

Philosophy 2100
Values and Society
Fall 2017
SO 2021
MW 3:30-4:45

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Office Hours: Mondays 10:00-12:00, Wednesdays 2:00-3:00, 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.**

HB 280 “Campus Carry”: Please follow the link for all relevant information and campus policies: [<http://police.kennesaw.edu/campuscarry.php>]

Of particular importance is the following paragraph found in Chancellor Steve Wrigley’s guidance to the University System of Georgia (see the link above):

“Under the new law, it is a misdemeanor crime for a license-holder to carry a handgun ‘in a manner or in a building, property, room, or space in violation of’ these provisions. Doing so also may be a violation of the institution’s student code of conduct and personnel rules. *It will be the responsibility of those license-holders who choose to carry handguns on campus to know the law and to understand where they can go while carrying.* Institutions will not provide gun storage facilities or erect signs outside restricted areas.”

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 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 22% of your grade. The other 12% 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](tel:470-578-2666)

Primary number for Marietta campus: [678-915-7244](tel:678-915-7244)

Schedule of Readings:

August 14: Introduction: Why “Values and Society?”

I. Race and Racism

August 16: Ronald Takaki, *A Different Mirror* (Little, Brown, and Co.: NY, 1994)
“The Tempest in the Wilderness”

August 21: James Walvin, *Black Ivory* (Blackwell: Malden, Mass., 1992)
“Consuming Passions”

C.L.R. James, *The Black Jacobins* (Vintage Books: New York, 1989)
“The Property”
“The Owners”

August 23: Robert Bernasconi ed., *Race* (Blackwell: Malden, Mass., 2001)
“Who Invented the Concept of Race?”

August 28: Bernasconi continued

August 30: Charles Mills, *The Racial Contract* (Cornell University Press: Ithaca, NY, 1997)
“Overview”

September 4: No Class

September 6: Derrick Bell, *And We Are Not Saved* (Basic Books: NY, 1989)
“The Real Status of Black Folks Today”
Exam Review

September 11: **Exam #1**

II. Gender, Patriarchy, and Heterosexism

- September 13: James Walvin, *Black Ivory* (Harper Collins: London, 1992)
“Women”
“Sex in the Slave Quarters”
Andrea Smith, *Conquest* (South End Press: Cambridge, Mass, 2005)
“Sexual Violence as a Tool of Genocide”
- September 18: Anne McClintock, *Imperial Leather* (Routledge: New York, 1995)
“Introduction”
“Lay of the Land”
- September 20: McClintock continued
- September 25: Laura Briggs, *Reproducing Empire* (University of California Press: Berkeley, 2002)
“Sexuality, Medicine, and Imperialism”
- September 27: Briggs continued
- October 2: *La Operacion* (movie)
- October 4: James Baldwin, *Collected Essays* (Library of America: NY, 1998)
“Freaks and the American Ideal of Manhood”
Audre Lorde, *Sister Outsider* (Crossing Press: Berkeley, 2007)
“Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power”
Note: Last day to withdraw without academic penalty
- October 9: Baldwin and Lorde continued
Exam Review
- October 11: **Exam #2**

III. The State and Capitalism

- October 16: Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract* (Penguin: NY, 1968)
Books I and II, and sections 1-3, and 9-14 of Book III
- October 18: Rousseau continued
- October 23: Michel Foucault, *Security, Territory, Population* (Palgrave: NY, 2007)
“Chapter 10”
- October 25: Foucault continued
- October 30: Walter Trattner, *From Poor Law to Welfare State* (Free Press: New York, 1999)
Ch. 13: Depression and a New Deal
Ch. 14: From World War to Great Society

November 1: Walter Trattner conversation continued
Walter Trattner, *From Poor Law to Welfare State*
Ch. 16: War on the Welfare State

November 6: Loic Wacquant, “Race as Civic Felony”, *International Social Science Journal*,
181 (Spring 2005)
Christian Parenti, *Lockdown America* (Verso: New York, 1999)
“A War for All Seasons”
“The Rise of Big House Nation: From Reform to Revenge”
“Balkans in a Box”

November 8: Wacquant and Parenti continued

November 13: Karl Marx, *Early Writings* (Penguin: New York, 1992)
(Selections)

November 15: Marx continued

November 20 & 22 No Class

November 27: Marx continued

November 29: Noam Chomsky, *Profit Over People* (Seven Stories Press: New York, 2011)
“Neoliberalism and Global Order”

December 4: Final Review

December 11: **Final Exam** (3:30-5:30)