PHIL 2200
Ways of Knowing
Semester: Spring 2013
Location: Burruss Building, Room 383
Time: MWF 12-12:50

Instructor: Adam Knowles
Email: aknowl11@kennesaw.edu
Phone: 
Office: SO 4005
Office Hours: MWF 1-2, or by appointment. I am also able to meet before or after class and electronically.

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.

Learning Objectives:

PHIL 2200 satisfies one of Kennesaw State University’s general education program requirements. It addresses the Critical Thinking learning outcome. The learning outcome states: Students articulate a position on an issue and support it by evaluating evidence relevant to the position, considering opposing positions or evidence, and evaluating the implications and/or consequences of the issue. For more information about KSU’s General Education program requirements and associated learning outcomes, please visit http://catalog.kennesaw.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=10&poid=704

Required Reading and Materials:

The following list of books should be purchased for the class. The books are available at the campus bookstore and are readily available used for a low price online. If you choose to purchase the books online, do so only if you are certain that the books can be shipped and will arrive before the date of the assigned reading.

3. René Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy* (Hackett) • **ISBN-10:** 0872201929 • **ISBN-13:** 978-0872201927
5. Friedrich Nietzsche, *Twilight of the Idols, Or, How to Philosophize With the Hammer* • **ISBN-10:** 0872203549 • **ISBN-13:** 978-0872203549
7. W.E.B. DuBois, *Souls of Black Folk* (Dover Publications) **ASIN:** B004T3UICO
8. Immanuel Kant, *What is Enlightenment?* (Distributed as PDF)
9. Purchase TWO blue books!

**Attendance Policy:**
Attendance is a required component of this course and an attendance sheet will be circulated in every class. Students are granted TWO unexcused absences. After these two absences, two points will be deducted from the final grade for every additional two absences. Thus, for example, a final grade of 91 would be reduced to 89 for a student with four absences. Students who must miss more than two classes due to extenuating circumstances should contact the instructor.

**Electronic Devices Policy:**
Students must bring the **printed** texts to class. Reading the text from laptops, tablets or smartphones is not allowed. Laptops and tablets are allowed solely for the purpose of taking notes. Cell phone use in class is strictly prohibited.

**Course Assessments/Assignments:**

1. **Class participation** (10%): class attendance is vital to your learning as well as to maintaining a productive environment for discussion. Regular and informed participation in class is essential to this course, since it is vital to your learning and to maintaining a productive discussion environment. This course will teach you to improve you verbal argumentative skills and also teach you to assess constructively the arguments of others. Those students who are uncomfortable with speaking in class are encouraged to meet me during my office hours to discuss alternative forms of participation.

2. **Midterm Exam** (25%): The midterm exam is given in class and will test all of the material covered up until that point in the class. The exam will consist of essay questions. Students are required to purchase a blue book from the campus bookstore and bring the blue book with them on the day of the midterm. The blue books will be collected and redistributed on the day of the exam.
3. **Thought Paper (30%)**: The thought paper is conceptualized as an exercise in close reading. The paper will be on a topic of the student’s choosing based on the readings up to that point in the class. The goal of the final paper is to demonstrate a subtle and informed understanding of some portion of the class readings. Ideally, a final paper will be very focused and will attempt to explain one paragraph, one sentence, or even one word in some portion of the text, or to answer a particularly perplexing question. Additional sources can be employed to strengthen your argument, but this should not distract from the main task of executing a very close reading of a particular passage through your own thoughts and in your own words.

You are encouraged to choose a passage that is of interest to you, and you are encouraged to do so as early as possible. By choosing your topic early, you can begin to follow its development through the readings as the semester progresses. Once you have an idea, have it approved by me, or come to me if you need help finding an idea. Students are encouraged to come to my office hours as soon as possible.

Length: 5 pages. The papers must use 12-pt Times New Roman font and must be submitted through Turnitin.com. More detailed instructions about submission will follow.

4. **Final Exam (35%)**: the final exam is given in class and, while it will focus primarily on the material covered after the midterm, students will also be expected to prepare for cumulative questions that cover the entirety of the class. The exam will consist of essay questions. Students are required to purchase a blue book from the campus bookstore on the day of the midterm. The blue books will be collected and redistributed on the day of the exam.

