kennesaw.edu (Please do not email me through D2L!)
Phone: (770) 423-6294
Office: SO 4005
Office Hours: TTH 11:00-12:15, or by appointment.

Catalog 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.

Instructor’s Course Description:
Philosophy teaches us how to persist in asking questions that may be unanswerable. Through a selection of texts ranging from Ancient Greek philosophy to 20th-century feminist philosophy, we will pose such questions as: What is the good life? Where do our conceptions of selfhood and morality come from? In what way are our conceptions of reason and selfhood related to questions of gender? How do we deal with what we cannot know? What does it mean to be a person?

Learning Objectives:
PHIL 2200 satisfies one of Kennesaw State University’s general education program requirements. It addresses the Critical Thinking learning outcome. The learning outcome states: Students articulate a position on an issue and support it by evaluating evidence relevant to the position, considering opposing positions or evidence, and evaluating 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

Required Reading and Materials:
You must purchase the following books for the class. The books are available at the campus bookstore, but they are also readily available used for a low price through such online
retailers as Amazon.com. If you choose to purchase the books online, do so only if you are certain that the books can be shipped and will arrive before the date of the assigned reading. Thus it would be advisable to at least buy the Plato book at the bookstore, then arrange for the other books online as quickly as possible.

Note on translations and editions: These books are standard philosophical texts and most of them are readily available for free online, though in different translations and editions. Since we will be working closely with the texts in class, it is essential that the entire class is working with the same translation and the same edition. Please purchase and read the specific translations and editions listed below. Many of the translations available freely online are either outdated or of varying quality.

8. Purchase TWO blue books!

**Attendance Policy:**
Attendance is a required component of this course and an attendance sheet will be taken in every class. Students are granted TWO unexcused absences. After these two absences, two points will be deducted from the final grade for every additional two absences. Thus, for example, a final grade of 91 would be reduced to 89 for a student with four absences. Students who must miss more than two classes due to extenuating circumstances should contact the instructor.

**Electronic Devices Policy:**
Bringing the printed texts to class is a required component of the class. Reading the text from laptops, tablets or smartphones is not allowed. Laptops and tablets are allowed solely for the purpose of taking notes. Cell phone use in class is strictly prohibited.

**Course Assessments/Assignments:**
1. **Class participation** (10%): Regular and informed participation in class is essential to this course. It is vital to your learning and to maintaining a productive discussion
environment. This course will teach you to improve your verbal argumentative skills and also teach you to assess constructively the arguments of others, skills which must be practiced in an open environment of discussion.

What counts as good participation? By participating in the class discussion, you demonstrate your active engagement with the reading and the lectures. Participation can include informed comments and informed questions that demonstrate knowledge of the readings. You can pose questions about a passage that you do not understand, offer an interpretation of a passage that you find particularly intriguing, or draw out a particular idea from the text to try to draw links between the different philosophers we have read. Participating well does not necessarily mean participating a lot, and students are encouraged to try to strike a balance between the quality and the quantity of their comments.

Note that the participation grade can affect your final grade by a full letter grade, so begin participating as early as possible in the semester. If you are having trouble finding ways to integrate yourself in the discussion, then please come to me or write to me to discuss some strategies for improving your participation.

2. **Reading Assessments** (3x, 5% each)
   Reading assessments are short, in-class assignments (15 minutes) in which you answer short questions about the reading. They serve to not only keep you oriented in the reading, but also to give me, the instructor, up-to-date feedback about your comprehension level. The answers will be discussed in the following class, allowing both the student and the instructor a chance to communicate about each student’s comprehension level.

3. **Midterm Exams** (2x, 25% each): The midterm exams are given in class and will test the material covered in the section of the class being tested. The exams will consist of essay questions. You must purchase a blue book from the campus bookstore and bring the blue book with you on the day of the midterm.

4. **Final Exam** (25%): The final exam is given in class and, while it will focus primarily on the material covered after the second midterm, students will also be expected to prepare for cumulative questions that cover the entirety of the class. The exam will consist of essay questions. Students are required to purchase a blue book from the campus bookstore on the day of the midterm.

**Grading:**

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Assessments</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm 1</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm 2</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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Grading Scale
Students are evaluated on the following scale:

100-90%=A; 89-80%=B; 79-70%=C; 69-60%=D; 59% and below=F

I—Indicates an incomplete grade for the course, and will be awarded only when the student has done satisfactory work up to the last two weeks of the semester, but for nonacademic reasons beyond his/her control is unable to meet the full requirements of the course. Incomplete grades are only valid after submission of the Incomplete Grade form (signed by both the instructor and student) to the Department Chair’s office.

