PHIL2200
WAYS OF KNOWING
Fall 2015
Online Course

Instructor: Dr. Andrew K. Whitehead
Email: awhiteh8@kennesaw.edu
Phone: 678-797-2281
Office: Social Sciences 4097
Online Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11am-12pm
Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Communication: Please use D2L for all course communication. Please allow up to 72 hours for reply.

Electronic Communications: The University provides all KSU students with an “official” email account with the address "students.kennesaw.edu." As a result of federal laws protecting educational information and other data, this is the sole email account you should use to communicate with your instructor or other University officials.

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, and metaphysics. 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 the self? 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. Identify philosophical questions and specific philosophical methods.
2. Analyze important issues and concepts in philosophy.
3. Describe and explain claims made by philosophical thinkers and test these against available evidence with a view to advancing general and transferable critical skills.
4. Learn to identify the fundamental philosophical presuppositions involved in ‘ordinary’ and ‘everyday’ experiences and knowledge claims.
5. Create writing indicative of advanced levels of comprehension, argumentation, presentation and writing skills.

Learning Objectives:
PHIL2200 satisfies one of Kennesaw State University’s general education program requirements. It addresses the CRITICAL THINKING general education 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 this 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=14&poid=1248

Course Format:
Philosophy 2200 is an online course. Course content will combine formal online lectures and informal online 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 assignments they are meant to address. Some of the assigned primary texts are difficult, but will be openly discussed and explained in online lectures and complemented with optional secondary readings.

Course Books (Required)
Required Reading:
Primary readings will either be made available online as electronic documents or included in the required textbooks.

Course Assessments/Assignments:
- Reading Quizzes (12) 10%
- Comprehension Quizzes (12) 10%
- Reflective Essays (2) 20%
- Major Tests (2) 20%
- Final Exam 25%
- Discussion Posts (12) 15%

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

Description of Assessments/Assignments:
**Reading Quizzes**: A quiz will be given at the start of each new module. The quizzes will aim to determine that students have done the reading, and will therefore consist of simple questions based on the text.

**Comprehension Quizzes**: A quiz will be give at the end of each new module. The quizzes will aim to determine that students have completed the module assignments and have fulfilled the module objectives as outlined at the beginning of each module.

**Reflective Essays**: You will have to submit your essays through the Dropbox feature of D2L. 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 one of the readings discussed in the module, 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
   - 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: a secondary text (journal or book) or a piece from social media (newspaper, television show, movie), making sure to highlight how this relates to, contradicts, or supports the significant point or argument identified and explained
Major Tests: You will be required to answer 20-25 short answer questions pertaining to the readings and lectures covered to date.

Final Exam: You will be required to answer 30-40 short answer questions pertaining to the readings and lectures covered to date. The Final Exam will use Respondus technology. Students will be required to have a working webcam.

Discussion Posts: You will be graded on your participation and interaction with course materials and other students. In order to receive full marks, you must take part in online discussions for each module as indicated. For every module you fail to contribute to, you will lose 1% of your overall grade.

Grading Scale:
Students are evaluated on the following scale:

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

Philosophy Resources:

Knowledge is Power: How to Write a Philosophy Essay (available on D2L)


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

Philosophy Student Association [http://www.philosophystudentassociation.com](http://www.philosophystudentassociation.com)

Academic Policies
Students are expected to comply with KSU’s academic policies, listed here: [https://web.kennesaw.edu/registrar/students/academic_policy](https://web.kennesaw.edu/registrar/students/academic_policy).

Academic Integrity:
Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section 5. C 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 Department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (SCAI), 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. See also [https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/ksu-student-code-conduct](https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/ksu-student-code-conduct).

