FIRST, CHECK YOUR SCHEDULE: YOU MUST BE REGISTERED FOR THE CORRECT COURSE NUMBER TO RECEIVE CREDIT FOR THIS COURSE: PHIL: 2200 CRN 10309

Course Meeting Information: Fridays 11:00am-1:45 pm, Social Sciences Building Room 3010

EMAIL: damien.williams7@gmail.com
TELEPHONE: 770-423-6294
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:30pm-6pm, and by appointment

IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT EMAIL:
Email is the quickest and preferred method of contacting me outside of class time. I will make every effort to respond to emails as soon as possible and certainly within 48 hours. Therefore, if you have no response from me within 48 hours, you should assume that your email was not delivered and you should recontact me.

"The unexamined life is not worth living" ~ Plato

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The philosophical project is one of continual learning and a process of coming-to-understand. If we love knowledge, then there is no “end point” to what we can learn, and what we desire to learn. In this class, we will take an introductory look at some of the most influential philosophical concepts and thinkers in the Western world, as well as some of those from non-Western traditions, such as Taoism, Confucianism, Zen Buddhism, and Hinduism. Through these perspectives we will investigate questions about our ability to gain knowledge; our understanding of time; the nature and existence of the self and—if it does exist—its relation to the world; how we ought to act and why; and many other topics, the examinations of which are vital to our continued understanding and concept formation as individuals, and a species. By continually presenting to ourselves the methods by which others have sought to solve problems in the past, we give ourselves the tools and opportunity to refine our own problem solving skills, to hone the way that we think, and adapt to new data, new situations, and new concepts. This course will be your first step in that refinement.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Philosophy 2200, Ways of Knowing, has six major learning objectives.

At the end of the course each student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a basic understanding of the major figures, themes, and movements from the history of philosophy through reading, exams, and writing assignments;
2. 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 activities, exams, and writings assignments;
3. Identify and employ philosophical language, analysis, and argumentation by participating in dialogue and writing expository compositions;
4. Critically examine her/his own social, cultural, and historical situation and its effects on individual and national beliefs about the self, others, and the world through evaluating an discussing the social and historical origins and implications of those positions;
5. Research, critically formulate, and present evaluative appraisals of contemporary social and ethical issues through open discussion and writing assignments; and
6. 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.

REQUIRED TEXTS:


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

SPECIFIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Schedule of Assignments and due dates on following pages.

GRADE COMPOSITION:

- MIDTERM EXAM 15%
- SHORT ESSAYS 15%
- TERM PAPER 30%
- FINAL EXAM 30%
- PARTICIPATION/ATTENDANCE 10%
- TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS: 100%

HOW COURSE GRADE IS CALCULATED:

1. In general, the course grade is figured on a ten-point scale [90—100 = A; < 60 = F].
2. Note that the two essays and two exams are unequally weighted, in order to credit improvement.
3. *Essays make up 45% of the total course grade.*
4. In addition to attaining a 60 or better overall grade, students must demonstrate that they have learned certain key concepts (such as those listed under the course objectives above). Therefore, *in order to pass the course, students must also (a) earn a 60 or better on at least one of the exams and (b) complete the three major assignments (which include the final exam and both essays).* For example, a student who earned a 70 in the course but did not turn in a second essay would fail the course.

ESSAYS

1. Philosophy 2200 is designed to be a writing-intensive course, thus keep in mind the recommendation that students should have already completed any ESL and English composition classes before taking this course.
2. *The essays together will constitute 45% of the course grade.*
3. One one- to two-page essay, approximately 300-500 words in length, will be due each week. Details TBA
4. The Term Paper will be written outside of class, approximately 1200—1500 words in length. Details TBA
5. Topics, format and grade sheet guidelines will be provided in class.

PAPER DESCRIPTION: Your final paper should be 1200—1300 words. Each component of your paper will be typed in 12 point font, Times New Roman, and double spaced. Failure to correctly format your paper proposal, draft, and/or final paper will result in a 10 point penalty on the individual assignment. You will be required to demonstrate that you can critically evaluate one of the theories discussed in class through one of the following methods: (1) Compare and contrast two different philosophical schools (2) Critically examine your own social, cultural, and historical situation and its effects on one of the beliefs held in your society by evaluating the origins of that position in light of our discussions (3) Evaluate a contemporary social and ethical issue in light of one of the positions we have discussed. Paper topics may vary according to your interests, but must specifically fulfill one of the three methods listed above. If you have trouble finding a paper topic, one will be assigned to you. Your paper proposal should: be 300-400 words, describe the topic you will discuss, describe your critical evaluation of the topic, include an outline of the paper, and include a bibliography. In addition you will be required to turn in a rough draft of your paper. Therefore, a draft of your paper is a necessary requirement for passing the essay. Paper proposals and rough draft are necessary for a passing grade on the paper. I will not accept any final papers without a proposal and a draft already turned in. This means that if you fail to turn in a paper proposal and a draft, you will receive a failing grade on the paper. More details on the specific requirements of the essay will be discussed in class. Paper proposals, drafts, and final paper will be turned in at the beginning of the class in which they are due.

RESPONSE PAPERS: There will be several critical responses due throughout the semester. The due dates are listed on the tentative schedule, but are subject to change which will be announced in class. It is your responsibility to keep up with any changes made to the schedule and due dates of assignments. You must turn in a printed copy of your response at the beginning of class on which it is due. I will not accept late or hand written critical responses for any reason. The critical responses should be at a minimum one page and not exceed two pages. 10 points will be deducted for not meeting the minimum page requirement or exceeding the page requirement. The critical responses will require that you explain a specific argument in support of a certain position that one of the philosophers holds that we are discussing in that two week time frame and give a critical response of that argument. The lowest three grades will be dropped. The critical responses should be in this format:

1. Briefly explain the concepts discussed. Be sure to include at least two quotes.
2. Critique two arguments given about the concept. Your critique can take many forms: contradictions arise in the position, there is a logical gap in the argument, etc. It is not appropriate to critique positions on the basis of later scientific findings.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Daily attendance is expected and recorded. Any student missing more than THREE class periods will have their grade lowered by one point for each absence.

