PHIL 2200
Ways of Knowing
 Semester: Fall 2015
 Location: Social Sciences Bldg 3019
 Time: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 3:30pm—4:45pm
 CRN: 82505

Instructor: Damien Patrick Williams
Email: dwill255@kennesaw.edu
Phone: 470-578-6149
Office: Social Sciences Building, Room 4090
Office Hours: TR 12pm-1:30pm or by appointment

Course Communications:
Communication should be conducted via email except in the case of emergency, wherein phone communication may be used.

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.

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.

Learning Objectives:
PHIL 2200 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
Required Reading:
- **Handouts:** “Cook Ting” and “In the World of Men,” from *Chuang Tzu: Basic Writings*, Burton Watson translator; Introduction and Chapters 1, 4, 11, and 67—69 from *Lao-Tzu: Te-Tao Ching*, Robert G Henricks translator; Excerpts from *Zen Flesh, Zen Bones*, including selections from “101 Zen Stories” and the introduction to and excerpts from “The Gateless Gate by Mu-Mon,” transcribed and translated by Nyogen Senzaki and Paul Reps.

Attendance Policy:
After the first week, **No Attendance Will Be Taken**, HOWEVER this course is intensive in both reading and in-class discussion, and you **WILL BE RESPONSIBLE** for material which will only be available to you in class discussion, as well as material only in the text.

Electronic Devices Policy:
Laptops and tablet PCs are acceptable for use during class hours, but smart phones, older cell phones, and other electronic devices are not, and should be silenced if not deactivated.

Course Assessments/Assignments:

SPECIFIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Schedule of Assignments and due dates on following pages.

IN-COURSE EXAMS: Tests Taken During Normal Class Meeting Time; Comprised of 30 Questions, A Mixture of Multiple Choice, Short Answer, and Short Essay.

SHORT ESSAYS:
- **Technical Requirements:** 350-750 words. 12-pt, Times New Roman (or equivalent), Double-Spaced, 0.00" before and after lines, Standard Margins. Your name, our class name, and our class time, in the upper corner. Use the MLA standard for citation and reference, which may be found here: [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/2/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/2/)
- Place a copy of your essay in the assigned D2L Bright Space Dropbox folder by 11:59pm on the day of the class on which the assignment is due. **NO HAND-WRITTEN CRITICAL RESPONSES WILL BE ACCEPTED.**
- 10 points will be deducted for not meeting the minimum page requirement or exceeding the page requirement.

The critical responses will require that you explain two specific arguments in support of the particular philosophical concept that we will have discussed in the foregoing two week time frame, and give critical responses to those arguments.
The critical responses should be in this format:
**1st:** Briefly explain the concepts discussed. For example, state what the study of Ethics is, and what it attempts to do, and then some of the varying perspectives On ethical
theory. Be sure to include at least two quotes drawn from the class texts or links.

**2nd:** Critique two arguments given about the concept. Your critique can take many forms: contradictions arise in the position; there is a logical gap in the argument; etc. It is not appropriate to critique positions on the basis of later scientific findings.

**3rd:** Concluding statements.

**TERM PAPER:** You will turn in a paper proposal which should contain: An Outline, your thesis under investigation, and a tentative bibliography. Paper proposals are necessary for a passing grade on the paper. I will not accept any final papers without a proposal already turned in. This means that if you fail to turn in a paper proposal, you will receive a failing grade on the paper.

Your final paper should be between 1300 and 1500 words. Each component of your paper will be typed in 12 point, Times New Roman (or equivalent) font, and double spaced. Failure to correctly format your will result in a 10 point penalty on the individual assignment. You will be required to demonstrate that you can critically evaluate one of the theories discussed in class through one of the following methods:

1. **Compare and contrast two different philosophical schools;**
2. **Critically examine your own social, cultural, and historical situation and its effects on one of the beliefs held in your society by evaluating the origins of that position in light of our discussions;**
3. **Evaluate a contemporary social and ethical issue in light of one of the philosophical positions we have discussed.**

Paper topics may vary according to your interests, but must specifically fulfill one of the three methods listed above. If you have trouble finding a paper topic, one may be assigned to you.

**FINAL EXAM:** Between 10 and 15 questions, all essay format.

**MAKE-UP EXAM POLICY:**
Make-up exams for the midterm or exams other than the final are not guaranteed and are possible only in cases of well-documented emergency, such as illness or injury. A doctor’s note, scanned, will be necessary.

Note: The Department will host a day for makeup exams for students with excused absences at the end of each semester. Students will need to bring an ID to the makeup exam. This is not a required makeup solution. We hope that we will be able to share the responsibility of proctoring makeup exams over the course of the academic year.

**LATENESS POLICY** on assignments: Short Essays will be accepted up to one week (Seven Days) late, with 10 points deducted for each class day it is late, starting on the due date.

The Term Paper will have its grade reduced one letter for each school day it is late. That is, if the paper is due on Thursday, it will be counted one day late on Friday, two days late on Monday
and three days late on Tuesday. Hence, turning in an “A” paper on Tuesday that had been due the previous Thursday will result in a grade of “D.”

**Grading:**

**Grade Calculations**

Students are evaluated on the following scale:

**GRADE COMPOSITION:**
- **IN-COURSE EXAMS** 12%
- **SHORT ESSAYS** = 2% x 9 = 18%
- **TERM PAPER** 35%
- **FINAL EXAM** 35%
- **TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS : 100%**

**Grading Scale**

Students are evaluated on the following scale:

- **A** = 90-100
- **B** = 80-89
- **C** = 70-79
- **D** = 60-69
- **F** = 0-59

- **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.

