Philosophy 2200/21: Ways of Knowing  
Tues/Thurs 12:30-1:45; Spring Semester 2009  
Social Science Building 3026

Instructor: Darin McGinnis  
Office Hours: T/Th 11:00-12:00, and by appointment  
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Course Description: This course is part of the General Education Program at Kennesaw State. Its intent is to familiarize you with the discipline of philosophy, its history and its methods. In this course, we will focus on two philosophical questions and the responses that they have generated from philosophers from many different eras and cultures. Those questions are: “What can I know?” and “What ought I to do?” We will also examine the interaction between philosophy and philosophical methods with other disciplines.

Primary Text: Philosophy and Choice, 2nd Ed.; supplemental readings online

Graded Assignments:  
2 short papers – 30% of total grade (15% each paper)  
4 quizzes – 40% of total grade  
Class participation – 10% of total grade  
Final exam – 20% of total grade

Grading Scale:  
A  100-90%  
B  89-80%  
C  79-70%  
D  69-60%  
F  Below 60%

Course Schedule and Homework: I expect you to study the assigned reading and complete any other homework before the class for which they are scheduled. Always be prepared to go over your readings or homework in class. Since we may need to move more quickly or more slowly, adjustments to the schedule are very likely. It is up to you to keep track of these adjustments. I also reserve the right to amend or change this syllabus as needed.

Course Objectives: By the end of the semester, the student will:  
- Be familiar with the methods and aims of philosophical inquiry;  
- Be able to write in a philosophical manner using premises and evidence;  
- Have an understanding of the history of philosophical concepts and their application to other disciplines

Conferences: I wholeheartedly encourage you to talk to me if you have any questions. Talk to me before or after class, email me, or stop by my office hours if you have any questions about the reading, quizzes, papers, exams or if you would like discuss other items relating to the class. If you cannot make my office hours, I can meet with you on any day should the need arise.
**Attendance:** Class attendance is essential to this course. Students who attend regularly always fare better than students who do not. If you keep up with readings and homework and attend class consistently, you will find the class much easier than if you miss assignments and try to catch up later. Please note that while I make every effort to stick to the schedule as printed, changes from time to time will be necessary. Not knowing about changes in the schedule therefore will not constitute an excuse.

**Make-up Policy:** Quizzes missed due to absence cannot be retaken; and papers are accepted only on the day that they are due. The following three criteria together constitute grounds for an excuse: (1) the absence is due to serious illness or a death in the family; (2) you have a note from the Dean excusing the absence; (3) you have notified me in advance (this condition may be waived at my discretion for extenuating circumstances). If your absence does not meet these three criteria, do not approach me about making up missed work.

**Academic Honesty:** Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section II 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 University Judiciary Program, 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.

**Tentative Schedule of Readings and Assignments:**

January 8 – **Introduction**

January 13 – Plato “Apology” (textbook pp. 15-28)
January 15 – Plato “Apology” cont’d

January 20 – Plato “Republic,” Book VI
January 22 – Plato “Republic,” Book VI, cont’d

January 27 – Plato “Republic,” Book VII (textbook pp. 189-192) and **Quiz #1**
January 29 – Descartes, “Meditation I,” (pp. 111-114)

February 3 – Descartes, “Meditation II,” (pp. 114-119)
February 5 – Descartes, “Meditation II,” cont’d

February 10 – Locke (pp. 119-124)
February 12 – Berkeley (pp. 192-199)

February 17 – Peirce (pp. 94-101)

February 26 – Chatterjee (pp. 85-90)

March 3 – Paper #1 due, Review
March 5 – Quiz #2

March 10 & 12: Spring Break

March 17 – Plato, “Republic, Book VI”
March 19 – Mencius (pp. 341-348)

March 24 – Hobbes (pp. 349-356)
March 26 – Bentham (pp. 395-402)

March 31 – Kant (pp. 403-411)
April 2 – Kant, cont’d and Quiz #3

April 7 – Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book I
April 9 – Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book I cont’d

April 14 – Marx (pp. 482-493)
April 16 – Marx, cont’d

April 21 – Jaggar (pp. 447-453)
April 23 – Quiz #4

April 28 – Paper #2 due, Review
April 30 – Review, Course Evaluations

May 5 – Final Exam @ 12:30