PHIL4460/01
MAJOR THEMES IN PHENOMENOLOGY
Dr. A. Whitehead
Fall 2013

Location: Social Sciences Building Room 3032
Time(s): Mondays and Wednesdays 15:30-16:45

CRN: 80713

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION
Email: awiteh8@kennesaw.edu
Office: Social Sciences Building 4097
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 9:30-11:30

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

Instructor's Course Description:
This course introduces students to a selection of major themes in phenomenology. We will be discussing some of the major topics that phenomenologists typically investigate, such as perception, embodiment, practical engagement, imagination, emotions and freedom. Amongst the questions we may raise will be: What is perception like, and how do perceptual objects appear to us? What role does the body (not just the senses) play in perception? What are the different modes of engaging with perceptual objects? How does perception differ from imagination, and what does the imagination enable us to do? What role do emotions and desires play in perception? Is freedom possible for us as embodied perceivers in a world that always precedes and constrains us? In the second part of the course, we will reflect on the phenomenological method and critically examine the justifications phenomenologists give for their claims. The approach we will take is historical with respect to primary texts, but contemporary with respect to the issues and questions discussed. We will also 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 phenomenological framework.

Course Objectives:
1. Develop an understanding of phenomenological questions, the phenomenological movement, and the phenomenological method.
2. Question claims made by phenomenological thinkers and to learn to test them against available evidence with a view to advancing general and transferable critical skills.
3. Learn to appreciate the latent philosophy of ‘ordinary’ experience.
4. Achieve competency in the technical terminology of phenomenology and existentialism.
5. Compare the tools and concerns of phenomenological philosophy with those of other philosophical and non-philosophical approaches and practices.
6. Reach advanced levels of comprehension, argumentation, presentation and writing skills.

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 Assessment:
- Reflective Essay 1 10%
- Reflective Essay 2 10%
- Major Term-Paper 40%
- In-class Test 40%

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

Description of 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 600 words on any of the readings discussed to date in class (for Reflective Essay 1, select a reading from week 2, 3, or 4; for Reflective Essay 2, select a reading from week 5, 6, 7, or 8), providing philosophical reflection on a point of your choosing. You are required to discuss and cite at least the primary reading selected and one secondary source. The essays are graded on a pass/fail basis 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
   (.instance) As outlined above
   (.instance) 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 using at least one secondary text (journal or book).

Major Term-Paper: Your major term-paper 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 2000 words on a topic of your choosing, which must be approved by the instructor no later than October 30. In order to receive approval, you must schedule a meeting with the instructor to take place no later than October 23 and submit the following: a title and thesis statement, along with a provisional bibliography that includes at least three legitimate secondary sources in addition to at least one of the primary readings from class. Essays can be exegetical or critical in nature. 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 pertaining to the theme of the course and the material covered in class, which has been approved by the instructor no later than October 30 following a scheduled meeting for thesis approval no later than October 23.
2) Student has adhered to the proper formatting regulations
   (.instance) As outlined above
   (.instance) Includes student name, number, course code, instructor name, date, and word count on a cover page (these do not count towards the word count)
3) Student has proofread the document for grammar and spelling
4) Student has cited and engaged with at least one primary text that has been approved by the instructor
5) Student has supported (or critiqued) the significant point or argument identified and explained using at least three legitimate secondary texts (journals and/or books).

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Note that for Senior Seminar students the Major Term-Paper will serve as the capstone paper. All Senior Seminar students will be required to deliver a mandatory 10-15 minute presentation in week 15. The mandatory presentation will be worth 5% of the essay grade and required in order to pass the course. Failure to present will result in a mark of zero for the essay.
In-class Test: On the last day of classes you will be required to sit an in-class test. The test will be composed of three short-answer questions (each worth 15 marks) and one essay question (worth 55 marks).

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

To avoid plagiarizing, including unintentionally plagiarizing, please visit:
- [http://plagiarism.org/](http://plagiarism.org/)
- [http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml](http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml)
- [http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html](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/](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: Real-Life Problems and the Project of Phenomenology

Week 2—Aug. 26 and Aug. 28  
The Wonder of ‘Ordinary’ Perception  
Reading(s): Husserl, Analyses of Passive Synthesis, II, §§ 1-3

Week 3—Sept. 4  
The Wonder of ‘Ordinary’ Perception cont’d  
Reading(s): Sartre, ‘Intentionality’

Week 4—Sept. 9 and Sept. 11  
Perception and Practical Engagement  
Reading(s): Heidegger, Being and Time, I. 3, §§ 15-18

Week 5—Sept. 16 and Sept. 18  
**Reflective Essay 1 Due Sept. 16**  
Embodied and Enactive Perception  
Reading(s): Iris Marion Young, “Throwing Like a Girl”

Week 6—Sept. 23 and Sept. 25  
Beyond the Real: Imagination and Images  
Reading(s): Sartre, The Imaginary, I. 1 & IV. 1-2

Week 7—Sept. 30 and Oct. 2  
Affective Reality: Emotions and Desires  
Reading(s): Kathleen Lennon, “Re-Enchanting the World”

Week 8—Oct. 7 and Oct. 9  
Between Contingency and Necessity: Freedom  
Reading(s): Merleau-Ponty, in PoP, III.3: “Freedom”  
Sartre, The Imaginary, Conclusion

Week 9—Oct. 14 and Oct. 16  
The Phenomenological Method: Attitude and Reduction  
Reading(s): Merleau-Ponty, Preface to PoP

Week 10—Oct. 21 and Oct. 23  
**Reflective Essay 2 Due Oct. 21**  
Knowledge by Description: Justification by Evidence  
Reading(s): Merleau-Ponty, Preface to PoP (cont’d)  
Husserl, Ideas I, I.2, § 24

Week 11—Oct. 28 and Oct. 30  
Phenomenology and the Problem of Relativism  
Reading(s): Beauvoir, Philosophical Writings, 3: “Pyrrhus and Cineas”

Week 12—Nov. 4 and Nov. 6  
Phenomenological Themes in Eastern Philosophy: The Body of Buddhism  
Reading(s): Nagasena’s Chariot  
Ikkyū Sōji’s Skeletons (selections)  
Linji’s True Man of No Rank and the Four Procedures

Week 13—Nov. 11 and Nov. 13  
Phenomenological Themes in Eastern Philosophy: Perception, Imagination, Truth  
**Major Term-Paper due Nov. 13**  
Reading(s): Masao Abe, “The Oneness of Practice and Attainment”

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2 No Class on Monday September 2, 2013 (Labor Day Break)
Week 14—Nov. 18 and Nov. 20
Phenomenology By Other Means: The Work of Art and Artistic Practice
Reading(s): Heidegger, “On the Origin of the Work of Art”
Merleau-Ponty, “Eye and Mind”

Week 15—Nov. 25³
Senior Seminar Student Presentations

Week 16—Dec. 2 and Dec. 4
**Review and Discussion Dec. 2**
**In-class Test Dec. 4**

IMPORTANT DATES:
- Labour Day Break: Aug. 31 – Sept. 2
- Last Day to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty: Sept. 11
- Reflective Essay 1 Due Date: Sept. 16
- Reflective Essay 2 Due Date: Oct. 14
- Major Term-Paper Approval Consultation Deadline: Oct. 23
- Major Term-Paper Approval Deadline: Oct. 30
- Major Term-Paper Due Date: Nov. 13
- Fall Break: Nov. 27 – Dec. 1
- In-class Test: Dec. 4

³ No Class on Wednesday November 27 2013 (Fall Break)