Ways of Knowing - Philosophy 2200  
(Mondays and Wednesdays at 11:00)  
Spring 2012  
Social Science Building 2034

Professor: Dr. David Jones  
Office: 4082 Social Science Building  
Consultation Times: MW 12:45-1:45 or by appointment, M 4:45-5:15  
Phone: 770-423-6596 (office) and 770-423-6294 (department)  
E-Mail: djones@atlas.kennesaw.edu  
Facsimile: 770-423-6432  
Web site: http://ksuweb.kennesaw.edu/~djones/courses.htm  
PSA Web site: http://www.philosophystudentassociation.com/

Teaching Assistants: Ms. Jessica Barber and Mr. Justin Downey

Course Description: Philosophy 2200 is an introductory course in philosophy that explores a variety of issues from a philosophical perspective. The approach of the class will be historical and comparative. Some of the problems and issues we will be investigating this semester are: the differences between philosophical questions, religious questions, and scientific questions; how values are established and how they change over time; the relationship between faith and reason; the nature of reality; and what ways of knowing do we develop to address these types of questions. These questions (and more) will spin off from a more fundamental question that is the major focus of the course: what is the nature of the human soul/self and its relation to other selves and the external world? We will address Socrates’ challenge to know ourselves through various contexts and relationships. Also, students are introduced to the vocabulary of philosophy and how it applies to other disciplines, to the values and objectives of thinking critically, and alternative ways of knowing the self and world through chronologically and comparatively presented worldviews. Ways of knowing our world and ourselves are presented in the context of the following worldviews: Mythic/Primitive, Presocratic, Platonic, Chinese, Modern Western, and Postmodern Western. Historical representatives of each worldview are presented.

Course Format: Classroom sessions will be both lecture and discussion with the emphasis placed on informal, that is, interactive lecture. Students are encouraged and expected to ask questions and must be prepared each class to discuss the problems and issues of the class. This class will not have power point presentations or study guides. If you are reliant on these types of learning crutches, you should enroll in a different class. There are selected online podcasts available.

Course and Classroom Policies: All work completed outside of class must be word-processed. There are no provisions for extra-credit in Philosophy 2200 and makeup examinations in Philosophy 2200. Participation and attendance are mandatory and are essential for a good grade in this course. Consider the statement on academic honesty in the Kennesaw State University Undergraduate Catalogue to be a part of this Course Description and Syllabus. Students plagiarizing will automatically fail the course. Active cellular telephones or paging devices are not permitted in class. Also, in order to enhance critical listening skills, no audio or visual taping of lectures is permitted without the instructor’s approval. If students are using laptops for note taking, they are not allowed to be on-line or engaged in instant messaging. To protect privacy, final grades will not be posted. Upon request and submission of a stamped self-addressed envelope, final grades will be mailed to students. Final Grades will not be transmitted via electronic mail. Arrive to class on time. All contents of lectures, including written materials distributed to the class, are under copyright protection by the professor.

Class Notes Policy: Notes or recordings made by students in this class based on my lectures, discussion group or class discussions may only be made for the purposes of individual or group study, or for other non-commercial purposes that reasonably arise from your membership in this class. Permission to make notes or recordings falls within my discretion as the instructor and as informed by instructional purposes, classroom order, property interests and other reasonable considerations arising in the academic context. Notes and recordings of this class may not be exchanged or distributed for any commercial purpose, for compensation, or for any purpose other than your personal study. Unless authorized by the University in advance and explicitly and in writing permitted by me, commercial or any non-personal use of class notes or recordings constitutes an unauthorized commercial activity in violation of the Student Conduct Code, and students who violate this policy are subject to University discipline. As the instructor in this course, I retain intellectual property rights in the lecture material pursuant to U.S. copyright law and Georgia Civil Code. Misuse of course notes or recordings derived from lecture material may also subject you to legal proceedings.

Course Objectives:
1. To develop an understanding of philosophy, its traditions, and relation to subsequent disciplines and forms of inquiries emerging from them
2. To develop a working philosophical vocabulary, one that is especially appropriate for other disciplines
3. To achieve a level of competence when dealing with a philosophical problem within philosophical, social scientific, and scientific contexts
4. To understand and appreciate the origin and development of values and knowledge
5. To develop the necessary critical faculties to deal with philosophical problems and issues in a written and verbal format
6. To develop critical skills applicable to all facets of life
7. To incorporate the philosophical and ethical perspective into one's professional and personal life
8. To develop one’s conceptual abilities and expand ways of knowing
9. To develop the "whole person”—one who is not narrowly defined

Grading: There will be three cumulative mid-term examinations and a comprehensive Final Exam. Exams 1 and 3 are worth 20 points, Exams 3 and 4 are worth 25 points and the Mike Ryan Lecture Series assignments are worth a total of 10 points (100 points total). Exams will consist of a limited amount of objective questions that assess information acquisition and distinction making, short essays, and extended essays. Extended essays will be evaluated on organization, development and coherence of ideas, clarity of expression, grammar, and style. Students should expect both in-class and take-home essays. Although students may anticipate an exam prior to the last date to drop this class, the instructor reserves the right to adjust the course syllabus according to the pace of the class.