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:
ADA Compliance:
Students with qualifying disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act who require “reasonable accommodation(s)” to complete the course may request those from Office of Student Disability Services. Students requiring such accommodations are required to work with the University’s Office of Student Disability Services rather than engaging in this discussion with individual faculty members or academic departments. If, after reviewing the course syllabus, a student anticipates or should have anticipated a need for accommodation, he or she must submit documentation requesting an accommodation and permitting time for a determination prior to submitting assignments or taking quizzes or exams. Students may not request retroactive accommodation for needs that were or should have been foreseeable. Students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. Student Disability Services is located in the Carmichael Student Center in Suite 267. Please visit the Student Disabilities Services website at www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/sds for more information, or call the office at 470-578-6443.

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

Introductions
Assessments due: Introduce yourself posting & What is Philosophy discussion board postings with comment on one other student’s posting
Deadline Aug. 22 11:59pm: Introduce yourself post
Deadline Aug. 22 11:59pm: What is Philosophy discussion board post
Deadline Aug. 22 11:59pm: Comment – What is Philosophy discussion board post

Module 1—
Introduction: What is Philosophy?
Assessments due: Syllabus Quiz, Does Philosophy Matter discussion board postings with comment on one other student’s posting, Comprehension Quiz
Deadline Aug. 29 11:59pm: Syllabus Quiz
Deadline Aug. 29 11:59pm: Does Philosophy Matter discussion board post
Deadline Aug. 29 11:59pm: Comment - Does Philosophy Matter discussion board post
Deadline Aug. 29 11:59pm: Comprehension Quiz

PHILOSOPHY, CRITICAL REASONING, AND THE SOCRATIC METHOD (4 Modules)
Module 2—
Thinking Philosophically
Reading(s): Thinking Philosophically (online D2L)
Assessments due: Reading Quiz, Fallacious Reasoning discussion board postings with comment on one other student’s posting, Comprehension Quiz
Deadline Sept. 5 11:59pm: Reading Quiz
Deadline Sept. 5 11:59pm: Fallacious Reasoning discussion board post
Deadline Sept. 5 11:59pm: Comment – Fallacious Reasoning discussion board post
Deadline Sept. 5 11:59pm: Comprehension Quiz

Module 3—
Pre-Socratics
Reading(s): Heraclitus (Greek Philosophy, pp.40-42)
Democritus (Greek Philosophy, pp.53-54)
Assessments due: Reading Quiz, Nature Conceals Herself discussion board postings with comment on one other student’s posting, Comprehension Quiz
Deadline Sept. 12 11:59pm: Reading Quiz
Deadline Sept. 12 11:59pm: Nature Conceals Herself discussion board post
Deadline Sept. 12 11:59pm: Comment – Nature Conceals Herself discussion board post
Module 4—Plato
Reading(s): Apology (Greek Philosophy, pp.74-97)
Assessments due: Reading Quiz, Trials of Philosophy discussion board postings with comment on one other student’s posting, Reflective Essay, Comprehension Quiz
Deadline Sept. 19 11:59pm: Reading Quiz
Deadline Sept. 19 11:59pm: Trials of Philosophy discussion board post
Deadline Sept. 19 11:59pm: Comment – Trials of Philosophy discussion board post
Deadline Sept. 19 11:59pm: Reflective Essay
Deadline Sept. 19 11:59pm: Comprehension Quiz

Module 5—Plato
Reading(s): Meno (Greek Philosophy, pp.110-141)
Assessments due: Reading Quiz, Learning Virtue discussion board postings with comment on one other student’s posting, Comprehension Quiz
Deadline Sept. 26 11:59pm: Reading Quiz
Deadline Sept. 26 11:59pm: Learning Virtue discussion board post
Deadline Sept. 26 11:59pm: Comment – Learning Virtue discussion board post
Deadline Sept. 26 11:59pm: Comprehension Quiz

Module 6—Review and Major Test 1
Assessments due: Major Test 1
Deadline Oct. 3 11:59pm: Major Test 1

