Philosophy 2200: Ways of Knowing
Gabriel Soldatenko, Asst. Prof. of Philosophy
TTH 3:30-4:45, Room: SO 2035, Spring 2013

Office Hours: Wednesday 8:00-9:00, Tuesday 8:00-10:00, and by appointment.
Social Science #4091

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Course Description: “Ways of Knowing” is meant to introduce students to philosophy as a practical activity, or vocation. That is, to answer the questions; what is the purpose of philosophy? And, what does it mean to be a philosopher? Or, put another way, to think and explore philosophy as a tool for life. To that end, this course will provide students with a general picture of the history of Western philosophy, some of its major figures, and its core themes. In addition, this general understanding of the discipline of philosophy will be tempered by a brief investigation of Non-Western traditions (particularly those of Amerindian and Latin American origin), and feminist critiques.

Text: All course materials will be provided through Georgia View. Note that the cost you save in in not having to buy books may be incurred through printing and photocopying.

Course Requirements: Over the course of the semester students
- will bring the days reading to class according to the schedule on the syllabus and/or
  the professor's instructions;
- will actively engage the course material and participate in the class discussion; and
- will attend class regularly, even if attendance is not taken.

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of the course students will have
- a general knowledge of the social context and history of Western philosophical thought;
- a general understanding of the major themes and concepts that have come to constitute the discipline of philosophy;
- an appreciation for the critical contributions made by those who were historically denied the capacity to reason;
- an understanding of the relationship of philosophy to other disciplines and areas of inquiry; and
- an understanding of philosophy as a vocation and praxis.

Evaluation: There will be four in-class writing exams covering each of the major sections of the course. Each will be worth 22% of your grade. The other 12% of your grade will be an evaluation of students’ in-class participation, movie summaries (three are required), and short writing assignments.
Exam Grading: Typically, exams will contain ten to fifteen short-answer questions, and each question will be graded on a scale from one to five. The following is the rubric by which the exam questions will be graded:

1- Major inaccuracies; major elements/issues not even mentioned; and, little or no details, examples, or discussion.
2- Major confusions or gaps; little effort to describe elements; and, limited use of details or examples.
3- Accurately identifies most general parts of an answer; some serious confusions; and, superficial discussion with some detail and use of examples.
4- Accurately identifies most of the elements of an answer; some minor confusions; and, discussion and examples not as strong as they could be.
5- Clearly and accurately identifies all the elements of an answer; and, strong use of examples and details.

Extra Credit: You may acquire extra credit, but all exams must have been completed to receive points. Extra credit is obtained by completing a 500-word summary of any philosophically relevant lecture you attended at KSU or off campus (check with instructor for eligibility). A summary is an objective (no critique) account of the presenter’s main ideas that also includes the specific details of when and where the event took place, who spoke, and the title of the speaker’s presentation.

Academic Integrity Statement: Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct. Section II of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the University’s policy on academic honesty, including but not limited to provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, and misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the University Judiciary Program.

Absence Policy: There are no excused absences in college. Students are responsible for making up class by conferring with classmates (i.e. getting notes and discussing the main topics of conversation). Students are responsible for all material covered: readings, lectures, and documentary presentations. I will allow make-up exams only if I’m contacted at least two days prior to the exam date.

Schedule of Readings:

January 10: Introduction: Philosophy as a “discipline”, “method”, and “praxis”

The Western Philosophical Tradition


“The Spiritual Universe of the Polis”

January 17: Vernant conversation continued


“Euthyphro”
   “Apology”
   “Crito”

January 24: Michel Foucault, *Fearless Speech* (Semiotext(e): Los Angeles, 2001)
   “The Word Parrhesia”

   “Aristotle: Metaphysics, Natural Science, Logic” (particularly pgs. 214-243)

January 31: Aristotle continued

   “Aristotle: Ethics, Politics, Art” (particularly pgs. 255-287)
   Exam Review

February 7: Exam #1


   “Meditations” (1-3)

   “Meditations” (4-6)

            Heidegger* (Mayfield Publishing: Mountain View, CA, 1999)
   “Immanuel Kant: Rehabilitating Reason (within Strict Limits)”
   (with particular emphasis on pgs. 433-449)

February 26: Kant continued

   “On the Prejudice of Philosophers”
   “The Free Spirit”

   **Spring Break** (no class March 5th and 7th)

   Exam Review

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March 14: Exam #2
Last Day to Withdraw

Non-Western Philosophy


March 21: No Class

March 26: Latin American Identity and Constructions of Difference (University of Minnesota: Minneapolis, 1994)
Enrique Dussel, “A Nahuatl Interpretation of the Conquest”

Enrique Dussel, “Eurocentrism and Modernity”

April 2: Dussel continued

“Overview”

April 9: Philosophy in Multiple Voices (Rowman and Littlefield: New York, 2007)
Lewis Gordon, “What is Afro-Caribbean Philosophy?”

April 11: Latin American Philosophy (Indiana University Press: Bloomington, IN, 2003)
Walter Mignolo, “Philosophy and the Colonial Difference”
Exam Review

April 16: Exam #3

Philosophy, Feminism, Gender, and Sexuality

April 18: Paula Gunn Allen, The Sacred Hoop: Recovering the Feminine in American Indian Traditions (Beacon Press: Boston, 1992)
“The Ways of Our Grandmothers”

“Introduction”
“Oppression”
“Sexism”

April 25: Frye continued

April 30: James Baldwin, Collected Essays
“Freaks and the American Ideal of Manhood”
Audre Lorde, *Sister Outsider*
“Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic of Power”
Exam Review

May 7: Final Exam (3:30-5:30)