Instructor: Wendell G. McMurrain, Jr.
wmcumurra@kennesaw.edu
Dept. History & Philosophy
Office: SO 4005 :: 770–423–6294
Hours: M/W 1-2pm (by appointment)

Kennesaw State University
Spring Semester ’13
PHIL.2200/05
M/W 2pm – 3:15pm
Social Science Building 2028

“Ways of Knowing”

Course Description and Goals
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.

We will read and discuss some of the most important figures from the history of philosophy including: Plato, Descartes, Nietzsche, Bertrand Russell, Daisetz Suzuki, Gandhi, and many others. Topics covered will range from the nature of Free Will, the concept of Self; the existence of God, to philosophical bases of “truth.”

Course Requirements
Each student’s grade will be based upon:

1) Active and well-prepared class participation, including the completion of all readings before the class for which they are assigned. **Attendance is a requirement**, and students are responsible for all assignments. For every two (2) recorded class absences, there will be a deduction of one (1) letter grade from the Class Participation grade – 10% of overall grade.

2) Your grade will also be based on the completion and quality of three short “Thought Papers.” These are position papers in which you must state an opinion on a debate topic assigned by the Instructor (10% each) totaling 30% of the overall grade. Papers are due in-class on the dates assigned. All students’ paper submissions must be typed (12 pt./double spaced) and stapled. Late papers will be accepted, but assessed a penalty of one letter grade deducted for each additional class session.

3) Two, in-class essay examinations: a Midterm & Final Exam (30% each) totaling 60% of overall grade. You are required to supply a Large Exam Book (aka, Blue Book) for both exams, which will be collected and redistributed the day of the exam. **Exam Books** can be purchased from the KSU Bookstore for @ 35¢

Required Text: Kit R. Christensen, Philosophy and Choice (Second Edition), McGraw Hill.

Schedule and Reading List

*Philosophical Inquiry: “How and Why?”*

1/9: 1st day of classes
1/14: Intro to the Intro
1/16: Intro, pt.2 (vocabulary)
1/21: **MLK Holiday – no classes**
1/23: Russell, p.65 + *THOUGHT PAPER due*
1/28: “God Talk” (paradigms) **“There is no cure for birth or death save to enjoy the interval”** ~ George Santayana
1/30: Plato, “The Apology,” p.15
2/4: Boethius, p.28

*Epistemology*

2/6: Nietzsche, p.91
2/11: Peirce, p.94
2/13: (Locke) Descartes, p.111
2/18: Suzuki, 138
2/20: **FLREW, HARE, MITCHELL** (D2L)
2/25: Clifford & James, 151 --

2/27: **Midterm Exam**
Metaphysics
3/4-6: *Spring Break (no classes)*
3/11: Plato’s “Allegory,” 187
3/13: *Last Day to Withdraw*
3/18: Skinner & Stace, 247 & 252
3/20: SARTRE, 258
3/25: Sri Aurobindo, 243
3/27: The Bhagavad-Gita, 271
*THOUGHT PAPER due*
4/1: Anselm & Aquinas, 284 & 286
       Buber, 279
4/3: Christ, 311

Ethics & Morality
4/8: Benedict, 333
       Midgley, 337
4/10: *Intro to Ethics*
4/15: Bentham & Kant, 395 & 403
4/17: “Love & Death”
      *THOUGHT PAPER due*
4/22: Gandhi, 514
4/24: M.L.King, Jr., 473
5/1: Review for Final (+ open)
5/8: *Final Exam (1-3pm)*

*Note: This syllabus represents a general plan for the course; changes may be necessary as the semester progresses.*
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

Electronic Devices Policy
You must turn off your phones during class. Laptops are allowed, provided that they are being used for the purpose of note taking.

Course Assessments/Assignments
Note: The Department will host a day for makeup exams for students with excused absences to be held Friday, 26 April in SO 1019 at 11:00 am or 12:30 pm. Students must bring an ID to the makeup exam. This is not a required makeup solution. This is intended as a service provided by the department for our faculty.

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

Examples of Plagiarism Avoidance websites:
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.

Grading Scale & Rubric* (*Professor Susan Rouse, 2002)
Students are evaluated on the following scale:
A = (90-100), B = (80-89), C = (70-79), D = (60-69), F = (-59)
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.