Syllabus

PHI 2200: Ways of Knowing
KSU, Spring ’09
Class information

• CRN 11286, Section 17
• Social Science Classroom Bldg: Room 2035
• TT 3:30 - 4:45 pm
Contact Information

• Instructor Name: Gilbert Lepadatu
• Office Location: Room 4005
• Email address: provided by Vista
• For emergencies only: glepadat@kennesaw.edu

• Special Instructions:
  • Make note that most issues can be addressed either in class, before or after class.
  • Email is the preferred means of communication.
  • Exam submitted electronically via email without authorization will be deleted.
WebCT or Vista

• [http://vista.kennesaw.edu/](http://vista.kennesaw.edu/)

• You must log in into Vista at least once every 2 days.

• Class cancellations, changes, new assignments, etc. will be announced in Vista.
Course Information

• This course is part of the General Education Program. It is intended in part to familiarize you with the discipline of philosophy.

• In this course we will look at some of the traditional questions that have interested philosophers from many cultures and many times. These questions include how and what we know about our world, ourselves, and our ethical responsibilities within this context.

• Furthermore, we will look at how philosophy and philosophical thinking relate to other disciplines and how philosophy might help us in thinking about and understanding everyday questions and problems.
Course Objectives

• When you complete this course, you should have achieved the following:

• A familiarity with the vocabulary of philosophy, its major concepts, the historical development and consequences of these concepts, and methods of philosophical inquiry within some western and non-western traditions;

• An understanding of the different contexts and criteria for knowledge;

• An understanding of human diversity and the differing values that arise from diverse points of view;
Course Format

- Meetings will usually be divided into two parts: short lecture (15-30 minutes) followed by discussions.

- Discussions are organized around the questions found at the back of each chapter.
Preparation

• You must do the readings before coming to class. You should study the study questions found at the end of each chapter.

• The class discussions, exams, class assignments, quizzes will all cover the readings.
Required Textbook

- *Philosophy, The Power of Ideas*
- by Brooke Noel Moore and Kenneth Bruder
- Amazon: $79 [Click here](#)
Class requirements

• Class participation: 15 points
• Class assignments & Quizzes: 15 points
• One written exam: 50 points each
• Final Paper or Oral Exam: 20 points
Class assignments and quizzes

- Throughout the semester an undetermined number of quizzes and class assignments will be given. All together they will count for 15 points.

- 2 of these assignments will be dropped to accommodate the fact that some of you may have had good reasons to be absent.

- It is thus all the more important to come to class regularly and prepared.
Class Participation
15 points

- Only regular attendance AND active engagement in class discussions will earn you 15 points.

- In increments of 5 points
  - 5 points: meager attendance (more than 5 absences) and hardly any active class participation.
  - 10 points: regular attendance but meager participation in class discussions.
  - 15 points: regular attendance (no more than 5 absences) and active class participation.
Attendance policy

• Regular attendance is highly recommended.

• Students may miss **FIVE class sessions** without affecting their participation grade.

• All emergencies, family obligations, illness, injuries, court dates, car problems, etc. fall into this category.

• More than 5 absences will result in **10-points penalization**.
Final Paper or Oral Exam

• You have the choice of either
  • writing a 4-page long philosophical paper, or
  • having a casual conversation with me (5-15 min) on various topics we have had covered during the semester.
Extra Credit
(up to 15 points)

• There are two ways to get extra points:
  • attend and write a comprehensive summary
    of a Mike Ryan Philosophical Lecture (usually
    given once a month).
  • Active participation (over a long period of
    time) in online forum discussions.
Policies (I)

• **ON DEADLINES**

• All assignments have deadlines. NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.

• Students may NOT submit work to office mailbox, under the office door or by email. If the access to the designated course website is denied, students may use the instructor’s academic email to submit their assignments. No other email address is permitted.
Policies (II)

• GRAMMAR- AND STYLE-RELATED ERRORS

• The instructor has very strict rules on grammar- and style-related errors. Students are expected to know how to write correctly. I suggest that you proofread any written assignment before you submit it.

• More than 5 gross grammar- or style-related errors (typos included) may result in the disqualification of your assignment. As a rule, expect to receive a 1-point penalization for each such mistake.
Policies (III)

• **PLAGIARISM POLICY**: See student handbook. If you are unsure of what constitutes plagiarism, please see someone in the writing center or me.

• Any changes in the ground rules will be at the discretion of the instructor with notice to students by email. Students are encouraged to suggest changes, additions or deletions which might serve the best interest of the class.