Exam 1 = 20 Points (In Class), Exam 2 = 25 Points (Take Home Essay)
Exam 3 = 20 Points (In Class)
Final Exam = 25 Points (In Class)
Written Lecture Series Assignments = 10 Points

Participation and attendance are required. On the 4th absence (2 weeks of class) final grades will be lowered by one letter grade. There are no exceptions to this attendance policy. Up to 3 points may be added by the discretion of the instructor for a student's participation in classroom discussion.

There are other written assignments on talks given in the Mike Ryan Lecture Series, Philosophy Forum, and the Osoinach Student Lecture Series. These assignments will be worth 2 points each (10 points total). Students must attend 5 lectures or programs and complete the writing assignments by the next class period. Lectures are scheduled usually at 12:30 on Tuesdays or Thursdays and occasionally on Mondays or Wednesdays and last approximately one hour and 30 minutes. If students cannot commit themselves to this assignment, they need to consider enrolling in another class, accept losing 10 points for this requirement, or write alternative assignments on assigned publications of the speakers. These alternative assignments are by nature much more difficult than the lecture assignments. All 5 assignments or alternative lecture assignments on an assigned reading must be completed to receive an “A” in the course.

If students are having difficulty understanding course material and/or completing assignments, it is crucial for them to either seek a consultation during office hours or request an appointment. Consultation hours are listed at the beginning of this Course Description.

Grading will be based on the following scale: 90+=A, 80-89=B, 55-79=C, 50-54=D, -50=F

Texts:

* Symposium, Alexander Nehamas and Paul Woodruff (Hackett ISBN: 0-87220-076-0)
* Selections from Chuang Tzu: Basic Writings, Burton Watson trans. (Handout)
* Selections from Meditations on First Philosophy, Laurence J. Lafleur trans. (Handout)

(All handouts selections are online on my web site listed above.)

* Note that there is not a textbook for this class. If students feel uncomfortable reading and studying original texts in translation, they should withdraw at the beginning of the term. Most of the readings are very difficult and require a considerable investment of time.

* All texts are available at the KSU Book Store and most retail bookstores.
INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY SYLLABUS - PHILOSOPHY 2200
Ways of Knowing Spring 2012

Professor: Dr. David Jones
E-Mail: djones@atlas.kennesaw.edu

Topics Discussed in Order - Dates may be adjusted

Jan. 9 – Feb. 6
Introduction to course; Introduction to Philosophy

The Mythic/Primitive World View
Hesiod's Theogony; Homeric Psyche
READ: Handouts
Introduction to Greek Philosophy

The Pre-Socratic World View: Thales, Herakleitos, Demokritos, Parmenides, the Sophists
READ: Handouts
Demokritos & the Sophists
Exam 1 (Feb. 6 - Tentative)

Feb. 8 – Feb. 29
Platonic World View
READ: Plato's Apology in Last Days of Socrates (LDS)
READ: Plato's "Allegory of the Cave" (Handout)
Plato's Theory of Ideas or Forms
READ: Plato's Phaedo (LDS)
READ: Plato's Symposium
Greek Philosophy Review
EXAM 2 Due (Feb. 29 - Tentative) *All exams are cumulative.

March 12
Last day to withdraw without academic penalty

March 12 – April 11
Chinese World View
Introduction to Chinese Philosophy
The Philosophy of Confucius
READ: The Analects of Confucius: A Philosophical Translation
Laozi READ: Handouts
Zhuangzi READ: Chuang Tzu: Basic Writings (Handout)

April 6-7
North Georgia Student Philosophy Conference

April 9-11
Modern (Cartesian) World View
READ: Descartes' Meditations on First Philosophy (Handout)
EXAM 3 (April 16 - Tentative) *All exams are cumulative.

April 16-30
Beginnings of the Post Modern World View
The Philosophy of Friedrich Nietzsche
READ: Nietzsche's Thus Spoke Zarathustra

May 7
FINAL EXAM (Cumulative; check schedule)