KNOWLEDGE AND REALITY (4 Modules)
Module 7—About Things we Know
Reading(s): Nagel (online D2L)
Russell (online D2L)
Assessments due: Reading Quiz, From a Distance discussion board postings with comment on one other student’s posting, Comprehension Quiz
Deadline Oct. 10 11:59pm: Reading Quiz
Deadline Oct. 10 11:59pm: From a Distance discussion board post
Deadline Oct. 10 11:59pm: Comment – From a Distance discussion board post
Deadline Oct. 10 11:59pm: Comprehension Quiz

Module 8—Descartes
Reading(s): Meditation 1 and 2 (pp.59-69)
Assessments due: Reading Quiz, Skepticism discussion board postings with comment on one other student’s posting, Comprehension Quiz
Deadline Oct. 17 11:59pm: Reading Quiz
Deadline Oct. 17 11:59pm: Skepticism discussion board post
Module 9—
Constructions of Truth
Reading(s): Nietzsche (online D2L)
Williams (online D2L)

Assessments due: Reading Quiz, Constructing Truth discussion board postings with comment on one other student’s posting, Reflective Essay, Comprehension Quiz

Deadline Oct. 24 11:59pm: Reading Quiz
Deadline Oct. 24 11:59pm: Constructing Truth discussion board post
Deadline Oct. 24 11:59pm: Comment – Constructing Truth discussion board post
Deadline Oct. 24 11:59pm: Comprehension Quiz

Module 10—
Review and Major Test 2

Assessments due: Major Test 2

Deadline Oct. 31 11:59pm: Major Test 2

SOCIAL/POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS (4 Modules)
Module 11—
Chaos, Agreement, Obligation, and Duty
Reading(s): Kant The Categorical Imperative (Ethics, pp.188-224)

Assessments due: Reading Quiz, Why Be Good discussion board postings with comment on one other student’s posting, Comprehension Quiz

Deadline Nov. 7 11:59pm: Reading Quiz
Deadline Nov. 7 11:59pm: Why Be Good discussion board post
Deadline Nov. 7 11:59pm: Comment – Why Be Good discussion board post
Deadline Nov. 7 11:59pm: Comprehension Quiz

Module 12—
Utilitarianism
Reading(s): Mill Utilitarianism (Ethics, pp.225-255)

Assessments due: Reading Quiz, Majority Rules discussion board postings with comment on one other student’s posting, Comprehension Quiz

Deadline Nov. 14 11:59pm: Reading Quiz
Deadline Nov. 14 11:59pm: Majority Rules discussion board post
Deadline Nov. 14 11:59pm: Comment – Majority Rules discussion board post
Deadline Nov. 14 11:59pm: Comprehension Quiz

Module 13—
Virtue as Ritual: A Confucian Approach
Reading(s): Ames and Rosemont (online D2L)

Assessments due: Reading Quiz, Exemplary Persons discussion board postings with comment on one other student’s posting, Reflective Essay, Comprehension Quiz

Deadline Nov. 21 11:59pm: Reading Quiz
Deadline Nov. 21 11:59pm: Exemplary Persons discussion board post
Deadline Nov. 21 11:59pm: Comment – Exemplary Persons discussion board post
Deadline Nov. 21 11:59pm: Reflective Essay
Deadline Nov. 21 11:59pm: Comprehension Quiz

Module 14—
Society and the Wheel: A Daoist Reading
Reading(s): Moeller (online D2L)

Assessments due: Reading Quiz, The Hub of the Wheel discussion board postings with comment on one other student’s posting, Comprehension Quiz

Deadline Dec. 5 11:59pm: Reading Quiz
Deadline Dec. 5 11:59pm: The Hub of the Wheel discussion board post
Deadline Dec. 5 11:59pm: Comment – The Hub of the Wheel discussion board post
Deadline Dec. 5 11:59pm: Comprehension Quiz

Module 15—
Review and Final Exam

Assessments due: Final Exam

Deadline Dec. 12 11:59pm: Final Exam