**Academic Honesty:**

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).

Academic dishonesty is a fundamental breach of trust between the student and the instructor which harms the trust the instructor has for the entire class. As a result of academic dishonesty,
more time is spent poring over papers with suspicion rather than devising interesting and compelling material for the class. Academic dishonesty is also a breach of contract, and will be treated as such. Course failure, suspension, and even expulsion, in the case of endemic behaviour, may all result from instances of academic dishonesty. In the long run, it is simply easier to just Do Your Own Work. Here are some resources to help you, in that direction:

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

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 course 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.

Course Schedule:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Graded Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 1</td>
<td>-Syllabus Overview</td>
<td>Have Read Chapter One: Pages 2—24</td>
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<td>Aug. 18th &amp;</td>
<td>-PHILOSOPHY AND YOU</td>
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<td>20th</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 2</td>
<td>PHILOSOPHY AND YOU</td>
<td>Have Read Chapter One: Pages 25—53</td>
<td>Signed Syllabus Sheets Due the 21st</td>
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<td>25th, 27th</td>
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<td>WEEK 3</td>
<td>ETHICS AND MORALITY</td>
<td>Have Read Chapter Three: Pages 122—142</td>
<td>Argumentation Response Papers Due</td>
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<td>Sept. 1st &amp;</td>
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<td>3rd</td>
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<td>WEEK</td>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Assignment</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>8th &amp; 10th</td>
<td>ETHICS AND MORALITY</td>
<td>Have Read Chapter Three: Pages 142—185</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>15th, 17th</td>
<td>QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD</td>
<td>Have Read Chapter Two: Pages 54—108</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>22nd, 24th</td>
<td>QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD</td>
<td>HINDUISM HANDOUT</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>09/29/15: TEST REVIEW</td>
<td>10/01/15: Test 1</td>
<td>Test 1</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>6th, Oct. 8th</td>
<td>QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD</td>
<td>Have Read BUDDHISM HANDOUTS and Chapter Two: Pages 108—121</td>
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<td>10/07/15</td>
<td>LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW</td>
<td>PENALTY</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>13th, 15th</td>
<td>PHILOSOPHY OF MIND</td>
<td>Have Read Chapter Four: Pages 186—217</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>20th, 22nd</td>
<td>PHILOSOPHY OF MIND</td>
<td>Have Read Chapter Four: Pages 186—217</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>27th, 29th</td>
<td>THE DEBATE OVER FREE WILL</td>
<td>Have Read Chapter Five: Pages 218—251</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Nov. 3rd, 5th</td>
<td>THE DEBATE OVER FREE WILL</td>
<td>Have Read Chapter Five: Pages 218—251</td>
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<td>Term Paper Discussion</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>10th, 12th</td>
<td>EPISTEMOLOGY</td>
<td>Have Read Chapter 6: Pages 277—309</td>
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<td>JUSTICE AND SOCIETY</td>
<td>Have Read Chapter 7: Pages 310—326</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>17th, 19th</td>
<td>JUSTICE AND SOCIETY</td>
<td>Have Read Chapter 7: Pages 326—362</td>
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<td>Eastern Philosophies: Confucian Thought</td>
<td>Have read: CONFUCIUS BIOGRAPHY Handout</td>
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### WEEK 15
11/23/15-11/29/15

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<tr>
<th>FALL</th>
<th>BREAK. NO</th>
<th>CLASSES</th>
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### WEEK 16
Dec. 1st, 3rd

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<tr>
<td>Confucian Thought</td>
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<td>Taoism</td>
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<td>Zen</td>
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<tr>
<th>12/07/15</th>
<th>LAST-DAY-OF CLASSES</th>
<th>Final Exam Review</th>
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<td>Term Paper due (1300—1500 words)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Tuesday, December 08, 2015</th>
<th>Final</th>
<th>Exam</th>
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<td>Tuesday, December 08, 2015</td>
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### OTHER NOTES OF IMPORTANCE:

1. Anything in this syllabus is subject to change at the instructor’s discretion, with adequate notice.
2. Check your email and the class D2L page daily. These will be the best places to find posted any changes in assignments, due dates or office hours.
3. Some General Academic Hints and Tips:
   - Read assignments both before and after the accompanying lectures to get the most out of the material.
   - Formulate thoughtfully and carefully any questions you have during class.
   - Engage in, but do not monopolize class discussion. Make your point briefly and then give others the chance to speak. The instructor is available during office hours for extended questions or topics of greater depth.
   - Do not interrupt the instructor or your classmates, except by raising your hand if you have a question or comment. Thoughtful listening is one of the best ways to learn.
   - Do not talk or write emails when your instructor or classmates are speaking. It is discourteous and distracting to others. If you have a question, or didn’t quite hear something, please ask the instructor for clarification or repetition, not the person sitting next to you.
   - Bring tissue and cover your mouth & nose when coughing or sneezing. This can help reduce incidence of flu by 72%.
I HAVE READ AND RECEIVED A COPY OF THE SYLLABUS AND REALIZE THAT I NEED TO CHECK MY EMAIL DAILY FOR ASSIGNMENT CHANGES OR OTHER INFORMATION.

____________________________________  DATE____________________
SIGNATURE