Philosophy 4460/4499: Philosophy and the Everyday
Gabriel Soldatenko, Asst. Prof. of Philosophy
TR 11:00-12:15, Room: Kennesaw Hall 1101, Fall 2014

Office Hours:  Monday 11:00-12:00, Tuesday 1:00-3:00, and by appointment.
Social Science #4091

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Course Description: The danger with using the everyday as a philosophical concept is its potential scope; that is, the everyday seems to suggest something vast, insofar as that which could be said to reside in the everyday is potentially everything. At the same time, the everyday can also refer to the given; that which is such a basic part of our world that it ceases to concern us. In the case of Western philosophy, the everyday has been thought along the lines of the latter position. However, within the history of Western philosophy there have been two notable exceptions where the everyday appears as central to philosophical praxis; on the one hand, you have the case of the Cynics and a practical philosophical concern for the good life, and on the other, you have the problem of modernity and its transformation of everyday life as a source of philosophical concern. Put another way, as a corollary to Cynic focus on the practical and ascetic concerns of how we ought to live, what we find with the problem of modernity is the philosophical investigation of the form and content of social life as such. It is to this general problem of the role and value of the everyday in Western philosophy, and the particular study of the Cynics and the concept of modernity to which this class will set itself.

Texts: All course materials will be provided through Georgia View. Note that the cost you save in not having to buy books may be incurred through printing and photocopying.

Course Requirements: Over the course of the semester students
- will bring the days reading to class according to the schedule on the syllabus and/or the professor’s instructions;
- will actively engage the course material and participate in the class discussion; and
- will attend class regularly, even if attendance is not taken.

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of the term students will have gained
- a deeper knowledge of the history of Western philosophy through the concept of the everyday;
- a firm grasp of the Cynic tradition in antiquity;
- a firm grasp of the problem of modernity in Western philosophy;
- a general knowledge of the philosophical concept of social space; and,
- a richer appreciation for the breadth and scope of philosophy and its exercise.
**Evaluation:** There will be three short papers that will account for 80% of the final grade. In addition, there will be regular in-class presentations that will account for an additional 10%, and class participation will account for the final 10%.

**Academic Integrity Statement:** Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student [Code of Conduct](#). Section II of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the University’s policy on academic honesty, including but not limited to provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, and misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the University Judiciary Program.

**Attendance Policy:** There are no excused absences in college. Students are responsible for making up class by conferring with classmates (i.e. getting notes and discussing the main topics of conversation). Students are responsible for all material covered: readings, lectures, and documentary presentations. I will allow make-up exams only if I’m contacted at least two days prior to the exam date.

**ADA Statement:** Any student who, because of a disabling condition, may require some special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to arrange the necessary accommodations. Students should present appropriate verification from KSU disAbled Student Support Services. No requirement exists that accommodations be made prior to completion of this approved University process. Accommodations are arranged on an individualized, as-needed basis after the needs and circumstances have been evaluated. The following individuals have been designated by the President of the University to provide assistance and ensure compliance with the ADA. Should you require assistance or have further questions about the ADA, please contact: Carol Pope, Asst. Dir. for disAbled Student Support Services
cpope@kennesaw.edu
disAbled Student Support Services Website:
http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/dsss/dsss.html

**Schedule of Readings:**

August 19: Introduction

**Part I. The Socratic Legacy**


“Philosophy Takes an Interest in Life” (17-28)

Michel Foucault, *Fearless Speech* (Semiotext(e): Los Angeles, 2001)

“The Word *Parrhesia*” (11-24)


Chapter 1 (1-19)
August 28: *The Courage of Truth*  
   Chapter 6 (95-114)

September 2: *The Courage of Truth*  
   Chapter 6 continued

September 4: *The Courage of Truth*  
   Chapter 9 (157-174)

September 9: *The Courage of Truth*  
   Chapter 11 (191-211)

September 11: *The Courage of Truth*  
   Chapter 13 (231-247)  
   Paper #1 Assigned

September 16: *The Courage of Truth*  
   Chapter 14 (251-265)

September 18: *The Courage of Truth*  
   Chapter 15 (269-287)

**II. Modernity**

   “The Painter of Modern Life” (1-40)  
   Paper #1 Due

September 25: “The Painter of Modern Life” continued

   “Paris, Capital of the Nineteenth Century” (1939) (14-26)

   “Convolutes” (31-38, 46-61, 120-141)  
   “Landscape”

   “Walter Benjamin: Prehistory of Modernity” (207-265)

October 9: “Walter Benjamin: Prehistory of Modernity” continued
October 14: “Walter Benjamin: Prehistory of Modernity” continued

   “Foreword” sections I-IV and VIII (3-42, and 83-98)
   Paper #2 Assigned

October 21: “Foreword” continued

   **III. Urbanism**

   “The Great Towns” (68-110)
   “The Eyes of the Poor”

   “From the City to Urban Society” (1-22)
   Paper #2 Due

October 30: *The Urban Revolution*
   “Levels and Dimensions” (77-102)

November 4: *The Urban Revolution*
   “Urban Myths and Ideologies” (103-114)
   “Urban Form” (115-133)

   Part 1 sections XII-XIX (26-59)

November 11: Part 1 continued

November 13: *The Production of Space*
   Part 2 sections I (68-79), and IV-VI (92-110)

November 18: Part 2 continued

November 20: *The Production of Space*
   Part 3 sections I-IV (169-185), and VII-X (190-207)

November 25 and 27: No Class

December 2: Part 3 continued

December 4: Julio Cortazar, “Graffiti”
December 11: Final Paper Due (by 1:00 at the Department of History and Philosophy office)