PHIL2200/09
WAYS OF KNOWING
Semester: Spring 2015
Location: University College 127
Time(s): Tuesday and Thursday 08:00 – 9:15

Instructor: Dr. Andrew K. Whitehead
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Office: Social Sciences 4097
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 13:00 – 14:00

Teaching Assistants:
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Catalogue 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.

Instructor’s Course Description:
This course introduces students to a selection of major themes in philosophy, including ethics, epistemology, and metaphysics. We will be discussing some of the major topics that philosophers typically investigate, such as truth, reality, and freedom. Amongst the questions we may raise will be: What is morality based in? How do we distinguish right from wrong? How can I distinguish between truth and falsity? Is freedom possible? What is the self? We will take a comparative approach insofar as students will be encouraged to identify and explore parallels between different positions and practices (East and West) within a broadly speaking philosophical framework.

Course Objectives:
1. Develop an understanding of philosophical questions and specific philosophical methods.
2. Achieve competency in some of the more important issues and concepts in philosophy.
3. Critically examine claims made by philosophical thinkers and test these against available evidence with a view to advancing general and transferable critical skills.
4. Learn to appreciate the fundamental philosophical presuppositions involved in ‘ordinary’ and ‘everyday’ experiences and knowledge claims.
5. Reach advanced levels of comprehension, argumentation, presentation and writing skills.

Learning Objectives:
PHIL2200 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

Course Format:
Classroom sessions will combine formal lectures and informal discussions. Students are encouraged to participate actively in debate and to raise related issues relevant to their lives and experience. Students are expected to prepare all readings in advance of the sessions for which they are scheduled. Some of the assigned primary texts are difficult, but will be openly discussed in class and complemented with optional secondary readings.

Undergraduate Teaching Assistants:
Undergraduate teaching assistants (UTAs) are sometimes used in this course. These individuals provide an array of assistance and are directly supervised by the instructor. UTAs sign contractual agreements regarding their work in the course and have been approved by the department chair. All concerns relating to UTAs should be brought to the instructor’s attention. Students submit their concerns regarding UTAs to the instructor in writing and with supporting documentation. UTAs sign and adhere to a professional confidentiality and responsibility statement similar to that signed by all faculty. UTAs are ethically and legally obligated to maintain confidentiality regarding student information and share information only with the instructor and those legally entitled to the information.

Course Books (Required)

*Greek Philosophy: Thales to Aristotle (3 Rev Exp edition)*
978-0029004951
Reginald E. Allen (ed.)
Free Press

*Discourse on Method and Mediations on First Philosophy (4th Edition)*
978-0872204201
René Descartes, Donald A. Cress (trans.)
Hackett Publishing Co.

*Ethics: The Essential Writings*
978-0812977783
Gordon Marino (ed.)
Modern Library

Required Reading:
Primary readings will either be made available online as electronic documents or included in the required textbooks.

Attendance Policy:
Attendance is required. Students will not be able to succeed in this course without complete attendance. Responsibility for material covered while absent belongs solely with the student. If you do not arrive to class by the time the door is closed, you will not be allowed into the classroom and will be counted as absent. ARRIVE ON TIME. Attendance and Participation account for 10% of the final grade.

Electronic Devices Policy:
The use of cell phones and other electronic communication devices is not allowed in class. If you use your cell phone in class, you will lose your attendance and participation points for that day.

Laptops are discouraged, but if you have a good reason for using one during class, please seek approval in advance. If you have an internet window open during class, you will lose your attendance and participation points for that day.

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Even the presence of such devices is distracting, given our understandable temptation to use them. It affects the whole atmosphere of the class when someone is seen to be texting, surfing the internet, checking email, and so forth – even if they feel like they are still listening and participating.

Course Assessments/Assignments:

- Pop Quizzes (3/5) 15%
- Online Discussion Posts (10) 10%
- Reflective Essay 15%
- In-Class Exams (2) 25%
- Final Exam 25%
- Attendance and Participation 10%

***N.B. Late assignments will automatically receive a mark of zero, unless official medical documentation is provided.***

Description of Assessments/Assignments:
**Pop Quizzes:** 4 quizzes will be given without notice during the term. The quizzes will aim to determine that students have done the reading, and will therefore consist of simple questions based on the text.

**Online Discussion Posts:** Throughout the semester there will be different discussion questions posted on discussion boards on D2L BS. You are required to post original contributions to discussion boards on ten occasions. You are also required to respond to at least one other post on the same discussion board in order to receive full marks.

