Instructor: Gabriel Soldatenko  
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Office: Social Science #4091  
Office Hours: Mondays 9:00-10:00, Tuesdays 11:00-1:00, and by appointment

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: “Values and Society” takes as its object of inquiry those aspects of our society that most directly affect and shape our everyday lives. In this way, the course shows how philosophy can be helpful in thinking more deeply about everyday life by focusing on those social relations, institutions, and systems that structure the way we live, and which we often take as givens. Put another way, if one of the classical projects of philosophy has been to define and outline “the good life”, then this course traces some of the central features through which social life has been arranged in our present. Consequently, this course encourages students to ask critically, and reflect on, how close we have (or have not) come to that “good life” in our modern society.

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of the course students will have

- a firm historical sense of the roots of what we call “Western” or “modern” society;
- a hemispheric understanding of our society, such that North American social formation cannot be thought as developing independently from the rest of the Americas;
- a general understanding of the philosophical discourse around the themes of race, patriarchy, sexuality, the nation-state, and capitalism;
- a localized sense of how these themes have been arranged and put into practice in our society; and
- a practical sense of how philosophy can be used as a critical tool for thinking about everyday life, and one’s location in society.

Text: All course materials will be provided through D2L Brightspace. Note that the cost you save in in not having to buy books may be incurred through printing and photocopying.

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.
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.

Grading Scale:
Students are evaluated on the following scale:
A (90%-100%)
B (80%-89%)
C (70%-79%)
D (60%-69%)
F (59% and below)
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 Integrity Statement  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.

In short, plagiarism and/or cheating will result in a failing grade for this course.

Evaluation: There will be three in-class written exams covering and each will be worth 28% of your grade. The other 16% of your grade will be an evaluation of students’ in-class participation and group assignments.

Exam Grading: Typically, exams will contain ten to fifteen short-answer questions, and each question will be graded on a scale from one to five. The following is the rubric by which the exam questions will be graded;

1- Major inaccuracies; major elements/issues not even mentioned; and, little or no details, examples, or discussion.
2- Major confusions or gaps; little effort to describe elements; and, limited use of details or examples.
3- Accurately identifies most general parts of an answer; some serious confusions; and, superficial discussion with some detail and use of examples.
4- Accurately identifies most of the elements of an answer; some minor confusions; and, discussion and examples not as strong as they could be.
5- Clearly and accurately identifies all the elements of an answer; and, strong use of examples and details.

In almost all cases, an answer that receives full credit will be at least a paragraph.

**Extra Credit:** You may acquire extra credit, but all exams must have been completed to receive points. Extra credit is obtained by completing a 500-word summary of any philosophically relevant lecture you attended at KSU or off campus (check with instructor for eligibility). A summary is an objective (no critique) account of the presenter’s main ideas that also includes the specific details of when and where the event took place, who spoke, and the title of the speaker’s presentation.

**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 Department of Student Success Services. Students requiring such accommodations are required to work with the University’s Department of Student Success 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. For more information please visit their website, sss.kennesaw.edu/sds.

Contact information is as follows:
SDS Email: sds@kennesaw.edu
Primary number for Kennesaw campus: 470-578-2666
Primary number for Marietta campus: 678-915-7244
Schedule of Readings:

August 16: Introduction: Why “Values and Society?”

I. Race and Racism

“The Tempest in the Wilderness”

“Consuming Passions”
“The Property”
“The Owners”

August 25: James continued

“Who Invented the Concept of Race?”

September 1: Bernaconi continued

“Overview”

September 8: Derrick Bell, *And We Are Not Saved* (Basic Books: NY, 1989)
“The Real Status of Black Folks Today”
Exam Review

September 13: **Exam #1**

II. Gender, Patriarchy, and Heterosexism

“Women”
“Sex in the Slave Quarters”
Andrea Smith, *Conquest* (South End Press: Cambridge, Mass, 2005)
“Sexual Violence as a Tool of Genocide”

“Introduction”
“Lay of the Land”

September 22: McClintock continued
   “Introduction”
   “Sexuality, Medicine, and Imperialism”

September 29: Briggs continued

October 4: *La Operacion* (movie)
   Note: Last day to withdraw without academic penalty is October 5

   “Freaks and the American Ideal of Manhood”
   “Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power”

October 11: Baldwin and Lorde continued
   Exam Review

October 13: **Exam #2**

**III. The State and Capitalism**

   Books I and II, and sections 1-3, and 9-14 of Book III

October 20: Rousseau continued

   “Chapter 10”

October 27: Foucault continued

   Ch. 13: Depression and a New Deal
   Ch. 14: From World War to Great Society

November 3: Walter Trattner conversation continued
   Walter Trattner, *From Poor Law to Welfare State*
   Ch. 16: War on the Welfare State

November 8: Loic Wacquant, “Race as Civic Felony”, *International Social Science Journal*, 181 (Spring 2005)
   “A War for All Seasons”
   “The Rise of Big House Nation: From Reform to Revenge”
   “Balkans in a Box”
November 10: Wacquant and Parenti continued

(Selections)

November 17: Marx continued

November 22 & 24 No Class

“Neoliberalism and Global Order”

December 1: Final Exam Review

December 6: **Final Exam** (10:30-12:30)