PHIL2700  
METHODS AND THEMES IN COMPARATIVE PHILOSOPHY  
Dr. A. K. Whitehead  
Spring 2016  

Location: Kennesaw Hall 1104  
Time(s): T/TH 14:00 – 15:15

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION  
Email: awhiteh8@kennesaw.edu  
Office: Social Sciences Building 4097  
Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Communication:  
All emails must be sent to awhiteh8@kennesaw.edu. Please allow 72 hours for reply. Face-to-face meetings can be scheduled on either Tuesdays or Thursdays, and must be scheduled at least 48 hours in advance.

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.

Catalogue Course Description:  
This course focuses on differing methods and conceptions of philosophical thought and practice articulated primarily in Non-Western traditions. Students develop skills in close reading of texts, analyzing concepts orally and in writing, and understanding the significance of historical/social contexts in the formation of philosophical traditions. Themes may address topics such as conceptions of reality, self, and society. Philosophies considered may include East Asian, South Asian, Latin American, African, Middle Eastern, and Indigenous.

Instructor’s Course Description:  
The course outlines the significant dimensions and the major themes of the 20th century philosophy of Maurice Merleau-Ponty. Merleau-Ponty is arguably one of the most influential philosophers of the second half of the twentieth century, and played a key role in the development of the French phenomenological tradition. Students will be invited to study key texts, methods, and concepts articulated in and by this major philosophical figure.

Course Objectives:  
1. Students will demonstrate the ability to interpret concepts, relationships between concepts, and their significance;  
2. Students will demonstrate the ability to read and accurately interpret primary source texts in philosophy;  
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to distinguish between Western and Non-Western thought and practice in philosophy;  
4. Students will recognize philosophical traditions and their historical/cultural contexts; and;  
5. Students will reach advanced levels of comprehension, argumentation, presentation and writing skills.

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.
Required Text:

**Tractatus Logicus-Philosophicus**
Ludwig Wittgenstein
978-0415254083

All other required texts will be made available online on D2L.

**Attendance Policy:**
Attendance is required. Failure to attend will have negative consequences on student grades.

**Electronic Devices Policy:**
The volume on all electronic devices should be turned off in class. The use of cell phones is strictly prohibited in class. Students are welcome to use laptops for note-taking purposes only (no web based activity) if necessary. No recordings, of any kind, are allowed in class. Any violation of this policy will negatively affect students’ grades.

**Course Assessment:**
- Reflective Essay 1 15%
- Reflective Essay 2 15%
- Mid-Term Paper 20%
- Presentation 10%
- Participation 10%
- Major Term-Paper 30%

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

**Description of Assignments:**

**Reflective Essays:** Your reflective essays should be formatted with double-spacing, 12 point Times New Roman font, and 1" margins, and follow Chicago Style. You are required to write 600 words (min. 585 max. 615) on readings from class (for Reflective Essay 1, a comparison of philosophies of language; for Reflective Essay 2, a reading from week 11 or 12), providing philosophical reflection on a point of your choosing. You are required to discuss and cite at least the primary reading(s) selected and one secondary source. The essays are graded 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
   (7”) As outlined above
   (4”) 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 using at least one secondary text (journal or book).

**Presentation:** All students must sign-up for a presentation. Presentations will provide an overview of major term-papers, with a focus on raising critical questions and demonstrating clarification of key ideas. You are required to have hand-outs for the class.

**Major Term-Paper:** Your major term-paper should be formatted with double-spacing, 12 point Times New Roman font, and 1” margins, and follow Chicago Style. You are required to write 1500 words on a topic of your choosing. Essays can be exegetical or critical in nature. 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 pertaining to the theme of the course and the material covered in class.
2) Student has adhered to the proper formatting regulations
   (7”) As outlined above
   (4”) Includes student name, number, course code, instructor name, date, and word count on a cover page (these do not count towards the word count)
3) Student has proofread the document for grammar and spelling
4) Student has cited and engaged with at least one primary text that has been approved by the instructor
5) Student has supported (or critiqued) the significant point or argument identified and explained using at least three legitimate secondary texts (journals and/or books).

Grading Scale:
Students are evaluated on the following scale:
- A — 100 – 90
- B — 89 – 80
- C — 79 – 70
- D — 69 – 60
- F — <60

Academic Integrity:
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.

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

To avoid plagiarizing, including unintentionally plagiarizing, please visit:
- http://plagiarism.org/
- http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml
- http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html

Resources for writing a philosophy paper:

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/, or stop by Room 242 in the English Building.

Your Professors and Instructors

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 Department of Student Success Services. Students requiring such accommodations are required to work with the University’s Department of Student Success 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. For more information please visit their website, sss.kennesaw.edu/sds.

Contact information is as follows:
SDS Email: sds@kennesaw.edu
Primary number for Kennesaw campus: 470-578-2666
Primary number for Marietta campus: 678-915-7244

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

Week 1—Jan. 12 and 14
Introductions and the Comparative Project

Week 2—Jan. 19 and 21
Comparative Philosophy: Job Talks (Hall and Sullivan)
Reading(s): Wittgenstein

Week 3—Jan. 26 and 28
The Problem of Language: Wittgenstein’s *Tractatus*
Reading(s): Wittgenstein

Week 4—Feb. 2 and 4
The Problem of Language: Ames and Rosemont on Classical Chinese
Reading(s): Ames and Rosemont (D2L)

Week 5—Feb. 9 and 11
**Reflective Essay 1 Due Feb. 11**
The Problem of Language: Translation and Interpretation
Reading(s): Heisig (D2L)

Week 6—Feb. 16 and 18
Methods and Themes: Contemporary Studies
Reading(s): Connolly (D2L)

Week 7—Feb. 23 and 25
Methods and Themes: Contemporary Studies
Reading(s): Smid (D2L)

Week 8—Mar. 1 and 3
Methods and Themes: Contemporary Studies
Reading(s): Chakrabarti and Weber (D2L)

Week 9—Mar. 8 and 10
Review and Mid-Term
Reading(s): No readings

Week 10—Mar. 15 and 17
Methods and Themes: Contemporary Studies
Reading(s): Burik (D2L)

Week 11—Mar. 22 and 24
Dominant Discourses and/as Discourses of Domination (Soldatenko and Donahue)
Reading(s): TBA

Week 12—Mar. 29 and 31
Re-Thinking “Philosophy” Comparatively (Soldatenko and Donahue)
Reading(s): TBA

Week 13—Apr. 12 and 14
**Reflective Essay 2 Due Apr. 14**
Buddhisms: Argument by Relegation and Embracing Pluralism
Reading(s): Sourcebook (D2L)
Week 14—Apr. 19 and 21
Student Presentations
Reading(s): No readings

Week 15—Apr. 26 and 28
Student Presentations
Reading(s): No readings

IMPORTANT DATES:
- Reflective Essay 1 Due Date: Feb. 11
- Last Day to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty: Mar. 2
- Mid-Term Paper Due Date: Mar. 10
- Spring Break: Apr. 2 – 8
- Reflective Essay 2 Due Date: Apr. 14
- Major Term-Paper Due Date: May 3