**Reflective Essay:** Your reflective essays should be formatted with double-spacing, 12 point Times New Roman font, and 1” margins, and follow Turabian (Chicago) citation guidelines (see [http://libguides.kennesaw.edu/content.php?pid=364671&sid=2989534](http://libguides.kennesaw.edu/content.php?pid=364671&sid=2989534)). You are required to write 750 words on any of the readings discussed to date in class, providing philosophical reflection on a significant point or argument of your choosing. You are required to discuss and cite at least the primary reading selected. The essays are graded according to the grading scale in line with the following rubric:

1) Student has successfully **identified and explained** a significant point or argument in one of the appropriate readings
2) Student has adhered to the proper formatting regulations
   (ア) As outlined above
   (イ) Includes student name, number, course code, instructor name, date, and word count at beginning of essay (these do not count towards the word count)
3) Student has proofread the document for grammar and spelling
4) Student has cited at least one primary text
5) Student has provided a substantial reflection on the significant point or argument identified and explained
   (ア) Using: a secondary text (journal or book) or a piece from social media (newspaper, television show, movie), making sure to highlight how this relates to, contradicts, or supports the significant point or argument identified and explained

**In-Class Exams:** You will be required to answer 20-25 short answer questions pertaining to the readings and lectures covered to date.

**Final Exam:** You will be required to answer 20-30 short answer questions pertaining to the readings and lectures covered to date.

**Attendance and Participation:** You will be graded on both your attendance and your participation. In order to receive full marks, you must attend every lecture and take part in classroom and group discussion on each occasion. Every missed lecture will result in the deduction of 1% from attendance and participation.

**Grading Scale:**
Students are evaluated on the following scale:

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

**Philosophy Resources:**

- **Resources for writing a philosophy paper:**
  How to Write a Philosophical Essay (available on D2L)
  

The KSU Writing Center
A free service offered to all KSU students. Experienced writing assistants work with you throughout the writing process (on concerns such as topic development, revision, research, documentation, grammar, and mechanics) although assistants cannot edit or proofread your paper for you. Appointments are strongly encouraged. For more information or to make an appointment, visit [http://kennesaw.edu/writingcenter/](http://kennesaw.edu/writingcenter/), or stop by Room 242 in the English Building.

Your Professors and Instructors

**Philosophy Student Association**  
[http://www.philosophystudentassociation.com](http://www.philosophystudentassociation.com)

**Academic Integrity:**
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 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 that a professor prohibits as academic misconduct in the syllabus or in class discussion is cheating. When direct quotations are used, they must 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 must 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](https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/scai-misconduct-procedures)

To avoid plagiarizing, including unintentionally plagiarizing, 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.

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**Topics and Readings (subject to change at the discretion of instructor):**

**Week 1—Jan. 8—Introductions (1 Week)**

**PHILOSOPHY, CRITICAL REASONING, AND THE SOCRATIC METHOD (4 Weeks)**

**Week 2—Jan. 13 and 15—What is Philosophy? and Reasons and Arguments**  
Reading(s): Thinking Philosophically (online D2L)

**Week 3—Jan. 20 and 22—Pre-Socratics**  
Reading(s): Heraclitus (*Greek Philosophy*, pp.40-42)  
Democritus (*Greek Philosophy*, pp.53-54)

**Week 4—Jan. 27 and 29—Plato**  
Reading(s): Apology (*Greek Philosophy*, pp.74-97)
Week 5—Feb. 3 and 5—Plato cont’d
   Reading(s):  Meno (Greek Philosophy, pp.110-141)

Week 6—Feb. 10 and 12—Review and Exam 1

KNOWLEDGE AND REALITY (4 Weeks)
Week 7—Feb. 17 and 19—About Things we Know
   Reading(s):  Nagel (online D2L)
                Russell (online D2L)

Week 8—Feb. 24 and 26—Descartes
**Reflective Essay Due**
   Reading(s):  Meditation 1 and 2 (pp.59-69)

Week 9—Mar. 3 and 5—Constructions of Truth
   Reading(s):  Nietzsche (online D2L)
                Williams (online D2L)

Week 10—Mar. 10 and 12—Knowledge of the Self
   Reading(s):  Nagasena (online D2L)
                Moeller, pp.44-55 (online D2L)

Week 11—Mar. 17 and 19—Review and Exam 2

SOCIAL/POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS (4 Weeks)
Week 12—Mar. 24 and 26—Deontology and Utilitarianism
   Reading(s):  Kant *The Categorical Imperative* (Ethics, pp.188-224)
                Mill *Utilitarianism* (Ethics, pp.225-255)

Week 13—Mar. 31 and Apr. 2—Virtue as Ritual: A Confucian Approach
   Reading(s):  Ames and Rosemont (online D2L)

Week 14—Apr. 14 and 16—Society and the Wheel: A Daoist Reading
   Reading(s):  Moeller, pp.27-36 (online D2L)

Week 15—Apr. 21 and 23—Review and Discussion

Week 16—Apr. 28—Review and Discussion

IMPORTANT DATES:
- First Day of Classes: January 7
- First Exam: February 12
- Reflective Essay Due: February 26
- Last Day to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty: March 3
- Second Exam: March 19
- Spring Break: April 4 – 10
- Final Exam: 15:30 – 17:30, Tuesday, May 5, 2015: SO 2035