Philosophy 2100: Values and Society
Instructor: Tom Pynn
Teaching Assistant: Edoh Agbehonou
Spring 2012

“My place in the sun.” Here is the beginning and the prototype of the usurpation of the whole earth. --Blaise Pascal (1623-1662), Pensees or Thoughts on Religion (1669)

The forgetting of self moves justice. --Emmanuel Levinas

Philosophy [is] a critical disposition of wrestling with desire in the face of death, dialogue in the face of dogmatism, [and] democracy in the face of despotism. –Dr. Cornel West

Office/Hours for Tom Pynn: SO 2008. MW, 10-10:45 and 12:30-3; TR, 10-10:45 and 12:30-3; and by appointment.

E-mail address: tpynn@kennesaw.edu to be used only for communication purposes. If you use the email on Georgia View Vista, there is a strong chance that I will not respond for a couple of days. You are more likely to get a quicker response by using my KSU address. Exams submitted electronically without authorization will be deleted.

Office/Hours for Edoh Agbehonou: SO 2022B by appointment only.

E-mail address: eagbehon@kennesaw.edu

Course Description: The course is a philosophical examination of contemporary values and their place within society from a global perspective, focusing on issues of global inequality, cultural relativism, and the question of a global ethic.

The student reads primary works of philosophy and engages in thoughtful discussions about the ideas raised by and in these works. Students take essay examinations, engage in class discussion, and view documentaries. All in-class and out-of-class activities focus on elevating the student’s critical ability to read philosophical texts, comprehend concepts and conceptual frameworks, and apply the ideas we study to their own self-understanding, other-understanding, and understanding of the world they live in.

Required Texts
One World: The Ethics of Globalization, by Peter Singer
Against War, by Nelson Maldonado-Torres
Highly Recommended: *Dictionary of Philosophy and Religion: Eastern and Western Thought* by W. L Reese, *Dictionary of Globalization* by Andrew Jones or a reputable dictionary of philosophy either in print or on-line.

**Evaluation:** The student will demonstrate **performative competence** in communicating (by writing and speaking) his/her understanding of the course material. Each exam emphasizes a close reading of the texts we study. The student will not use outside sources or secondary sources whether Internet, World Wide Web, journal, or book. If you want to use a text in addition to the ones required for this course you must have it OK’d by the instructor. Failure to cite outside sources on the exams, known as plagiarism, will result in an “F” for the exam. Continued plagiarism will result in your being brought before the school judiciary. See **Academic Integrity Statement** below. All exams are due when class begins. I will allow late exams only if the student contacts me about the absence at least one week prior to the exam date and/or if the student finds himself/herself in dire straits: e.g., giving birth, comatose, hospitalization for an extended period of time, and, of course, being dead. A student may email me their assignment(s) only if prior arrangements have been made with me. See section E-mail address. **The student must complete and turn in all exams in order to receive credit for the course.**

- **4 exams** (70%) covering each section of study. Each exam reiterates what is done in class: lecture, class discussion, readings, and documentaries. The take-home essay exams are posted on Georgia View one week prior to the due date. The exams emphasize close reading of texts, reasoning acuity, and composition skills. No outside or secondary sources other than those studied in class are to be used.
- **Reading Quizzes** (10%) Students will take 10 unannounced reading quizzes for a total of 100 points and 10% of the student’s final grade. The quizzes will cover the reading assignment(s) up to the time of each particular quiz.
- **Attendance at Peace and/or Mike Ryan Lectures** (10%) Students will attend five peace and/or philosophy related lectures of their choice. Credit is acquired by meeting me at the lecture venue and recording your name on the roll.
- **Class participation** (10%). Class participation is willingly and spiritedly engaging in reading aloud, asking questions and freely participating in discussion of the topics at hand with other students and instructor.

**Extra credit:** You may acquire extra credit, but all exams must have been turned in to receive extra points. Extra credit opportunities are meant to add value to your class experience in Phil 2100. They are not meant to make up for weak exam performance. Extra credit is obtained by completing a 500 word (minimum) summary of any presentation you attend outside of class that is directly relevant to the course. Extra credit points will be added to the exam closest to the turn in date of your summary.
There is no limit to the amount of summaries one can turn in. The only restriction is that you cannot turn in more than 2 extra credit summaries with the last exam.

