Philosophy 2200
Ways of Knowing
Spring 2015
University College 127
MW 8:00-9:15

Instructor: Gabriel Soldatenko
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Office Hours: Mondays 10:00-12:00, Tuesdays 11:00-12:00, and by appointment.

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.

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.

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

Attendance 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.

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.
Grading Scale:
Students are evaluated on the following scale:
A (90%-100%)
B (80%-89%)
C (70%-79%)
D (60%-69%)
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.)

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, critical thinking summaries (three are required), and in-class group 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.

In almost all cases, an answer that receives full credit will be at least a paragraph.

Critical Thinking Summaries: In these short assignments (two to three pages in length) students are expected to take a position in which they relate a specific philosopher, or philosophical idea, to a representative movie. That is, does the movie effectively capture the philosophical theme we cover in class? Thus, students must do two things; first, effectively explain the philosophical issue at play (using examples and citing a specific philosopher); and second give some justification to your claim as to whether the movie succeeds or fails in representing a philosophical issue we cover in class.

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.

**ADA Statement:** Any student who, because of a disabling condition, may require some special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to arrange the necessary accommodations. Students should present appropriate verification from KSU disAbled Student Support Services. No requirement exists that accommodations be made prior to completion of this approved University process. Accommodations are arranged on an individualized, as-needed basis after the needs and circumstances have been evaluated. The following individuals have been designated by the President of the University to provide assistance and ensure compliance with the ADA. Should you require assistance or have further questions about the ADA, please contact:

Carol Pope, Asst. Dir. for disAbled Student Support Services
cpope@kennesaw.edu
disAbled Student Support Services Website:
http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/dsss/dsss.html

**Schedule of Readings:**

January 7: Introducing Philosophy

The Western Philosophical Tradition


“The Spiritual Universe of the Polis”

January 14: Vernant conversation continued


“Euthyphro”

January 19: No class


“Apology”

“Crito”

January 26: Michel Foucault, *Fearless Speech* (Semiotext(e): Los Angeles, 2001)

“The Word Parrhesia”
“aristotle: Metaphysics, Natural Science, Logic” (particularly pgs. 214-243)

February 2: Aristotle continued

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

February 9: Exam #1
Movie: *Agora* (2009)


“Meditations” (1-3)

“Meditations” (4-6)

“Immanuel Kant: Rehabilitating Reason (within Strict Limits)”
(with particular emphasis on pgs. 433-449)

February 25: Kant continued

“On the Prejudice of Philosophers”
Note: March 3rd is the last day to withdraw

Exam Review

March 9: Exam #2
Movie: *The Name of the Rose* (1986)
Non-Western Philosophy


March 16: Dussel continued

March 18: 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”

March 25: Dussel continued

March 30: Philosophy in Multiple Voices (Rowman and Littlefield: New York, 2007)
Lewis Gordon, “What is Afro-Caribbean Philosophy?”

April 1: Latin American Philosophy (Indiana University Press: Bloomington, IN, 2003)
Walter Mignolo, “Philosophy and the Colonial Difference”
Exam Review

Spring Break (April 6th and 8th no class)

April 13: Exam #3
Movie: Even the Rain/Tambien la lluvia (2010)

April 15: No class

Philosophy, Feminism, Gender, and Sexuality

April 20: Paula Gunn Allen, The Sacred Hoop: Recovering the Feminine in American Indian Traditions (Beacon Press: Boston, 1992)
“The Ways of Our Grandmothers”

“Oppression”
“Sexism”

April 27: Frye continued

April 29: Final Exam Review

May 6: Final Exam (8:00-10:00)
Movie: The Examined Life (2008)