PHIL 2200
Ways of Knowing
Semester: Spring 2015
Location: Social Sciences Bldg 2023
Time: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 3:30pm—4:45pm
CRN: 11872

Instructor: Damien P. Williams
Email: dwill255@kennesaw.edu (preferred contact method)
Phone: 470-578-6294
Office: Social Sciences Building, Room 4005
Office Hours: TR 2:00pm—3:00pm & 5:00pm—5:30pm

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:
- Handouts: “Cook Ting” and “In the World of Men,” from Chuang Tzu: Basic Writings, Burton Watson translator; Introduction and Chapters 1, 4, 11, and 67—69 from Lao-Tzu: Te-Tao Ching, Robert G Henricks translator; Excerpts from Zen Flesh, Zen Bones, including selections from “101 Zen Stories” and the introduction to and excerpts from “The Gateless Gate by Mu-Mon,” transcribed and translated by Nyogen Senzaki and Paul Reps.
Attendance Policy:
After the first week, No Attendance Will Be Taken, HOWEVER this course is intensive in both reading and in-class discussion, and you WILL BE RESPONSIBLE for material which will only be available to you in class discussion, as well as material only in the text.

Electronic Devices Policy:
Laptops and tablet PCs are acceptable for use during class hours, but smart phones, older cell phones, and other electronic devices are not, and should be silenced if not deactivated.

Course Assessments/Assignments:

SPECIFIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Schedule of Assignments and due dates on following pages.

IN-COURSE EXAMS: Tests Taken During Normal Class Meeting Time; Comprised of 30 Questions, A Mixture of Multiple Choice, Short Answer, and Short Essay.

SHORT ESSAYS:

- **Technical Requirements:** 350-750 words. 12-pt, Times New Roman (or equivalent), Double-Spaced, 0.00" before and after lines, Standard Margins. Your name, our class name, and our class time, in the upper corner. Use the MLA standard for citation and reference, which may be found here: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/2/
- Place a copy of your essay in the assigned D2l Bright Space Dropbox folder by 11:59pm on the day of the class on which the assignment is due. NO HAND-WRITTEN CRITICAL RESPONSES WILL BE ACCEPTED.
- 10 points will be deducted for not meeting the minimum page requirement or exceeding the page requirement.

The critical responses will require that you explain two specific arguments in support of the particular philosophical concept that we will have discussed in the foregoing two week time frame, and give critical responses to those arguments.

The critical responses should be in this format:

1st: Briefly explain the concepts discussed. For example, state what the study of Ethics is, and what it attempts to do, and then some of the varying perspectives On ethical theory. Be sure to include at least two quotes drawn from the class texts or links.

2nd: Critique two arguments given about the concept. Your critique can take many forms: contradictions arise in the position; there is a logical gap in the argument; etc. It is not appropriate to critique positions on the basis of later scientific findings.

3rd: Concluding statements.

TERM PAPER: You will turn in a paper proposal which should contain: An Outline, your thesis under investigation, and a tentative bibliography. Paper proposals are necessary for a passing grade on the paper. I will not accept any final papers without a proposal already turned
in. This means that if you fail to turn in a paper proposal, you will receive a failing grade on the paper.

Your final paper should be between 1300 and 1500 words. Each component of your paper will be typed in 12 point, Times New Roman (or equivalent) font, and double spaced. Failure to correctly format your will result in a 10 point penalty on the individual assignment. You will be required to demonstrate that you can critically evaluate one of the theories discussed in class through one of the following methods:

(1) Compare and contrast two different philosophical schools;
(2) Critically examine your own social, cultural, and historical situation and its effects on one of the beliefs held in your society by evaluating the origins of that position in light of our discussions;
(3) Evaluate a contemporary social and ethical issue in light of one of the philosophical positions we have discussed.

Paper topics may vary according to your interests, but must specifically fulfill one of the three methods listed above. If you have trouble finding a paper topic, one may be assigned to you.

FINAL EXAM: Between 10 and 15 questions, all essay format.

