

PHILOSOPHY 4450/4499 – Fall 2017
MAJOR FIGURES IN PHILOSOPHY
Seminar on Constructions of Self and Nature
Social Sciences Building Room 2033, Thursdays 2:00-4:45

Professor: Dr. David Jones

Office: 4082 Social Science Building

Consultation Times: TTH 12:15-12:45 or by appointment

Phone: 470.578.6596 (office) and 470.578.6294 (department)

E-Mail: djones@kennesaw.edu

Web site: <http://ksuweb.kennesaw.edu/~djones/>

Course Communication: All emails must be sent to djones@kennesaw.edu. Please allow 72 hours for a reply. Face-to-face meetings can be scheduled on either Tuesdays or Thursdays between 12:30 and 1:30, and must be scheduled at least 48 hours in advance.

Catalogue Course Description: *Major Figures in Philosophy* is an in-depth examination of a major figure in western or non-western philosophy from the ancient to contemporary periods.

Instructor's Course Description: This course examines the nature of the self through readings of classical and contemporary sources. Topics include: the Western construction of soul; non-Western notions of self and no-self; the unconscious and consciousness; relation of mind and body; self and society; and self and nature. The approach will be historical and comparative in nature and will map out the construction of the Western concept of self and counter-pose that conception with Indian, Chinese, and Japanese versions as well as bringing those traditions into counterpoint with each other.

Course Objectives:

1. develop a thematic sense of the historical development of a topic
2. develop comparative and analytic skills when studying different traditions
3. hone requisite research skills for doing philosophy
4. develop an understanding of the construction of the self in historical contexts
5. learn to question claims about social and natural realities arising from assumptions and particular concepts of the self
6. learn to test claims against available evidence with a view to advancing general and transferable critical skills
7. learn to appreciate an everyday sense of self in our world of experience
8. achieve competency in the technical terminology of comparative philosophical investigation and philosophy in general
9. compare the tools and concerns of comparative philosophy with those of other philosophical and non-philosophical approaches and practices
10. refine advanced levels of comprehension, argumentation, presentation, and writing skills

Course Format: *Merriam-Webster* defines a seminar as “a group of advanced students studying under a professor with each doing original research and all exchanging results through reports and discussion.”

Classroom sessions will combine formal interactive lectures and informal discussions. Students are encouraged and required to participate actively in dialogue and raise related issues relevant to their lives and experience. Students are expected to prepare all readings in advance of the sessions for which they are scheduled. Some of the assigned primary texts are very difficult, but will be openly discussed in class and complemented with optional secondary readings.

Required Readings: Some primary readings will be made available through online links with students assuming responsibility in finding other required or recommended readings.

Self as Person in Asian Theory and Practice

Roger T. Ames, Wimal Dissanayake, and Thomas P. Kasulis

State University of New York Press

ISBN-10: 0791417247

ISBN-13: 978-0791417249

Against Individualism:

A Confucian Rethinking of the Foundations of Morality, Politics, Family, and Religion

Henry Rosemont Jr.

Lexington Books

ISBN-10: 0739199803

ISBN-13: 978-0739199800

The Fractal Self: Science, Philosophy, and the Evolution of Human Cooperation

John L. Culliney and David Jones

University of Hawai‘i Press

ISBN-10: 0824866614

ISBN-13: 978-0824866617

Intimacy or Integrity: Philosophy and Cultural Difference

Thomas P. Kasulis

University of Hawai‘i Press

ISBN-10: 0824825594

ISBN-13: 978-0824825591

Attendance Policy: There are no excused absences. Attendance is absolutely required. Students will not be able to succeed in this course without full attendance. Responsibility for material covered while absent is solely the responsibility of the student and will not be provided by the professor.

Electronic Devices Policy: The volume on all electronic devices should be turned off in class. The use of cell phones is strictly prohibited in class. Students are welcome to use laptops for note-taking purposes only (no web based activity—only if required. No recordings, of any kind, are allowed in class. Any violation of this policy will negatively affect students’ grades.

