PHIL2200  
WAYS OF KNOWING  
Semester: Fall 2013  
Location: Convocation Center Room 1054  
Time(s): Mondays and Wednesdays 12:30-13:45

Instructor: Dr. Andrew K. Whitehead  
Email: awhiteh8@kennesaw.edu  
Phone: 678-797-2281  
Office: Social Sciences 4097  
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 9:30-11:30

Catalogue 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:  
This course introduces students to a selection of major themes in philosophy, including ethics, epistemology, metaphysics and philosophy of mind. We will be discussing some of the major topics that philosophers typically investigate, such as truth, reality, and freedom. Amongst the questions we may raise will be: What is morality based in? How do we distinguish right from wrong? How can I distinguish between truth and falsity? Is freedom possible? What is a mind? We will take a comparative approach insofar as students will be encouraged to identify and explore parallels between different positions and practices (East and West) within a broadly speaking philosophical framework.

Course Objectives:  
1. Develop an understanding of philosophical questions and specific philosophical methods.  
2. Achieve competency in some of the more important issues and concepts in philosophy.  
3. Critically examine claims made by philosophical thinkers and test these against available evidence with a view to advancing general and transferable critical skills.  
4. Learn to appreciate the fundamental philosophical presuppositions involved in ‘ordinary’ and ‘everyday’ experiences and knowledge claims.  
5. Reach advanced levels of comprehension, argumentation, presentation and writing skills.

Learning Objectives:  
PHIL2200 satisfies one of KSU’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

Course Format:  
Classroom sessions will combine formal lectures and informal discussions. Students are encouraged to participate actively in debate and to raise related issues relevant to their lives and experience. Students are expected to prepare all readings in advance of the sessions for which they are scheduled. Some of the assigned primary texts are difficult, but will be openly discussed in class and complemented with optional secondary readings.

Required Reading:  
All primary readings will be made available online as electronic documents.
Attendance Policy:
Attendance is required. Students will not be able to succeed in this course without complete attendance. Responsibility for material covered while absent belongs solely with the student.

Electronic Devices Policy:
The volume on all electronic devices should be turned off in class. The use of cell phones is strictly prohibited in class. Students are welcome to use laptops for note-taking purposes only (no web based activity) if necessary. Any violation of this policy will negatively affect students’ participation grades.

Course Assessments/Assignments:
- Reflective Essay 1 20%
- Reflective Essay 2 10%
- Reflective Essay 3 10%
- Reflective Essay 4 10%
- Mid-Term In-Class Test 20%
- Final In-Class Test 20%
- Attendance and Participation 10%

***N.B. Late assignments will automatically receive a mark of zero, unless official medical documentation is provided.***

Description of Assessments/Assignments:
Reflective Essays: Your reflective essays should be formatted with double-spacing, 12 point Times New Roman font, and 1” margins, and follow MLA citation guidelines (see http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/). You are required to write 500 words on any of the readings discussed to date in class (for Reflective Essay 1, select a reading from week 1 or 2; for Reflective Essay 2, select a reading from week 4, 5, or 6; for Reflective Essay 3, select a reading from week 9, 10, or 11; for Reflective Essay 4, select a reading from week 12, 13, or 14), providing philosophical reflection on a significant point or argument of your choosing. You are required to discuss and cite at least the primary reading selected. The essays are graded according to the grading scale in line with the following rubric:

1) Student has successfully identified and explained a significant point or argument in one of the appropriate readings
2) Student has adhered to the proper formatting regulations
   (\(\geq\)) As outlined above
   (\((\geq\)) Includes student name, number, course code, instructor name, date, and word count at beginning of essay (these do not count towards the word count)
3) Student has proofread the document for grammar and spelling
4) Student has cited at least one primary text
5) Student has provided a substantial reflection on the significant point or argument identified and explained
   (\((\geq\)) Using: a secondary text (journal or book), a piece from social media (newspaper, television show, movie), or personal experience, making sure to highlight how this relates to, contradicts, or supports the significant point or argument identified and explained

Mid-Term In-Class Test: You will be required to answer 20-25 short answer questions pertaining to the readings and lectures covered to date.

Final In-Class Test: You will be required to answer 20-25 short answer questions pertaining to the readings and lectures covered to date.

