Course Syllabus

Instructor: Zane Yi  
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Office: Social Sciences Building (22), #4120  
Office Hours: MW, 9:30am-10:30pm and by appointment

Course Description:

“Philosophy,” it has been said, “begins with wonder” (Plato, *Theaetetus*). As humans, we wonder about the world we inhabit, about ourselves, and the lives that we live. This class is designed to introduce students to some of the classical philosophical questions regarding knowledge and reality. We will examine the views of important figures in the history of philosophy, such as Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Descartes, Locke, Hume, Kant, and Sartre and the contexts in which these thinkers lived. The systematic focus on the issues these figures address is intended to help students become more philosophically informed and better critical and self-reflective thinkers.

Prerequisites: None

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course students should be able to:

- Understand basic philosophical terms and concepts
- Identify and engage philosophical arguments
- Identify key philosophical figures and their views
- Understand the historical contexts of philosophers and their ideas
- Critically read, assess and interact with original works of philosophers
- Articulate their own views through clear, effective writing

Required Text(s)

Steven M. Cahn, ed. *Classics of Western Philosophy*, 7th ed. (Hackett, 2007)  
(ISBN 0-87220-89-1)

All other readings that will be available through VISTA.

Course Work/Expectations

*Attendance and Participation:* Students are expected to participate in each class. Obviously, participation requires attendance. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class by reading quizzes. (See below.)
Four unexcused absences will result in failure of the course. An excused absence is an absence due to university related activities, personal illness (verified by a doctor's note), family emergency, religious holiday, required military duty, etc. It is the responsibility of the student to communicate the reason for an absence, if they wish it excused, no more than one week after the missed class.

If a student is late to class, and misses the reading quiz, the student should submit a quiz sheet with his/her name and date on it at the end of class to receive attendance credit.

Beyond regular attendance, students are expected to be adequately prepared for each class by having assigned reading completed before class and by bringing a copy of the assigned readings/text to each class.

Active participation will be considered in the calculation of the final grade, particularly when the student is on the cusp between two grades. Indications of active participation are regular involvement in classroom discussion, as well as, continued discussion about the material; this can take place on-line via e-mail or the VISTA discussion board, after class, or during office hours.

During class, students are expected to refrain from cellphone and smartphone use (please turn off ringers), eating, and reading/working on materials that are unrelated to this course. Infractions of this stipulation will negatively affect the participation grade.

Reading quizzes: Reading should mirror the schedule below. Reading quizzes will be given at the beginning of class and will ask basic questions from the assigned readings. Quizzes may not be made up due to tardiness or unexcused absences. At the end of the semester the lowest quiz grade will be dropped. On certain days, the instructor reserves the right not to give a quiz. There will be a minimum of six (6), 2 point, reading quizzes given throughout the semester.

Critical Essays: Each student will write two (2) critical essays by the end of the semester. Each essay should be a maximum of 1250 words in length (3-4 pages). Essay(s) should demonstrate an understanding of crucial philosophical ideas, succinctly summarizing and citing relevant readings or figures. Secondly, essays should also critically engage these ideas and the author's argument(s), expressing a student's agreement or disagreement with the author and why. Papers should be double-spaced, with one-inch margins, and written in 12pt. Times New Roman font. Points will be deducted for failing to abide by these guidelines.

Students must submit one critical summary from two different historical periods/areas that are covered in this course—ancient, medieval, modern/contemporary.

Further instructions on these essays will be provided as the semester progresses.

Essays are due on at the beginning of the classes indicated below. All papers should be submitted through www.turnitin.com, which detects for plagiarism.

Late Work: All papers are due at the beginning of the class specified. This means papers should be uploaded before the beginning of class. Otherwise it is considered late, resulting in a loss of points (1 point a day) for each day the paper is late.
Exams: Two (2) exams, including the final exam, will be administered throughout the semester as scheduled below. The exams will be combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. The mid-term exam will cover the first half of the semester and the final will cover the second half. The final exam will not be comprehensive. Both exams will be equally weighted.

All students must take the final exam at the scheduled time. Missed exams cannot be made up, unless due to exceptional circumstances. Please plan holiday travel times and work schedules accordingly.

E-mail Policy

E-mails will normally be answered within 24 hours during the week, but may not be on weekends or over holidays. All emails should be properly addressed and signed with the student's first and last names. The subject line of each email should read, “PHIL 2200.01--” followed by the subject matter to be discussed.

Grading

Exams: 50%  Reading Quizzes: 10%
Critical Essays: 25%
Attendance and Participation: 15%

Grading Scale

Kennesaw State University uses the following scale to determine final letter grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>Excellent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>Satisfactory/Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>Below Average/Barely passing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;59</td>
<td>Failing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Class Schedule

* Ancient and Medieval Philosophy *

| Week 1      | 1/9     | Introduction and syllabus  |
|            | 1/11    | The Pre-Socratics Vista |
|            |         | “What Is a Philosopher?” Vista |

| Week 2      | 1/16    | Martin Luther King Day – No class |
|            | 1/18    | The Buddha Dharmapada Vista |

| Week 3      | 1/23    | Socrates Apology 1-2; 29-34 |
|            | 1/25    | Socrates Apology 35-41 |
Week 4
1/30  Plato  *Crito*  42-48
2/1   Plato  *Meno*  58-62; 68-70

Week 5
2/6   Plato  *The Republic*  150-154 (Paper #1 due)
2/8   Plato  *The Republic*  158-162

Week 6
2/13  Aristotle  *Physics, Book II*  178-179; 200-204
2/15  Aquinas  *Summa Theologiae*  452-53, 455-456

Week 7
2/20  Mid-term review
2/22  Mid-term exam

Spring break

*Modern Philosophy*

Week 8
3/12  Descartes  *Meditations*  482-83; 490-492
3/14  Descartes  *Meditations*  496-503 (Paper #2 due)

Week 9
3/19  Descartes  *Meditations*  492-496
3/21  Descartes  *Meditations*  503-506

Week 10
3/26  Locke  *An Essay Concerning*  627-28, 630-633
3/28  Locke  *Human Understanding*  637-640

Week 11
4/2   Hume  *An Enquiry Concerning*  761-762; 770-773
4/4   Hume  *Human Understanding*  822-828 (Paper #3 due)

Week 12
4/9   Kant  *Critique of Pure Reason*  903-04; 918-921
4/11  Kant  *Critique of Pure Reason*  921-927

Week 13
4/16  Sartre  *Existentialism*  1190-1204
4/18  de Beauvoir  *The Second Sex*  Vista

Week 14
4/23  Peirce  *The Fixation of Belief*  1115-1125
4/25  James  *The Will to Believe*  1137-36, 1149-1160

Week 15
4/30  Last day – Final exam review
5/2   **Final Exam**  (8:00am-10:00am)

*Academic Integrity and Discipline*

The Kennesaw State University’s Student Code of Conduct states:

*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).

An all too common form of cheating is plagiarism, i.e. cutting and pasting a portion of a website into your paper. If you have any questions of if something counts as plagiarism, it is better to be safe than sorry; check with your instructor and always cite where you are getting your information.

The KSU Student Code of Conduct also states:

Any student found to have violated any KSU academic honesty regulation after a hearing before a university hearing panel or before a hearing officer shall be suspended for at least one semester, unless the student persuades the deciding body or hearing officer that the circumstances of his or her behavior substantially mitigate the gravity of the violation.

In other words, do not cheat or plagiarize. It is taken very seriously! You will fail this class if you are caught doing so and will also be reported to administration.

*The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus to better promote the learning objectives of this course and to make exceptions to the stated policy when appropriate and in such a way to preserve fairness to all students.