Instructor: Gabriel Soldatenko
Email Address: gsoldate@kennesaw.edu
Office Phone: (470) 578-7759
Office: Social Science #4091
Office Hours: Mondays 11:00-1:00, Tuesdays 11:00-12:00, and by appointment

Electronic Communications: The University provides all KSU students with an “official” email account with the address “students.kennesaw.edu.” As a result of federal laws protecting educational information and other data, **this is the sole email account you should use to communicate with your instructor or other University officials.**

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 D2L Brightspace. 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.)

Academic Integrity Statement  Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the
provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and
Graduate Catalogs. Section 5. C of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the university’s
policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating,
unauthorized access to university materials, misrepresentation/falsification of university
records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials,
malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student
identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the
established procedures of the Department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity
(SCAI), which includes either an “informal” resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a
grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of
Conduct’s minimum one semester suspension requirement. See also
https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/ksu-student-code-conduct.

Evaluation: There will be three in-class writing exams covering each of the major sections
of the course. Each will be worth 25% of your grade. There will also be two random
quizzes, each worth 5% of your grade. The final 15% 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.
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 a philosopher, theme, or concept 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.

**ADA Compliance:** Students with qualifying disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act who require “reasonable accommodation(s)” to complete the course may request those from Office of Student Disability Services. Students requiring such accommodations are required to work with the University’s Office of Student Disability Services rather than engaging in this discussion with individual faculty members or academic departments. If, after reviewing the course syllabus, a student anticipates or should have anticipated a need for accommodation, he or she must submit documentation requesting an accommodation and permitting time for a determination prior to submitting assignments or taking course quizzes or exams. Students may not request retroactive accommodation for needs that were or should have been foreseeable. Students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. Student Disability Services is located in the Carmichael Student Center in Suite 267. Please visit the Student Disabilities Services website at www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/sds for more information, or call the office at 470-578-6443.

**Schedule of Readings:**

January 11: Introducing Philosophy

**The Western Philosophical Tradition**


“The Spiritual Universe of the Polis”
January 18: No Class

January 20: Vernant continued

“Euthyphro”

“Apology”  
“Crito”

February 1: Michel Foucault, *Fearless Speech* (Semiotext(e): Los Angeles, 2001)  
“The Word *Parrhesia*”

“Aristotle: Metaphysics, Natural Science, Logic” (*emphasis* on pgs. 214-243)

February 8: Aristotle continued

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

February 15: **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)

March 2: Kant continued  
Note: Last day to withdraw without academic penalty

“On the Prejudice of Philosophers”
Exam Review

March 14: **Exam #2**
Movie: *The Name of the Rose* (1986)

**Non-Western Philosophy**


March 21: Dussel continued

Enrique Dussel, “A Nahuatl Interpretation of the Conquest”

Enrique Dussel, “Eurocentrism and Modernity”

March 30: Dussel continued

**Spring Break**
No Class April 4th and 6th

April 11: *Philosophy in Multiple Voices* (Rowman and Littlefield: New York, 2007)
Lewis Gordon, “What is Afro-Caribbean Philosophy?”

April 13: Gordon continued

Walter Mignolo, “Philosophy and the Colonial Difference”

**Philosophy, Feminism, Gender, and Sexuality**

“The Ways of Our Grandmothers”

“Oppression”
“Sexism”

April 27: Frye continued

May 2: Final Exam Review
May 9: **Final Exam** (10:30-12:30)