Attendance and Participation: You will be graded on both your attendance and your participation. In order to receive full marks, you must attend every lecture and take part in classroom and group discussion on each occasion. Every missed lecture will result in the deduction of 1% from attendance and participation.
Grading Scale:

Students are evaluated on the following scale:

A — 100 – 90
B — 89 – 80
C — 79 – 70
D — 69 – 60
F — <60

Academic Integrity:

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 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 must 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 must 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

To avoid plagiarizing, including unintentionally plagiarizing, please visit:

http://plagiarism.org/
http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml
http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html

Resources for writing a philosophy paper:


The KSU Writing Center

A free service offered to all KSU students. Experienced writing assistants work with you throughout the writing process (on concerns such as topic development, revision, research, documentation, grammar, and mechanics) although assistants cannot edit or proofread your paper for you. Appointments are strongly encouraged. For more information or to make an appointment, visit http://kennesaw.edu/writingcenter/, or stop by Room 242 in the English Building.

Your Professors and Instructors

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.
Topics and Readings (subject to change at the discretion of instructor):

Week 1—Aug. 19 and Aug. 21
Introduction: What is Philosophy?

ETHICS (Week 2 – Week 3)
Week 2—Aug. 26 and Aug. 28
What is Ethics: What Ethics is Not
  Reading(s): Peter Singer On Ethics
  Kant The Categorical Imperative

Week 3—Sept. 4
Deontology and Utilitarianism
  **Reflective Essay 1 Due Sept. 4**
  Reading(s): Kant The Categorical Imperative (cont’d)
  Mill Utilitarianism

GREEK PHILOSOPHY (Week 4 – Week 6)
Week 4—Sept. 9 and Sept. 11
Pre-Socratics
  Reading(s): Heraclitus (selection)
  Democritus (selection)

Week 5—Sept. 16 and Sept. 18
Plato
  Reading(s): Meno (selection)

Week 6—Sept. 23 and Sept. 25
Plato
  Reading(s): Theaetetus (selection)

INDIAN PHILOSOPHY (Week 7)
Week 7—Sept. 30 and Oct. 2
  **Reflective Essay 2 Due Sept. 30**
Introduction to Buddhist Thought
  Reading(s): Rahula (selection)

Week 8—Oct. 7 and Oct. 9
Review and Mid-Term In-Class Test

CHINESE PHILOSOPHY (Week 9 – Week 10)
Week 9—Oct. 14 and Oct. 16
Confucianism
  Reading(s): Ames and Rosemont (selection)

Week 10—Oct. 21 and Oct. 23
Daoism
  Reading(s): Moeller (selection)

JAPANESE PHILOSOPHY (Week 11)
Week 11—Oct. 28 and Oct. 30
Zen Buddhism
  Reading(s): Dumoulin (selection)

1 No Class on Monday September 2, 2013 (Labor Day Break)
APPEARANCE AND REALITY (Week 12 – Week 15)

Week 12—Nov. 4 and Nov. 6

* Reflective Essay 3 Due Nov. 4 *

About Things we Know
Reading(s): Nagel
Russell

Week 13—Nov. 11 and Nov. 13
Descartes
Reading(s): Meditation 1

Week 14—Nov. 18 and Nov. 20
Descartes and Constructions of Truth
Reading(s): Meditation 2
Nietzsche

Week 15—Nov. 25

**Reflective Essay 4 Due Nov. 25**

Constructions of Truth
Reading(s): Nietzsche (cont’d)
Williams

Week 16—Dec. 2 and Dec. 4
Review and Final In-Class Test

IMPORTANT DATES:
- Labour Day Break: Aug. 31 – Sept. 2
- Reflective Essay 1 Due Date: Sept. 9
- Last Day to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty: Sept. 11
- Reflective Essay 2 Due Date: Sept. 30
- Mid-Term In-Class Test: Oct. 9
- Reflective Essay 3 Due Date: Nov. 4
- Reflective Essay 4 Due Date: Nov. 25
- Fall Break: Nov. 27 – Dec. 1
- Final In-Class Test: Dec. 4

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2 No Class on Wednesday November 27 2013 (Fall Break)