MAKE-UP EXAM POLICY:
Make-up exams for the midterm or exams other than the final are not guaranteed and are possible only in cases of well-documented emergency, such as illness or injury. A doctor’s note, scanned, will be necessary.

Note: The Department will host a day for makeup exams for students with excused absences at the end of each semester. Students will need to bring an ID to the makeup exam. This is not a required makeup solution. We hope that we will be able to share the responsibility of proctoring makeups exams over the course of the academic year.

LATENESS POLICY on assignments: Short Essays will be accepted up to one week (Seven Days) late, with 10 points deducted for each class day it is late, starting on the due date.

The Term Paper will have its grade reduced one letter for each school day it is late. That is, if the paper is due on Thursday, it will be counted one day late on Friday, two days late on Monday and three days late on Tuesday. Hence, turning in an “A” paper on Tuesday that had been due the previous Thursday will result in a grade of “D.”

Grading:

Grade Calculations

Students are evaluated on the following scale:
GRADE COMPOSITION:
IN-COURSE EXAMS 12%
SHORT ESSAYS = 2% x 9 = 18%
TERM PAPER 35%
FINAL EXAM 35%
TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS : 100%

Grading Scale
Students are evaluated on the following scale:

A = 90-100
B = 80-89
C = 70-79
D = 60-69
F = 0-59
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.

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

Academic dishonesty is a fundamental breach of trust between the student and the instructor which harms the trust the instructor has for the entire class. As a result of academic dishonesty, more time is spent poring over papers with suspicion rather than devising interesting and compelling material for the class. Academic dishonesty is also a breach of contract, and will be
treated as such. Course failure, suspension, and even expulsion, in the case of endemic behaviour, may all result from instances of academic dishonesty. In the long run, it is simply easier to just Do Your Own Work. Here are some resources to help you, in that direction:

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/
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 470-578-6443.