Course Assessment:

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|------------------------|-----|
| - Reflective Essay 1 | 25% |
| - Reflective Essay 2 | 25% |
| - Major Research Paper | 40% |
| - Presentation | 10% |

***Nota Bene:** Late assignments will automatically receive a mark of zero unless official medical documentation is provided.*

Description of Assignments:

Reflective Essays: Your reflective essays should be formatted with double-spacing, 12 point Times New Roman font, and 1 inch margins, and follow Chicago Manual of Style 16th Edition citation guidelines (see <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/717/01/>). You are required to write 600 words on any of the readings discussed to date in class (for Reflective Essay 1, select a reading from week 2, 3, 4, or 5; for Reflective Essay 2, select a reading from week 6, 7, 8, or 9), providing philosophical reflection on a point of your choosing. You are required to discuss and cite *at least* the primary reading selected. The essays are graded on the evaluation scale below.

Major Term-Paper: Your major term-paper should be formatted with double-spacing, 12 point Times New Roman font, and 1" margins, and follow Chicago Manual of Style citation guidelines (see <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/717/01/>).

4450 students are required to write 2000 words on a topic of your choosing, which must be approved by the instructor no later than October 26.

4499 students are required to write 2500 words on a topic of your choosing, which must be approved by the instructor no later than October 26.

In order to receive approval, you must schedule a meeting with your professor to take place no later than October 26 and submit the following: a title and thesis statement, along with a provisional bibliography that includes at least three legitimate secondary sources in addition to at least one of the primary readings from class. Essays can be exegetical or critical in nature. 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 pertaining to the theme of the course and the material covered in class, which has been approved by the professor no later October 26.
- 2) Student has adhered to the proper formatting regulations
 - (a) As outlined above
 - (b) Includes student name, number, course code, professor name, date, and word count on a cover page (these do not count towards the word count)
- 3) Student has proofread the document for grammar and spelling
- 4) Student has cited and engaged with at least one primary text that has been approved by the professor; two texts are required for 4490 students.
- 5) Student has supported (or critiqued) the significant point or argument identified and explained using at least three legitimate secondary texts (journals and/or books).

Presentations: All students must sign-up for a presentation. Presentations will provide a summary of the reading for that instruction period, with a focus on raising critical questions and demonstrating clarification of key ideas. You are required to provide hand-outs for the class.

Grading Scale: Students are strictly evaluated on the following scale on both individual assignments and final grades:

A	100–90
B	89–80
C	79–70
D	69–60

Academic Integrity: No student shall receive, attempt to receive, knowingly give or attempt to give unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any work required for credit (including examinations, laboratory reports, essays, themes, term papers, etc.). Unless specifically authorized, the presence and/or use of electronic devices during an examination, quiz, or other class assignment is considered cheating. Engaging in any behavior that a professor prohibits as academic misconduct in the syllabus or in class discussion is cheating. When direct quotations are used, they must be indicated, and when the ideas, theories, data, figures, graphs, programs, electronic based information or illustrations of someone other than the student are incorporated into a paper or used in a project they must be duly acknowledged. No student may submit the same, or substantially the same, paper or other assignment for credit in more than one class without the prior permission of the current professor.

To avoid plagiarizing, including unintentionally plagiarizing visit:

<http://plagiarism.org/>

<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.html>

<http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html>

Other Resources for writing a philosophy paper:

<http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/philosophy/>

<http://www.sfu.ca/philosophy/resources/writing.html>

http://oregonstate.edu/cla/shpr/sites/default/files/images/phil_writing_guide.pdf

http://las.depaul.edu/philosophy/Programs/Undergraduate/Paper_Writing_Suggestions.asp

The **KSU Writing Center** is 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.

Additional resources are your professors and instructors in the Philosophy Program.

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.

PHILOSOPHY 4450/4499
MAJOR FIGURES IN PHILOSOPHY
Seminar on Constructions of Self and Nature
Fall 2017, Syllabus

Topics and Readings are subject to change at the discretion of the professor.

Week 1— Homeric Self

August 17

Readings: Chapters 1-3 and 8 and 9 in *Discovery of Mind*

<https://archive.org/details/discoveryofmindg00sneluoft>

Week 2— Platonic and Aristotelian Conception of Soul

August 24

Reading: Book IV of the *Republic*, *Phaedrus* Books IX-XII; review your previous studies and readings of the *Apology* and *Phaedo*.

