Philosophy 2200: “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 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¢

Schedule and Reading List: All readings are posted on D2L

Philosophical Inquiry: “How and Why?”
1/9: 1st day of classes
1/14: Intro to the Intro, pt.1 “Follow your bliss”
1/16: Intro to the Intro, pt.2 (Vocabulary) ~ Joseph Campbell
1/21: Bertrand Russell, “The Value of Philosophy”
1/23: “God Talk” *THOUGHT PAPER 1 due

1/28: Plato, “The Apology” “There is no cure for birth or death
1/30: Boethius, from “The Consolation of Philosophy” save to enjoy the interval” ~ George Santayana

Epistemology
2/6: Peirce, “The Fixation of Belief”
2/11: Locke & Descartes (Certainty & Knowledge)
2/18: FLEW, HARE & MITCHELL
2/20: Clifford & James: “The Ethics of Belief” + “The Will to Believe”
2/25: Midterm Exam
Metaphysics
2/27: Visual Experience
3/11: B.F. Skinner & Walter Stace
3/13: Sartre, “existentialism”
3/18: Sri Aurobindo: “reincarnating soul”
3/20: The Bhagavad-Gita
*Thought Paper 3 due
3/25: St. Anselm & St. Aquinas
      Martin Buber “God is ...”
4/1-3: *Spring Break (No Classes)

Ethics & Morality
4/8: Benedict & Midgley: Ethics
4/10: Intro to Ethics
4/15: Bentham & Kant
4/17: Gandhi, “Nonviolent Resistance”
      *Thought Paper 4 (optional)
4/24: M.L. King, Jr., “Letter From ...”
4/29: Review for FINAL
5/6: Final Exam (1-3pm)
      The schedule for the final exam is set by the university and cannot be altered.

* 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 general education 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 this 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=14&poid=1248

Kennesaw State University is currently engaged in a campus-wide assessment of its general education program. The purpose is to measure student achievement with respect to faculty defined student learning outcomes. This course has been selected to participate in the process. No individually-identifiable student information will be collected as part of the assessment. Data will be reported only in aggregated form. Students should know that the data may be used for scholarly work by members of KSU faculty (but only in anonymous and aggregated form). If you are opposed to having your anonymous data used for scholarly work, you can “opt out” of this specific aspect of the process. For more information on the general education assessment process and for access to an “opt out” form, please click http://www.kennesaw.edu/gened/optoutform.html

Electronic Devices Policy

Absolutely no cell phone usage during class (including texting). Please turn them off, or at least silence the ringers. I prefer you take notes the old fashioned way: with pen or pencil + paper. If you must use a laptop, be sure you are taking notes for my class, and not updating Facebook or any other social media apps (There are spies ... everywhere!).

Grading Scale (Rubric on last page)

Students are evaluated on the following scale:
A (4.0) = 90-100, additionally: (A- = 93 / A+ = 97)
B (3.0) = 80-89 (B- = 83 / B+ = 87)
C (2.0) = 70-79 (C- = 73 / C+ = 77)
D (1.0) = 60-69 (D- = 63 / D+ = 67)
F = (59 and below)

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, and 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. Nastassia Sanabria, ADA Compliance Officer for Students 770-423-6443.

Officer for Students

Should you require assistance or have further questions about the ADA, please contact: Ms. Nastassia Sanabria, ADA Compliance Officer for Students 770-423-6443.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge</th>
<th>Comprehension and Synthesis of Ideas</th>
<th>Use of Examples</th>
<th>Style</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The essay clearly and accurately identifies and describes the elements of the theory or concept, so that even someone unfamiliar with the concept can understand it.</td>
<td>Elements of concepts/theory are clearly explained in such a way as to be understood by someone unfamiliar with the concept; clearly shows relationships between different theories and/or between different concepts, or explains examples in order to link concept clearly with concept.</td>
<td>Uses sophisticated original examples appropriately to illustrate issues and examples in order to link concept clearly with concept.</td>
<td>Essay is well structured and well organized; no serious grammatical errors; has paragraphs with topic sentences and transitions; uses simple, unambiguous language appropriate to an academic paper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The essay accurately identifies and describes most of the elements of the theory, but perhaps relies on some minor confusion or omissions. Discussion is less thorough than it should be.</td>
<td>Elements are explained and integrated at a very general level, but there are some gaps in terms of how well a person unfamiliar with the theory or concept would understand it.</td>
<td>Uses fairly simple original examples appropriately, but explanation or interpretation is incomplete, and ignores some relevant elements or complexity.</td>
<td>Some minor grammatical errors, some spelling problems, very few and minor organizational problems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The essay accurately identifies and describes elements of the theory, but perhaps relies overly on the repetition of key notes, perhaps merely paraphrases the text, or includes serious confusion and/or inaccuracies. Discussion is superficial, does not include relevant detail.</td>
<td>Elements are explained and presented with some integration, but remain primarily in isolation.</td>
<td>Uses examples directly from class or reading with little or no significant variation; example is original, but does not illustrate the point intended; limited interpretation.</td>
<td>Some grammatical problems, some organizational problems, vague or awkward attribution; paragraphs run on; sentence run-on. Uses inappropriate language, including slang.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major confusions, inaccuracies or gaps. Little effort to describe or discuss elements; merely lists elements.</td>
<td>Elements are listed, little attempt to show their relatedness.</td>
<td>Examples are confusing and do not accurately characterize the concept or issue; little or no interpretation.</td>
<td>Vague and confusing; difficult to understand; inappropriate words, grammar, or paragraph structure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major inaccuracies; major elements/ issues not even mentioned; vague overview with little or no detail; no attempt to describe or discuss.</td>
<td>Elements merely listed, little attempt to show their relatedness.</td>
<td>Examples are confusing and do not accurately characterize the concept or issue; little or no interpretation.</td>
<td>Little or no organization; paper not uniformly difficult to understand; serious grammatical errors.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>