How do I Get and “A” in this Class? A’s (like all grades) are earned, not given. In order to earn an A, the essential starting point is to read the assigned texts. That means reading in a quiet environment with no distractions and being prepared to read the assignments more than once. Philosophy is a discipline that involves very difficult texts and a good strategy to employ would be to read the assignments first before class and again after the lecture when the lecture is still fresh in your mind.

A good knowledge of the reading will allow you to perform well in all of the graded sections of the class. It will provide an informed basis for asking and answering questions in the class discussion, as well as for answering in an informed manner for the exams and writing assessments. If you encounter any difficulties in reading, please write to me at any time, or come into my office hours to discuss any passages that you are having particular trouble with. Office hours are an under-utilized resource, and please do not hesitate to use them to your advantage.

If you read well, actively take notes during the lecture, and bring the book to class in order to follow the lecture well, then you should be prepared to offer informed answers to the exams.

Instructor's Pledge:
I will always do my utmost to answer any emails sent on a weekday within 24 hours at the latest and emails sent on the weekend within 48 hours at the latest. I will also do my utmost to accommodate any student who seeks help outside of class. I consider classroom time a valuable resource and will maintain a classroom environment that respects the value of that resource and in turn expect you to do the same.

Academic Honesty:
The high quality of education at Kennesaw State University is reflected in the credits and degrees its students earn. The protection of high standards of academic integrity is crucial since the validity and equity of the University's grades and degrees depend upon it.

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).

Students suspected of violating the KSU statement of Academic Honesty will meet with the instructor to discuss the violation AND will be reported to the Department of Student Conduct according to the process outlined at the following link:

https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/scai-misconduct-procedures

Websites with helpful links on how to avoid plagiarism include the following:
http://plagiarism.org/
http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml
http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html

**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.

**Course Schedule:**

Tentative Schedule of Topics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic:</th>
<th>Readings and Assignments (note: you must do the reading before the date stated)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Intro. Session</td>
<td>What is Philosophy?</td>
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|        | **What is Philosophy?** | 1. Introduction to Syllabus  
2. How to Read Plato                                                             |
| Week 2 | Aug. 27<sup>th</sup>: *Euthyphro*, 2a-8e  
Aug. 29<sup>th</sup>: *Euthyphro*, 9a-end |
|---|---|
| Week 3 | **Plato** (428–328 BC)  
Sep. 3<sup>rd</sup>: *Apology*, 17a-28d  
**Reading Assessment 1**  
Sep. 5<sup>th</sup>: *Apology*, 28e-end |
| Week 4 | **Plato**  
Sep. 10<sup>th</sup>: *Phaedo*, 107a-end  
**Aristotle** (384 – 322 BC)  
Sep. 12<sup>th</sup>: *Nicomachen Ethics*, Book 1 – 1094a – 1097a13 |
| Week 5 | **Aristotle**  
Sep. 17<sup>th</sup>: *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book 1 – 1097a13 – 1103a10  
Sep. 19<sup>th</sup>: *Nicomachen Ethics*, Book 2 – 1103a11 – 1109b29 |
| Week 6 | **Aristotle**  
Sep. 24<sup>th</sup>: *Nicomachen Ethics*, Book 8, 1155a1-1158b10  
Sep. 26<sup>th</sup>: *Nicomachen Ethics*, Book 8, 1158b11-1163b20  
(Midterm Review) |
| Week 7 | **Midterm 1**  
Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>: Midterm 1 (Bring Blue Book!)  
Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>: Meditations 1 & 2 |
| Week 8 | **Descartes**  
Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>: Meditations 3 & 4  
Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>: Meditations 5 & 6 |
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<th>Week</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Nietzsche (1844 – 1900 AD)</td>
<td>Nov. 5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;: Midterm 2 (Bring Blue Book!)&lt;br&gt;Nov. 7&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;: Nietzsche, <em>Twilight of the Idols</em>, pp. 5-17</td>
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<td>Week 14</td>
<td>de Beauvoir (1908-1986 AD)</td>
<td>Nov. 19&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;: de Beauvoir, <em>Second Sex</em>, “Introduction”&lt;br&gt;Reading Assessment 3&lt;br&gt;Nov. 21&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;: de Beauvoir, <em>Second Sex</em>, “Conclusion”</td>
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<td>Week 15</td>
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<td>Nov. 26&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;: TBA&lt;br&gt;Nov. 28&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;: Thanksgiving Break</td>
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<td>Week 16</td>
<td>Dec. 3rd <strong>Final Exam Review</strong></td>
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<td>Dec. 5th 8-10am (FINAL EXAM - Bring Blue Book!)</td>
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