MAKE-UP EXAM POLICY:
1. Make-up exams for the midterm or exams other than the final are not guaranteed and are possible only in cases of well-documented emergency.
2. Short essays cannot be made up for any reason.

LATENESS POLICY on assignments: The Term Paper will have its grade reduced one letter for each school day it is late. If a paper is due on Thursday, it will be counted one day late on Friday, two days late on Monday
and three days late on Tuesday. Hence, turning in an “A” paper on Tuesday that had been due the previous Thursday will result in a grade of “D.”

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY: 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).

The Department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (SCAI) is here to assist you in dealing with any student academic honesty issues you may have. In this role, we gather and centralize reports of student misconduct (we are the office to which you should send reports of academic dishonesty), but we also want you to know that we work to assist you in preventing misconduct in the first place. Academic dishonesty at KSU, and elsewhere is a serious problem, and tolerance of it undercuts the purpose of the university to educate. Our website can be found at https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/ (and it contains information specifically designed for both faculty members, https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/general-information-0 and students, https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/general-information).

OTHER NOTES OF IMPORTANCE:
1. Anything in this syllabus is subject to change at the instructor’s discretion, with adequate notice.
2. Check your email and the class webpage daily. These will be the best places to find posted any changes in assignments, due dates or office hours.
3. Some General Academic Hints and Tips:
   ■ Read assignments both before and after the accompanying lectures to get the most out of the material.
   ■ Formulate thoughtfully and carefully any questions you have during class.
   ■ Engage in, but do not monopolize class discussion. Make your point briefly and then give others the chance to speak. The instructor is available during office hours for extended questions or topics of greater depth.
   ■ Do not interrupt the instructor or your classmates, except by raising your hand if you have a question or comment. Thoughtful listening is one of the best ways to learn.
   ■ Do not talk or write emails when your instructor or classmates are speaking. It is discourteous and distracting to others. If you have a question, ask the instructor, not the person sitting next to you.
   ■ Bring tissue and cover your mouth & nose when coughing or sneezing [this can help reduce incidence of flu by 72%].
   ■ No phones, beepers, other electronic devices, or noisemakers are to be used in the classroom. If you carry a device, it should be silenced before entering the room. Devices going off during class will result in points deducted from the final grade for each occurrence.
**PROJECTED SCHEDULE:** Note that ASSIGNMENTS AND DUE DATES ARE TENTATIVE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Due</th>
<th>Graded Assignments</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01/13/12</td>
<td>Syllabus Overview; Intro to Philosophy Ethics: What should we do?</td>
<td>Have read pp. 1 — 23 in <em>Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction</em>.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/20/12</td>
<td>-Ethics, continued: What do I owe to others?</td>
<td>Have read pp. 177 — 220 in <em>Thinking it Through</em></td>
<td>Signed Syllabus Sheets Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-Epistemology, conclusion</td>
<td>Have read pp. 35 — 44 in <em>Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction</em></td>
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<td>02/03/12</td>
<td>-Philosophy of Mind: What Is the Self?</td>
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<tr>
<td>02/10/12</td>
<td>-Philosophy of Mind: Is there an “I?” What is the Mind?</td>
<td>Have read pp. 1-38 in <em>Thinking it Through</em></td>
<td>Epistemology Response Papers Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/17/12</td>
<td>-Metaphysics: What is Reality?</td>
<td>Have read pp. 299—323 in <em>Thinking it Through</em></td>
<td>Philosophy of Mind Response Papers Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/24/12</td>
<td>-Metaphysics, conclusion</td>
<td>Have read pp. 324—337 in <em>Thinking it Through</em></td>
<td>Metaphysics Response Papers Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/02/12</td>
<td>Test 1</td>
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<td>Test 1</td>
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<td>03/09/12</td>
<td>SPRING</td>
<td></td>
<td>Test 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>03/12/12</td>
<td>LAST DAY TO</td>
<td>WITHDRAW WITHOUT PENALTY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/16/12</td>
<td>Eastern Philosophies: Hinduism</td>
<td>Have read the “Indra's Net” and Leibniz Handouts</td>
<td>Hinduism Response Papers Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/23/12</td>
<td>Term Paper Discussion Eastern Philosophies:</td>
<td>Have read the Chuang-Tzu Handouts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Reading Assignment</td>
<td>Due Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>03/30/12</td>
<td>Eastern Philosophies: Taoism</td>
<td>have read The Lao-Tzu Handouts</td>
<td>04/06/12</td>
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<tr>
<td>04/06/12</td>
<td>Eastern Philosophies: Zen Buddhism</td>
<td>have read the Zen Stories Handouts.</td>
<td>Taoism Response Papers Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/13/12</td>
<td>Eastern Philosophies: Zen Buddhism continued</td>
<td>have read The Gateless Gate Handouts.</td>
<td>Zen Stories Response Papers Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/20/12</td>
<td>Why Philosophy?</td>
<td>have read pp. 100—118 in Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction and pp 339—359 in Thinking it Through</td>
<td>The Gateless Gate Response Papers Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/27/12</td>
<td>Why Philosophy?</td>
<td>have read pp 360—372 in Thinking it Through</td>
<td>Term Paper due (1200—1300 words)</td>
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I have read and received a copy of the syllabus and realize that I need to check my email daily for assignment changes or other information.

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DATE________________________

SIGNATURE