Philosophy 2200 Ways of Knowing
Course Description, Spring 2013

Instructor: Joe Johnson
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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.

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


ATTENDANCE: Attendance is mandatory, though it is not used in calculating the course grade. (It is assumed!) You will not be able to do well without complete attendance. Responsibility for material covered while absent is your sole responsibility.

GRADING: There will be five exams, each worth 20% of the final grade, all of which must be completed in order to receive course credit. (Even if you do well on four exams but miss one, credit will not be given.) The fifth exam will be administered at the assigned time during exam week. Exams will include multiple-choice, short answer, and/or essay questions. Study questions will be provided in advance. Makeup exams will be given only in the case of unavoidable and dire circumstances. If not arranged in advance, prompt notification—i.e., within the same day—by e-mail or voice message must be given, along with verification of excuse at the next class. Acceptance of excuses is at my sole discretion. There will be no extra-credit assignments; rather, you should wholeheartedly focus on the material at each stage of the course, raising your grade by doing as well as possible on the next exam, as needs be.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: 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).
Part I: Plato’s Epistemology, Metaphysics, and Ethics
14.1.1 Plato, from *Meno* (—epistemology)
14.1.2 Plato, from *Theaetetus* (—epistemology)
19.1.1 Plato, from *Republic* (—metaphysics; Forms)
9.1.1 Plato, from *Phaedo* (—philosophy, body, immortality, Forms)

EXAM 1 ( )

Part II: Ethics
3.3.1 Aristotle, from *Nichomachean Ethics*
5.2.1 David Hume, from *A Treatise of Human Nature* (—From *Is* to *Ought*)
5.3.1 Immanuel Kant, from *Fundamental Principles of the Metaphysics of Morals*
5.5.1 John Stuart Mill, from *Utilitarianism*

EXAM 2 ( )

Part III: Rationalism, Empiricism, Personal Identity
16.1.1 René Descartes, from *Meditations on First Philosophy* (Meditation I)
10.1.1 René Descartes, from *Meditations on First Philosophy* (Meditation II)
20.1.1 René Descartes, from *Meditations on First Philosophy* (Meditation VI)
10.2.2 Princess Elizabeth, Letter to Descartes--The Hague, June 20, 1643
10.2.3 Princess Elizabeth, Letter to Descartes--The Hague, July 1, 1643
16.2.1 John Locke, from *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (—Empiricism)
10.3.1 John Locke, from *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (—Personal Identity)
10.4.1 David Hume, from *A Treatise of Human Nature* (—The Constructed Self)

EXAM 3 ( )

Part IV: Philosophical Theology
23.2.1 Anselm, from *Proslogion*
25.3.1 Thomas Aquinas, from *Summa Theologica*
25.5.1 David Hume, from *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*
21.4.2 Friedrich Nietzsche, from *The Cheerful Science*

EXAM 4 ( )

Part V: Comparative Philosophy: Hinduism & Buddhism
Hinduism
1.1.1 *Karma* and *Dharma* in Hindu Thought
7.1.1 From the *Bhadaranyaka Upanishad*
7.1.2 From the *Chandogya Upanishad*
7.1.6 From the *Taittiriya Upanishad*
7.1.7 From the *Katha Upanishad*

Buddhism
1.3.1 The Buddha, from *The First Sermon*
7.3.1 From *Questions to King Milinda*
8.3.1 From the *Heart Sutra*
8.3.2 From *The Recorded Conversations of Zen Master Yixuan*

EXAM 5 ( )