Philosophy 2200: Ways of Knowing  
Spring Semester 2012

Instructor: Joe Johnson & Hugh Hunt
Office: SO 4097 & SO 4027
Office hours: Mon & Wed after class & Mon & Wed before and after class
E-mail: For all class purposes, use e-mail within GeorgiaView.
        The following addresses are for permanent reference only:
        joseph_johnson@kennesaw.edu & hhunt@kennesaw.edu
Office Tel: (678) 797-2281 & 770-423-6294 (leave message)

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.

PREREQUISITES: ENGL 0099 and READ 0099, if required; ENGL 1101 recommended.

REQUIRED TEXTS: Introduction to World Philosophy—A Multicultural Reader,

ATTENDANCE: While there is no mandatory attendance policy, students will not be able to do well in this course without complete attendance. Responsibility for material covered while absent is the sole responsibility of the student.

GRADING: There will be five in-class exams (—pay special attention to the Academic Honesty policy below), all of which must be completed in order to receive course credit. Exams will include both multiple-choice and essay questions. Study questions will be provided. Makeup exams will be given only in the case of unavoidable and dire circumstances. If not arranged in advance, prompt notification—i.e., within the same day—by e-mail must be given, though acceptance of excuses is at the sole discretion of the instructor. There will be no opportunities for extra-credit work; rather, students should focus their efforts on mastering the material at each stage, and then move on whole-heartedly to the next.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: No student shall receive, attempt to receive, knowingly give or attempt to give unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any work required to be submitted 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 should 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 should 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(s).
Philosophy 2200 Syllabus, Spring 2012
Reading Assignments & Test Dates

Part I: Ethics

1. Ethics in the Philosophical Traditions of India
   1.1. Karma and Dharma in Hindu thought
   1.1.1. From the Bhagavad Gita
   1.3. Early Buddhism
   1.3.1. The Buddha, from The First Sermon
   1.3.2. From The Dhammapada
   1.6. Jainism
   1.6.1. From the Acaranga Sutra
   1.7. The Skepticism and Materialism of Charvaka
   1.7.1. From Sarva-Darsana-Samgraha

5. Ethics in Modern Philosophy
   5.2. Hume's Empiricist Ethics: From Is to Ought
   5.2.1. David Hume, from A Treatise of Human Nature
   5.3. Kant's Deontology
   5.3.1. Immanuel Kant, from Fundamental Principles of the Metaphysics of Morals
   5.5. Utilitarianism
   5.5.1. John Stuart Mill, from Utilitarianism

TEST #1

Part II: Philosophy of Mind and Self

7. The Self in Indian Philosophy
   7.1. The Upanishads on a Higher Self
   7.1.1. From the Brhadaranyaka Upanishad
   7.1.2. From the Chandogya Upanishad
   7.1.3. From the Mundaka Upanishad
   7.1.6. From the Taittiriya Upanishad
   7.1.7. From the Katha Upanishad
   7.3. Indian Buddhism: No-Self, Bundle Self, and Impermanence
   7.3.1. From Questions to King Milinda

10. Mind and Body in Early Modern Philosophy
    10.1. Descartes’s Dualism of Mind and Body
    10.1.1. René Descartes, from Meditations on First Philosophy
    10.2. Princess Elizabeth’s Critique of Descartes’s Dualism
    10.2.1. Princess Elizabeth, Letter to Descartes--The Hague, May 16, 1643
    10.2.2. Princess Elizabeth, Letter to Descartes--The Hague, June 20, 1643
    10.2.3. Princess Elizabeth, Letter to Descartes--The Hague, July 1, 1643
    10.2.4. Princess Elizabeth, Letter to Descartes--The Hague, April 25, 1646
    10.3. Locke on Criteria of Personal Identity
    10.3.1. John Locke, from An Essay Concerning Human Understanding
    10.4. Hume: The Constructed Self
    10.4.1. David Hume, from A Treatise of Human Nature

TEST #2

Part III: Epistemology
14. Ancient Greek Theories of Knowledge
14.1. Plato's Internalism
14.1.1. Plato, from Meno
14.1.2. Plato, from Theaetetus
14.3. Sextus Empiricus's Skepticism
14.3.1. Sextus Empiricus, from Outlines of Pyrrhonism

16. Modern Theories of Knowledge
16.1. Descartes's Foundationalism
16.1.1. René Descartes, from Meditations on First Philosophy
16.2. John Locke's Empiricism
16.2.1. John Locke, from Essay Concerning Human Understanding
16.4. Hume's Empiricism
16.4.1. David Hume, from An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding

TEST #3

Part IV: Metaphysics

19. Ancient Greek Metaphysics
19.1. Plato's Forms (Universals)
19.1.1. Plato, from Republic

20. Metaphysics in Early Modern Philosophy
20.1. Primary and Secondary Qualities
20.1.1. René Descartes, from Meditations on First Philosophy
20.1.2. John Locke, from Essay Concerning Human Understanding
20.2. The Idealism of Berkeley and Hume
20.2.3. David Hume, from A Treatise of Human Nature

21. Metaphysics in Kant and Post-Kantian Philosophy
21.1. Kant's Copernican Revolution
21.1.1. Immanuel Kant, from Critique of Pure Reason

TEST #4

Part V: Philosophical Theology

21.4.2. Friedrich Nietzsche, from The Cheerful Science

25. Modern Theology
25.1. Descartes's Arguments for God's Existence
25.1.1. René Descartes, from Meditations on First Philosophy
25.2. Pascal's Wager
25.2.1. Blaise Pascal, from Thoughts
25.3. Leibniz and the Problem of Evil
25.3.1. G. W. Leibniz, from Theodicy
25.4. Paley's Argument from Design
25.4.1. William Paley, from Natural Theology
25.5. Hume's Counterarguments and Refutations
25.5.1. David Hume, from Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion

TEST #5 (at time of scheduled final exam)
Refer to Reading Syllabus for sections of each chapter to be read.

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