*Nota Bene*: All course work is to be typed in Times New Roman at 12 point, double-spaced, and in standard margins. I will not accept handwritten assignments. No covers or jackets or folders, please. **The student must complete and turn in all exams in order to receive credit for the course.** In each exam essay I am looking for: accurate presentation of the author’s ideas, use of relevant vocabulary items, your critique of the author’s ideas, accuracy of grammar, and college-level composition skills.

**Academic Integrity Statement**: 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 which 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).

**Absence Policy**: There are no excused absences in college. Students are responsible for making up class by conferring with classmates (i.e. getting notes, discussing the main topics of conversation). Instructors are neither expected to nor encouraged to repeat class lectures for student convenience. The student will neither be punished for absence nor rewarded for presence; however, the student is responsible for all class material covered: all readings, lectures, and documentary presentations. I will allow late exams **only** if the student contacts me about the absence **at least** one week prior to the exam date and/or if the student finds himself/herself in dire straits; e.g., giving birth, comatose, hospitalization for an extended period of time, and, of course, being dead. **A student may email me their assignment(s) only if prior arrangements have been made with me.**

**Plagiarism Policy**: See student handbook. If you are unsure of what constitutes plagiarism, please visit the writing center or see me during office hours. See **Academic Integrity Statement**.

**Expected Outcomes**: By the end of the semester the student will
• Demonstrate a college-level understanding of the major figures, themes, and movements from the history of philosophy through reading, exams and writing assignments;
• use the concepts of the various philosophers, philosophical traditions and philosophical periods we have studied in reading, reading, exams and writing assignments;
• compare and contrast different philosophical schools of thought and their cultural and historical roots in both Western and non-Western contexts as evidenced in classroom discussion, reading, exams and writing assignments;
• demonstrate a college-level comprehension of the different facets of globalization and the place of the United States of America in the recent phenomenon of globalization in reading, reading, exams and writing assignments;
• identify and employ philosophical language, analysis, and argumentation by participating in classroom dialogue and writing expository compositions;
• be ethically sensitive to the role of cultural, social and political diversity in human thought and action by exploring with and responding to others in open dialogue about human diversity;
• critically examine her/his own social, cultural, and historical situation and its effects on individual, group, and national beliefs about the self, others, and the world through evaluating and discussing the social and historical origins and implications of those positions; and
• apply the ideas we study to his/her life as evidenced in classroom discussion, reading, exams and writing assignments.

Schedule of Events

January 9: Introduction to Philosophy 2100—values, society, and globalization

January 11: Introduction to Diversity, Multiculturalism, Cultural Pluralism

Readings from Georgia View: “From Diversity to Pluralism” and “What is Pluralism?”

January 18-February 6: One World: The Ethics of Globalization

Jan. 18: Introduction to Ethics and Globalization, One World (OW) ix-13
Jan. 23-35: OW50-105
Jan. 30-Feb. 1: OW106-149
Feb. 6: OW150-202


February 8-29: Against War: Views from the Underside of Modernity
Feb. 8: Introduction to (The) Enlightenment: *Against War* (AW) xi-19
Feb. 13-15: *AW* 23-50, “Let’s be frank: The US has been in Perpetual War” and “Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen”
Feb. 20-22: *AW* 51-89 and “Peace and Proximity”
Feb. 27-29: *AW* 237-254

Exam II: March 12, 2012

March 12-April 2: Theories and Practices of Nonviolence

Apr. 2: “People are Willing to Sacrifice Themselves’, an interview with Caesar Chavez”

Exam III: April 9, 2012

April 4-30: *Staying Alive: Women, Ecology, and Development*

Apr. 4: Introduction to Vandana Shiva, Development and Eco-feminism, *Staying Alive* (*SA*) ix-xviii
Apr. 9-11: *SA* 1-37
Apr. 16-18: *SA* 38-95
Apr. 23-25: *SA* 96-217
Apr. 30: *SA* 218-end

Exam IV: May 7, 2012

**NOTE:** Schedule of events subject to change by Fate, the insightful awareness of the instructor, and/or the collaboration between students and instructor.

**Summary of Grading Percentages and Grading Scale**
Four Essay Exams: 70%
Readings Quizzes: 10%
Lecture Attendance: 10%
Participation: 10%

A: 90-100; B: 80-89; C: 70-79; D: 60-69; F: 59 and below
Important Dates

- MLK, Jr. Day: January 16, 2012
- Last day to withdraw with a W: March 12, 2012
- Spring Break: March 3-9, 2012
- KSU Peace Conference: March 30, 2012
- KSU Peace Project: March 31, 2012
- Last Day of Classes: April 30, 2012