PHIL 2200/02
Ways of Knowing
Semester: Spring 2015
Location: Social Sciences Building, Room 3023
Time: Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:30pm—4:45pm

Instructor: Dr. Amy K. Donahue
Email: adonahu3@kennesaw.edu
Phone: 470.578.6624
Office: Social Sciences Building, Rm. 4092
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:15am — 11:45am, 2:15pm—3:15pm or by appointment. I’m happy to meet, in person or electronically, when my schedule allows.

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 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

Required Reading:
Materials uploaded to D2L.
Attendance Policy:
To do well in this course, you cannot afford to miss class. If you miss class, be sure to meet me during my office hours to discuss what you have missed.

Attendance is mandatory. Students are required to provide a reasonable, documentable explanation for class absences. After three unexcused absences, students lose a full letter grade, to be deducted from class participation, with each additional unexcused absence.

Electronic Devices Policy:
The volume on all electronic devices should be turned off in class. Students may use laptops, etc. only to take notes in class and to look up material relevant to class discussions. Texting, chatting, or unrelated web-surfing during class will negatively affect students’ learning, class participation grades, and performance.

Course Assessments/Assignments:
For a grade of “B” or better, students must fulfill the following learning outcomes for this course:

• Demonstrate direct, primary text-based knowledge and understanding of historical and contemporary texts, arguments, and counterarguments through two long answer exams (each 10% of overall grade), one midterm paper (25% of overall grade), a final paper (25% of overall grade), online long answer quizzes (roughly one per week, totaling 10% of your overall grade), and active classroom participation (20% of overall grade).

• Write two five to seven page essays on a topic to be assigned, each articulating a philosophically relevant thesis, and elaborating and defending this thesis through accurate, detailed, logically coherent, and well-written summaries of supporting and opposing materials from assigned texts. Please visit the following links for guidance on how to write philosophy papers:
   - [http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html](http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html)
   - [http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~phildept/files/ShortGuidetoPhilosophicalWriting.pdf](http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~phildept/files/ShortGuidetoPhilosophicalWriting.pdf)
   - [http://www.claremontmckenna.edu/pages/faculty/AKind/Intro01s/writing.htm](http://www.claremontmckenna.edu/pages/faculty/AKind/Intro01s/writing.htm)
   - [http://www2.gsu.edu/~phltso/paperguide.html](http://www2.gsu.edu/~phltso/paperguide.html)

• Demonstrate disciplined critical thinking in your midterm and final papers, and in class discussions. See the previous bullet point and the “learning objectives” section above.

• A good (“B” or above) class participation grade requires more than consistent physical attendance. You must also actively and critically engage with class content, including text materials and your fellow students’ and the professor’s class contributions. Assist others with their thoughts and pose relevant, informed, and on-topic critical questions.
Late assignments will receive a failing grade. In some cases, the professor may choose to allow students to make up a missed/late assignment. To explore this possibility, students should contact the professor before or no later than one week after the missed/late assignment deadline. The professor is not obliged to allow students to make up missed/late assignments except when absences are excused, or when extenuating circumstances (e.g., inclement weather) affect the entire class.

**Grading:**

**Grade Calculations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online Quizzes —</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Long Answer Exams —</td>
<td>20% (10% each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Paper —</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper —</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class participation —</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grading Scale**

Students are evaluated on the following scale:

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

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** 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](https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/scai-misconduct-procedures)

The instructor has a zero-tolerance policy against plagiarism and uses TurnItIn plagiarism detection services when grading written assignments. **At a minimum,** students who plagiarize **any part of an assignment** will receive an F for that assignment, in accord with KSU’s academic misconduct procedures.

To avoid plagiarism, including unintentional plagiarism, please visit:
- [http://plagiarism.org/](http://plagiarism.org/)
- [http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml](http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml)
- [http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html](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.
Course Schedule:

*Tentative* schedule of assignments and topics.

Week 1:

1/7 — Class introductions, welcome, and discussion of syllabus and the concept of “capitalist realism.” Is it easier today to imagine the end of the world than to imagine the end of capitalism? Short introduction to basic logical concepts.

Week 2:

1/12 — Reading due—Mark Fisher, “It’s Easier to Imagine the End of the World…,” Chapter 1 of *Capitalist Realism* (uploaded to D2L). Reading exercise: “One interesting thing….” Critical discussion. What is capitalism?

