PHI2200- Ways of Knowing
Spring 2010

Instructor’s Contact Info:

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Course Description:

Philosophy 2200 (Ways of Knowing) is a course in Kennesaw State University’s General Education Program. This is an introductory course to philosophy, intended for students with little or no background in the area. This course is a critical, philosophical examination of the different ways of thinking and knowing found within various texts and representations spanning through several distinctive fields of philosophical study. Emphasis is placed on how philosophical and critical inquiries are relevant on both microcosmic and macrocosmic scales, and how philosophy has questioned, determined, and changed human existence. This course will cover a broad range of philosophical topics and also how these topics have related to and/or influenced other disciplines. The student will engage major themes, terms, figures, ideas, and fields while investigating the age-old quest for truth and knowledge. We will look closely at how philosophical inquiry and critical thought has impacted humans from the highest king to the lowest layperson in past, present, and future.

Text:


Course Objectives and Goals:

- To become familiar with the vocabulary of philosophy, its major concepts, the historical development and consequences of these concepts, and methods of philosophical inquiry within western and non-western traditions
To develop and understanding of the different contexts and criteria for knowledge
- To develop and understanding of human diversity and how this is reflected through different perspectives
- To improve the effectiveness of rhetoric, writing, and communication through philosophical study

Course Assessment:

There will be three major assignments/exams. These will all be take-home essays and/or short answer questions. These three major assessments will constitute 90% of your final class grade. The other 10% of your grade is made up of participation, attendance, and any in-class quizzes that are conducted:

Exam 1 (Due 5th week)…30%
Exam 2 (Due 10th week)…30%
Exam 3 (Due Finals week)…30%
Attendance, Participation, Quizzes…10%
Final Class Grade…100%

Obviously, there will be a penalty for late work. A half-letter grade will be deducted for each day an assignment is late. Apart from the grades above, there will be an extra credit opportunity somewhere down the line, but focus on your grade and don’t be dependent on the extra credit!

Grading Scale:

100% to 90%...A
89% to 80%...B
79% to 70%...C
69% to 60%...D
59% and below…F

Office Hours:

By appointment. I will be glad to meet any time, just see me before or after class to either resolve any issues or make an appointment. My office is located at 4120 building 22 (Social Sciences) where you can leave a message in my mailbox. The office phone is 770-423-6294.
Class Schedule:

This is an ambitious schedule and is SUBJECT TO CHANGE!

* = March 5<sup>th</sup> is the last day to withdraw without academic penalty
# = Exam handed out
$ = Exam is due

Week 1, Jan 11-15: Read Syllabus, Introduction to course, Part I intro
Week 2, Jan 18-22: (No class Monday), Plato “Apology” p.13-27
Week 4, Feb 1-5: Peirce “Fixation” p.94, Descartes “Quest for Rational Certainty” p.111
Week 5, Feb 8-12: Locke “Experience” p.119, James “The Will to Believe” p. 156
Week 7, Feb 22-26: Sartre “Existentialism” p.258, Hume “Dialogues” p.288
Week 8, Mar 1-5: Part IV intro, Confucius “Analects” p.370, Aristotle “Virtue” p.379
Week 9, Mar 8-12: SPRING BREAK!!!
Week 10, Mar 15-19: “Nonconsequentialist Ethics” p.403, Hassan “Islamic” p.422
Week 13, Apr 5-9: Chomsky “Democracy and Media” p.520, Introna “Privacy” p.462
Week 14, Apr 12-16: Dewey “On Democracy” p.538, Lenin “State” p.543
Week 15, Apr 19-23: Part VI Intro, Tolstoy “What is Art?” p.589, Ducasse “Aesthetic” p.617
Week 16, Apr 26-29: Beardsley “Taste” p. 626, Teacher Evaluations, Review of course
Week 17, Apr 3-7: FINALS WEEK!

KSU Writing Center:

The KSU Writing Center is a free service offered to all KSU students. Experienced, friendly writing assistants work with you on thesis development, organization, research documentation, grammar, and much more. They help you improve your paper AND teach you strategies to become a better writer on your own. For more information or to make an appointment, visit http://www.kennesaw.edu/english/WritingCenter, or stop by Room 242 in the English Building.

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, misrepresentations/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 to the Code of Conduct’s minimum one semester suspension requirement.

**KSU Student Code of Conduct:**

It is the purpose of the institution to provide a campus environment which encourages academic accomplishment, personal growth, and a spirit of understanding and cooperation. An important part of maintaining such an environment is the commitment to protect the health and safety of every member of the campus community. Belligerent, abusive, profane, threatening and/or inappropriate behavior on the part of students is a violation of the Kennesaw State University Student Conduct Regulations. Students who are found responsible for such misconduct may be subject to immediate dismissal from the institution. In addition, university disciplinary proceedings may be instituted against a student charged with a violation of a law which is also a violation of this student code without regard to the pendency of civil litigation in court or criminal arrest and prosecution. Proceedings under this student code of conduct may be carried out prior to, simultaneously with, or following civil or criminal proceedings off-campus. For more information, visit [http://www.kennesaw.edu/scai/code_of_conduct.shtml#iii](http://www.kennesaw.edu/scai/code_of_conduct.shtml#iii).