Course Schedule:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Graded Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>01/08/15</td>
<td>-Syllabus Overview</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 2</td>
<td>“Philosophy And You”</td>
<td>Have Read Chapter One: Pages 2—53</td>
<td>Signed Syllabus Sheets Due</td>
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<td>13th, 15th</td>
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<td>WEEK 3</td>
<td>ETHICS AND MORALITY</td>
<td>Have Read Chapter Three: Pages 122—142</td>
<td>Argumentation Response Papers Due</td>
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<td>20, 22nd</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 4</td>
<td>ETHICS AND MORALITY</td>
<td>Have Read Chapter Three: Pages 142—185</td>
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<tr>
<td>27th, 29th</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 5</td>
<td>QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD</td>
<td>Have Read Chapter Two: Pages 54—108</td>
<td>ETHICS Response Papers Due</td>
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<td>Feb. 3rd, 5th</td>
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<td>WEEK 6</td>
<td>QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD</td>
<td>HINDUISM HANDOUT</td>
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<td>10th, 12th</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 7</td>
<td>QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD</td>
<td>Have Read BUDDHISM HANDOUTS and Chapter Two Pages 108—121</td>
<td>PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION Response Papers Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 8</td>
<td>02/24/15: TEST REVIEW</td>
<td>Review Sheet</td>
<td>02/26/15: <strong>Test 1</strong></td>
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<td>WEEK 9</td>
<td>PHILOSOPHY OF MIND</td>
<td>Have Read Chapter Four: Pages 186—217</td>
<td>BUDDHISM Response Papers Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 3rd, 5th</td>
<td><strong>LAST DAY TO</strong></td>
<td><strong>WITHDRAW WITHOUT</strong></td>
<td><strong>PENALTY</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/03/15</td>
<td>PHILOSOPHY OF MIND</td>
<td>Have Read Chapter Four: Pages 186—217</td>
<td><strong>PENALTY</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 10</td>
<td>THE DEBATE OVER FREE WILL</td>
<td>Have Read Chapter Five: Pages 218—251</td>
<td><strong>PENALTY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10th, 12th</td>
<td>EPISTEMOLOGY</td>
<td>Term Paper Discussion</td>
<td><strong>PENALTY</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 11</td>
<td>THE DEBATE OVER FREE WILL</td>
<td>Have Read Chapter Five: Pages 218—251</td>
<td><strong>PENALTY</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th, 19th</td>
<td>EPISTEMOLOGY</td>
<td>Have Read Chapter 6: Pages 252—277</td>
<td><strong>PENALTY</strong></td>
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<td>WEEK 12</td>
<td>JUSTICE AND SOCIETY</td>
<td>Have Read Chapter 6: Pages 277—309</td>
<td><strong>PENALTY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>24th, 26th</td>
<td>EPISTEMOLOGY</td>
<td>Have Read Chapter 7: Pages 310—326</td>
<td><strong>PENALTY</strong></td>
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<td>WEEK 13</td>
<td>Eastern Philosophies: Confucian Thought</td>
<td>Have Read Chapter 7: Pages 326—362</td>
<td><strong>PENALTY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>03/31/15-04/02/15</td>
<td>JUSTICE AND SOCIETY</td>
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<td><strong>PENALTY</strong></td>
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<td>WEEK 14</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK. NO</td>
<td>FREE WILL Response Papers Due</td>
<td><strong>PENALTY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>04/04/15—04/10/15</td>
<td><strong>BREAK. NO</strong></td>
<td><strong>PENALTY</strong></td>
<td><strong>PENALTY</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 15</td>
<td>JUSTICE AND SOCIETY</td>
<td><strong>PENALTY</strong></td>
<td><strong>PENALTY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>14th, 16th</td>
<td>Eastern Philosophies: Confucian Thought</td>
<td>Have read: CONFUCIUS BIOGRAPHY Handout</td>
<td><strong>PENALTY</strong></td>
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<td>WEEK 16</td>
<td>Eastern Philosophies: Confucian Thought</td>
<td>Have read: CONFUCIUS BIOGRAPHY AND ANALECTS Handouts</td>
<td><strong>PENALTY</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st, 23rd</td>
<td>Eastern Philosophies: Taoism</td>
<td>Have read THE CHUANG-TZU AND LAO-TZU Handouts</td>
<td><strong>PENALTY</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Eastern Philosophies: Zen</td>
<td>Have read the ZEN Handouts</td>
<td><strong>PENALTY</strong></td>
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## OTHER NOTES OF IMPORTANCE:

1. Anything in this syllabus is subject to change at the instructor’s discretion, with adequate notice.

2. Though it will hopefully not be necessary, in the event of a repeat of last year’s inclement weather conditions, online discussions of the material will be conducted via D2L.

3. Check your email and the class D2L page daily. These will be the best places to find posted any changes in assignments, due dates or office hours.

4. Some General Academic Hints and Tips:
   - Read assignments both before and after the accompanying lectures to get the most out of the material.
   - Formulate thoughtfully and carefully any questions you have during class.
   - Engage in, but do not monopolize class discussion. Make your point briefly and then give others the chance to speak. The instructor is available during office hours for extended questions or topics of greater depth.
   - Do not interrupt the instructor or your classmates, except by raising your hand if you have a question or comment. Thoughtful listening is one of the best ways to learn.
   - Do not talk or write emails when your instructor or classmates are speaking. It is discourteous and distracting to others. If you have a question, or didn’t quite hear something, please ask the instructor for clarification or repetition, not the person sitting next to you.
   - As this particular flu season has been especially bad, please remember to bring things like tissue and hand sanitizer, and to cover your mouth & nose when coughing or sneezing. This can help reduce incidence of flu by 72%.

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NAME______________________________  COURSE NUMBER (CRN)_________

I HAVE READ AND RECEIVED A COPY OF THE SYLLABUS AND REALIZE THAT I NEED TO CHECK MY EMAIL DAILY FOR ASSIGNMENT CHANGES OR OTHER INFORMATION.

______________________________________  DATE____________________

SIGNATURE