

PHIL2200
WAYS OF KNOWING
Fall 2017
Online Course

Instructor: Dr. Andrew K. Whitehead
Email: awhiteh8@kennesaw.edu
Online Office Hours: Tuesdays 9:30 – 11:00

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. Students will evaluate and synthesize information to support ideas and perspectives. 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&poiid=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)

Greek Philosophy: Thales to Aristotle (3 Rev Exp edition)

978-0029004951

Reginald E. Allen (ed.)

Free Press

Discourse on Method and Mediations on First Philosophy (4th Edition)

978-0872204201

René Descartes, Donald A. Cress (trans.)

Hackett Publishing Co.

Ethics: The Essential Writings

978-0812977783

Gordon Marino (ed.)

Modern Library

Required Reading:

Primary readings will either be made available online as electronic documents or included in the required textbooks.

Course Assessments/Assignments:

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|------------------------------|-----|
| - Reading Quizzes (12) | 15% |
| - Comprehension Quizzes (12) | 15% |
| - Major Tests (3) | 40% |
| - Discussion Posts (4) | 30% |

*****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.

Major Tests: You will be required to answer a series of short answer, multiple choice, and true or false questions pertaining to the readings and lectures covered to date. The Major Tests 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 the four (4) modules with Discussion Boards (1, 5, 9, 14). The 'Introduce Yourself' discussion board is mandatory for all students and does not count as one of the four. Each discussion post is worth 7.5% of your final grade. You are required to write 500 words (min. 450, max. 550), providing philosophical reflection on a significant point or argument of your choosing from the modules leading up to the discussion board post (for Discussion Board 2 [module 5], use modules 2, 3, 4, and 5; for Discussion Board 3 [module 9], use modules 7, 8, and 9; for Discussion Board 4 [module 14], use modules 11, 12, 13, and 14). You are required to discuss and cite **at least** the primary reading selected from these modules (for Module 1, there is no primary reading provided. Instead, students are invited to choose one independently). The discussion board posts 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 proofread the document for grammar and spelling
- 3) Student has cited at least one primary text
- 4) 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

Grading Scale:

Students are evaluated on the following scale:

A — 100 – 85

B — 84 – 75

C — 74 – 65

D — 64 – 50

F — <50

Philosophy Resources:

Resources for writing philosophically:

How to Write a Philosophical Essay (available on D2L)

KSU Philosophy LibGuide:

(<http://libguides.kennesaw.edu/content.php?pid=531460&sid=4372684>)

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/>, or stop by Room 242 in the English Building.

Your Professors and Instructors

Philosophy Student Association

<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.

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 [alsohttps://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>

To avoid plagiarizing, including unintentionally plagiarizing, please visit:

<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 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)

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

Introductions

Assessments due: Introduce yourself posting

Deadline Aug. 19 11:59pm: Introduce yourself post

Module 1—

Introduction: What is Philosophy?

Assessments due: Syllabus Quiz, Discussion Board 1: Does Philosophy Matter, Comprehension Quiz

Deadline Aug. 26 11:59pm: Syllabus Quiz

Deadline Aug. 26 11:59pm: Does Philosophy Matter discussion board post

Deadline Aug. 26 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, Comprehension Quiz

Deadline Sept. 2 11:59pm: Reading Quiz

Deadline Sept. 2 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, Comprehension Quiz

Deadline Sept. 9 11:59pm: Reading Quiz

Deadline Sept. 9 11:59pm: Comprehension Quiz

Module 4—

Plato

Reading(s): **Apology (*Greek Philosophy*, pp.74-97)**

Assessments due: Reading Quiz, Comprehension Quiz

Deadline Sept. 16 11:59pm: Reading Quiz

Deadline Sept. 16 11:59pm: Comprehension Quiz

**Module 5—
Plato**

Reading(s): Meno (*Greek Philosophy*, pp.110-141)

Assessments due: Reading Quiz, Discussion Board 2: Modules 2-5, Comprehension Quiz

Deadline Sept. 23 11:59pm: Reading Quiz
Deadline Sept. 23 11:59pm: Discussion Board post
Deadline Sept. 23 11:59pm: Comprehension Quiz

**Module 6—
Review and Major Test 1**

Assessments due: Major Test 1

Deadline Sept. 30 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, Comprehension Quiz

Deadline Oct. 7 11:59pm: Reading Quiz
Deadline Oct. 7 11:59pm: Comprehension Quiz

**Module 8—
Descartes**

Reading(s): Meditation 1 and 2 (pp.59-69)

Assessments due: Reading Quiz, Comprehension Quiz

Deadline Oct. 14 11:59pm: Reading Quiz
Deadline Oct. 14 11:59pm: Comprehension Quiz

**Module 9—
Constructions of Truth**

**Reading(s): Nietzsche (online D2L)
Williams (online D2L)**

Assessments due: Reading Quiz, Discussion Board 3: Modules 7-9, Comprehension Quiz

Deadline Oct. 21 11:59pm: Reading Quiz
Deadline Oct. 21 11:59pm: Discussion Board post
Deadline Oct. 21 11:59pm: Comprehension Quiz

**Module 10—
Review and Major Test 2**

Assessments due: Major Test 2

Deadline Oct. 28 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, Comprehension Quiz

Deadline Nov. 4 11:59pm: Reading Quiz

Deadline Nov. 4 11:59pm: Comprehension Quiz

Module 12—

Utilitarianism

Reading(s): Mill *Utilitarianism* (*Ethics*, pp.225-255)

Assessments due: Reading Quiz, Comprehension Quiz

Deadline Nov. 11 11:59pm: Reading Quiz

Deadline Nov. 11 11:59pm: Comprehension Quiz

Module 13—

Virtue as Ritual: A Confucian Approach

Reading(s): Ames and Rosemont (online D2L)

Assessments due: Reading Quiz, Comprehension Quiz

Deadline Nov. 18 11:59pm: Reading Quiz

Deadline Nov. 18 11:59pm: Comprehension Quiz

Module 14—

Society and the Wheel: A Daoist Reading

Reading(s): Moeller (online D2L)

Assessments due: Reading Quiz, Discussion Board 3: Modules 11-14, Comprehension Quiz

Deadline Dec. 2 11:59pm: Reading Quiz

Deadline Dec. 2 11:59pm: Discussion Board post

Deadline Dec. 2 11:59pm: Comprehension Quiz

Module 15—

Review and Major Test 3

Assessments due: Major Test 3

Deadline Dec 9 11:59pm: Major Test 3