Plato: <https://archive.org/details/PlatosRepublicallanBloomTranslation>;
<http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/phaedrus.1b.txt>

Reading: *Aristotle's On the Soul and On Memory and Recollection*, Books II and III (1-76)

Aristotle: <https://tinyurl.com/y82ke5vf>

Week 3— The Rational Self

August 31

Readings: René Descartes' *Meditations on First Philosophy*

Week 4— The Empirical Self

September 7

Readings:

BOOK II - OF IDEAS, Chapter XXVII Of Identity and Diversity in *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* by John Locke—

http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl302/texts/locke/locke1/Essay_contents.html

Michael Ayers on John Locke: <http://people.brandeis.edu/~teuber/locke.html>

An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding by David Hume Sect. IX “Of the Reason of Animals” <http://www.luminarium.org/renascence-editions/hume/hume9.html>

Section VI “Of Personal Identity”

<http://web.mnstate.edu/gracyk/courses/web%20publishing/TreatiseI.iv.vi.htm>

Week 5— Kant's Metaphysics of Self

September 14

Reading: Book II “Of the Dialectical Procedure of Pure Reason” in *Critique of Pure Reason* by Immanuel Kant 274-294

<http://www2.hn.psu.edu/faculty/jmanis/kant/Critique-Pure-Reason.pdf>

Colin Marshall

<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/p/pod/dod-idx/kant-s-metaphysics-of-the-self.pdf?c=phimp;idno=3521354.0010.008>

Week 6— Meta-discussion: Intimacy and/or Integrity

September 21

Reading: *Intimacy or Integrity: Philosophy and Cultural Difference* by Thomas P. Kasulis
Reflective Essay 1 due September 21

Week 7— Vedic Conceptions of Self

September 28

Readings: *Kāṭha Upaniṣad*; *Muṇḍaka Upaniṣad* (selection); *Chāndogya Upaniṣad*
Bhagavad Gītā Ch. 7 (10-30), Ch. 13 (all), and Ch. 14 (all) (handouts); *Self as Person in Asian*
Theory and Practice

Week 8— Confucian and Daoist Senses of Self

October 5

Readings: Selections from the *Analects*, *Laozi*, and *Zhuangzi* (handouts); *Self as Person in Asian*
Theory and Practice; other readers may also be assigned

October 5 is the last day for topic approvals

Week 9— Against Individualism

October 12

Reading: *Against Individualism: A Confucian Rethinking of the Foundations of Morality,*
Politics, Family, and Religion

Week 10— Against Individualism

October 19

Reading: *Against Individualism: A Confucian Rethinking of the Foundations of Morality,*
Politics, Family, and Religion

Week 11— Against Individualism and the Deep Soul

October 26

Readings: Selections from Nietzsche, Freud, and Heidegger (handouts)

Reflective Essay 2 on Against Individualism due October 26

Paper Topic Approval Deadline: October 26

Week 12— The Deep Soul and the Fractal Self

November 2

Reading: *The Fractal Self: Science, Philosophy, and the Evolution of Human Cooperation*

Week 13— The Fractal Self

November 9

Reading: *The Fractal Self: Science, Philosophy, and the Evolution of Human Cooperation*

Week 14— The Fractal Self

November 16

Reading: *The Fractal Self: Science, Philosophy, and the Evolution of Human Cooperation*
Research Paper due November 16 for senior seminar (4499) students

Week 15— Autumn Break

November 23

Week 16—Senior Seminar Presentations Social Science 5074

November 30

Research Paper due November 30 for 4450 students

Week 17—Finals

December 7

Mandatory On-line Activity

IMPORTANT DATES:

Autumn Break: November 20-27

Last Day to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty: October 4

Reflective Essay 1 Due: September 21

Reflective Essay 2 Due: October 26

Paper Approval Deadline: October 26

Research Paper Due: November 16 for 4499 students

Research Paper Due: November 30 for 4450 students

Mandatory On-line Activity: December 7