PHIL 2200  
Ways of Knowing  
Semester: Spring 2013  
Location: Social Sciences Building 2033  
Time: Tuesday, Thursday 12:30-1:45pm

Instructor: Bryan Russell  
Email: brusse24@kennesaw.edu (preferred method of contact)  
Phone: 770.423.6294 (department office can take a message)  
Office: Social Sciences Building #22, Room 4005  
Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 10:45-11:45am

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:


Class Format:  
The class will be a combination of lecture and *heavy* discussion. This format demands that students be well prepared for class. You do not have to understand all the readings before class, but you do need to read all the readings before class and be prepared to ask questions about what you do not understand.
**Attendance Policy:**
None

**Electronic Devices Policy:**
No lap tops, cell phones, PDAs, pagers, other computers, or other electronic devices may be used in the classroom. If you carry such a device, it should be turned off before class begins.

**Grading:**

**Grade Calculations**

1. Exam One: 30%
2. Exam Two: 30%
3. Exam Three: 30%
4. Participation: 10%

The exams will consist mainly of essay questions I will give you before the exam, plus a few short answers and/or multiple-choice. Also, in my lectures, I will be presupposing that you've done the reading for that class. I may occasionally have a short quiz at the beginning of class on the reading assignment for that day. If you've done the reading with a little care, these quizzes should pose no problem for you.

**Grading Scale**
Students are evaluated on the following scale:

- A - 90-100%
- B - 80-89%
- C - 70-79%
- D - 60-69%
- F - <69%

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

The usual and customary departmental penalty for plagiarism, cheating on a test, copying someone else’s exercises or other work, letting someone else copy your exercises or other work, or any other form of academic dishonesty is failure of the course. Moreover, you are liable for further administrative action, which might include expulsion with notation on your permanent record.

**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:
NB: This tentative schedule is tentative; there will almost certainly be some deviations from it. Unless otherwise noted, all readings will be from *Reason and Responsibility, 14th edition*.

**Thursday, January 10**

*What is philosophy? A brief overview.* (Plus course mechanics.)

**Week 1 (January 15, 17)**

*What are arguments, and how should we evaluate them?*

Reading
1. From Jim Pryor’s website, descriptions of *what an argument is*, of *vocabulary describing arguments*, and of *some good and bad arguments*.

**Part One - Epistemology**

**Week 2 (January 22, 24)**

*The Method of Modern Philosophy*

Reading
1. Rene Descartes “Meditations on First Philosophy” (p. 182)

**Part Two - Metaphysics**

**Week 3 (January 29, 31)**

*The Existence of God: The Problem of Evil*

Reading
1. Fyodor Dostoevsky “Rebellion” (p. 86)
2. Richard Swinburne “Why God Allows Evil” (p. 105)
Week 4 (February 5, 7)

Is Death Annihilation?

Reading

2. Samuel Clarke, proposition IV of “A discourse concerning the unalterable obligations of natural religion, and the truth and certainty of the Christian revelation”
3. David Hume, “The Immortality of the Soul”

Week 5 (February 12, 14) - Exam Week

Monday, September 17 - Exam Workshop

Wednesday, September 19; Friday, September 21 - Exam 1

Week 6 (February 19, 21)

Is Death Bad?

Reading

1. Selections from Epicurus
3. Thomas Nagel, “Death”

Week 7 (February 26, 28)

Do We Have Free Will?

Reading

1. Paul Holbach, “The Illusion of Free Will”

Week 8 (March 12, 14)

Do We Have Free Will?

Reading

1. Robert Kane, “Free Will: Ancient Dispute, New Themes”

N.B. March 13th is the last date to withdraw without academic penalty
Week 9 (March 19, 21)

Do We Have Free Will?

Reading

2. Derk Pereboom “Why We Have No Free Will and Can Live Without It” (p. 456)

Week 10 (March 26, 28) - Exam Week

Monday, October 29 – Exam Workshop

Wednesday, October 31; Friday, November 2 – Exam 2

Part Three - Ethics

Week 11 (April 2, 4)

Utilitarianism

Reading

1. John Stuart Mill, “Utilitarianism” (p. 597)

Week 12 (April 9, 11)

Deontology

Reading

1. Immanuel Kant, “The Good Will & The Categorical Imperative” (p. 590)

Week 13 (April 16, 18)

Virtue Ethics

Reading

2. Selections from Confucius, “The Analects”
Week 14 (April 23, 25)

Ethical Problems

Reading

3. Peter Singer, “Famine, Affluence, and Morality” (p. 630)
4. Friedrich Nietzsche, “Master and Slave Morality” (p. 547)

Week 15 (April 30)

Tuesday, April 30 – Exam Workshop

Final

Tuesday, May 7 at 1pm