**Grading:**

- Participation 10%
- Midterm Exam 25%
- Thought Paper 30%
- Final Exam 35%

**Grading Scale**

Students are evaluated on the following scale:

100-90%=A; 89-80%=B; 79-70%=C; 69-60%=D; 59% and below=F

I—Indicates an incomplete grade for the course, and will be awarded only when the student has done satisfactory work up to the last two weeks of the semester, but for nonacademic reasons beyond his/her control is unable to meet the full requirements of the course. Incomplete grades are only valid after submission of the Incomplete Grade form (signed by both the instructor and student) to the Department Chair’s office.
**Academic Honesty:**
The high quality of education at Kennesaw State University is reflected in the credits and degrees its students earn. The protection of high standards of academic integrity is crucial since the validity and equity of the University's grades and degrees depend upon it.

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).

Students suspected of violating the KSU statement of Academic Honesty will meet with the instructor to discuss the violation AND will be reported to the Department of Student Conduct according to the process outlined at the following link:

https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/scai-misconduct-procedures

Websites with helpful links on how to avoid plagiarism include the following:

http://plagiarism.org/
http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml
http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html

**ADA Compliance:**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Public Law 101-336, gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities. This statute guarantees equal opportunity for this protected group in the areas of public accommodations, employment, transportation, state and local government services and telecommunications.

Should you require assistance or have further questions about the ADA, please contact: Ms. Carol Pope, ADA Compliance Officer for Students 770-423-6443.

**Course Schedule:**

Tentative Schedule of Topics:

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<th>Week or Date</th>
<th>Topic:</th>
<th>Readings and Assignments</th>
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<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 9&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Intro. Session</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 11&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>What is Philosophy?</td>
<td>Plato, <em>Gorgias</em></td>
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<td>Jan. 14&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; – Jan. 18&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Knowledge, Truth and Virtue: Philosophy and Sophistry</td>
<td>Plato, <em>Gorgias</em></td>
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<td>Jan. 21&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; – 25&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Wisdom and Prudence: Knowledge, Calculation and Ethics</td>
<td>Aristotle, <em>Nicomachean Ethics</em></td>
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<td>Jan. 28&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; – Feb 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>Aristotle, <em>Nicomachean Ethics</em></td>
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<td>Aristotle, <em>Nicomachean Ethics</em></td>
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<td>Feb. 11&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; – 15&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Skepticism and Knowledge of the Self</td>
<td>Descartes, <em>Meditations</em></td>
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<td>Feb. 18&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; – 22&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>Descartes, <em>Meditations</em></td>
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<td>Feb. 25&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; – Mar. 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Reason and Enlightenment: In Search of Universal Knowledge</td>
<td>Immanuel Kant, <em>What is Enlightenment?</em></td>
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<td>Feb 20&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;: Exam Review</td>
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<td>Feb 22&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;: Midterm Exam</td>
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<td>Spring Break</td>
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<td>Mar. 11&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; – 15&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Knowledge and Faith</td>
<td>Kierkegaard, <em>Fear and Trembling</em></td>
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<td>Mar. 13&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; – Last Day to Drop without Academic Penalty</td>
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<td>Mar. 18&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; – 22&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>Kierkegaard, <em>Fear and Trembling</em></td>
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<td>Mar. 25&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; – 29&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Knowledge and Power: Against Enlightenment</td>
<td>Nietzsche, <em>Twilight of the Idols</em></td>
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<td>Nietzsche, <em>Twilight of the Idols</em></td>
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<td>Apr. 8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; – 12&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Knowledge and Race</td>
<td>W.E.B. DuBois, <em>The</em></td>
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<td>Apr. 15th – 19th</td>
<td><em>Souls of Black Folk</em></td>
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| Apr. 22nd – Apr. 26th | *Knowledge, Power and Discourse*  
Michel Foucault, *Interview (PDF)*  
Edward Said, *Orientalism* |
| Apr. 29th – May 1st | *Knowledge, Power and the “Other”*  
Edward Said, *Orientalism* |
| May 2nd – 8th       | FINAL EXAM – Monday May 6th, 1 pm – 3 pm                                       |