1/14 — Reading due—Marx, first excerpt from Vol. 1 of *Capital* (uploaded to D2L). Lecture. Critical discussion. Online quiz assigned Friday.

Week 3:

1/19 — No classes. MLK holiday.

1/21 — Online quiz due. Re-reading due — First Marx excerpt. Critical discussion. According to Marx, what are commodities, use-values, and exchange-values. How do capitalist M-C-M circuits of commodity exchange differ from non-capitalist C-M-C circuits? Can we use the excerpts from *Capital* to strengthen Fisher’s argument? If so, how? Online quiz assigned Friday.

Week 4:


1/28 — Re-reading due — Marx and Fisher excerpts. Reading exercise: “One interesting thing….” Critical discussion. Is it possible today to live without prioritizing exchange values, and to instead prioritize the particular natures and uses of things? Online quiz assigned Friday.

Week 5:

2/2 — Online quiz due. Reading due — Thich Nhat Hanh, pages 5-48. Reading exercise: “One interesting thing….” Critical discussion. Does Hanh make relevant arguments? What is he calling on you to do?
2/4 — Reading due — excerpts from the Buddhist Pali canon and Sue Hamilton excerpt (uploaded to D2L), and Hanh, pages 51-91. Lecture and critical discussion on canonical Buddhist concepts and arguments. Discussion of relevance to Hanh reading. Online quiz assigned Friday.

Week 6:

2/9 — Online quiz due. Reading due — Hanh, pages 95-134. Reading exercise. Use the excerpts from the canonical Buddhist readings to explain and strengthen Hanh’s claims. Critical discussion. Review of Marx and Fisher.

2/11 — No new reading assigned. Re-read Pali Canon and Hamilton excerpts. Re-view central Buddhist concepts and their relevance to the Hanh reading. Online quiz assigned Friday.

Week 7:


2/18 — FIRST EXAM. No online quiz.

Week 8:

2/23 — Reading due — philosophy writing guides (uploaded and/or linked to D2L). In class workshop — how to write a philosophy paper. Discussion — what is a thesis? Homework for Wednesday: come with a draft thesis statement and rough outline of your first paper.

2/25 — Critical discussion and evaluation of Fisher/Marx & Hanh/Buddha arguments. No online quiz.

Week 9:

3/2 — Clarification of concepts and arguments, and critical discussion of theses.

3/3 — LAST DAY TO WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY.

3/4 — MIDTERM PAPER DUE. No online quiz

Week 10:


3/11 — Re-reading due — Euthyphro. In class reading exercise and critical discussion — map and evaluate Socrates’ arguments. Online quiz assigned Friday.

Week 11:
3/16 — Online quiz due (bring to class). Reading due — Plato’s Apology. Lecture and critical discussion. What if anything makes a humane life humane and a petty life petty?


Week 12:

3/23 — Online quiz due. Review and critical discussion of central concepts and arguments from Plato’s Socratic dialogues. Introduction to Kant and to key terms in the upcoming Kant reading.

3/25 — Reading due — Kant (pp. xiii — xvii, and 9-20). Lecture. Online quiz assigned Friday.

Week 13:

3/30 — Online quiz due (bring to class). Re-reading due — First Kant reading. Small group reading exercise — defining terms and mapping Kant’s argument in Section 1. Class discussion. Introduction to key terms in the reading for Wednesday.

4/1 — Reading due — Kant (pp. 21-55). Lecture. Online quiz assigned Friday.

Week 14:

Spring Break — No classes.

Week 15:

4/13 — Online quiz due (bring to class). Re-reading due — Second Kant reading. Small group reading exercise — defining terms and mapping Kant’s argument in Section 2. Class discussion. Introduction to key terms in the reading for Wednesday.

4/15 — Reading due — Kant (pp. 56-72). Lecture. Reading exercise — mapping Kant’s arguments in Sections 2 & 3. Online quiz assigned Friday.

Week 16:


4/22 — Reading due — Langton article (uploaded to D2L). Lecture and critical discussion. Online quiz optional.

Week 17:
4/27 — **SECOND EXAM.** Optional online quiz due. Review and critical discussion of Kant, Plato, and Langton readings. Homework for Wednesday — come to class with a draft thesis statement and rough outline of your second paper.

4/29 — Last day of class. Review and critical discussion of potential theses for the final paper, and of the Kant, Plato, and Langton readings.

FINAL PAPER: DUE THROUGH D2L ON **MONDAY, MAY 4**, BY 5:30PM.