Philosophy 2200 (Ways of Knowing) Summer 2009  Dr. T. H. White

This course is part of the General Education Program at Kennesaw State University. It is intended in part to familiarize you with the discipline of philosophy. In this course we will look at some of the traditional questions that have interested philosophers from many cultures and many times. These questions include how and what we know about our world, ourselves and our ethical responsibilities within this context. Furthermore, we will look at how philosophers and philosophical thinking relate to other disciplines and how philosophy might help us in thinking about and understanding everyday questions and problems.


OBJECTIVES: When you complete this course, you should have achieved the following: 1) A familiarity with the vocabulary of philosophy, its major concepts, the historical development and consequences of these concepts, and methods of philosophical inquiry within the western tradition; 2) an understanding of the different contexts and criteria for knowledge; 3) an understanding of human diversity and the differing values that arise from diverse points of view; and 4) an understanding of the relationship of philosophy to the other disciplines and areas of inquiry.

GRADING REQUIREMENTS: There will be three opportunities for you to build your grade, each worth one-third of the final grade. All three papers will be done out of class and a “handout” page will be issued for each. These work products from you should be at least four pages in length but not more than seven whole pages. No hand written work will be accepted for grading purposes. Double spacing and normal margins are required; no particular formatting standards need be followed beyond what you should be familiar with from high school. All grades will be issued in letters, i.e., “A”, “B”, etc. For final grade calculation purposes, the following scale will be used: A+ is 11, A is 10, A- is 9, B+ is 8, B is 7, B- is 6, C+ is 5, C is 4, C- is 3, D+ is 2, D is 1 and F is 0.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: When a student contributes significantly to the quality of our class discussions I will annotate my roster with a check mark to reflect the contribution. A few check marks can influence a final grade.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section II 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 deletion, 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 University Judiciary Program, which includes and “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.

ATTENDANCE: It will be taken at the beginning of every class “by signature”. Four or more absences will most likely have a detrimental impact on your grade.

OFFICE HOURS: I am on campus Tuesdays and Thursdays only during this summer term. Please arrange to see me by appointment. And do feel free to meet with me right before or after class. My email address (for academic or emergency issues only) is: thwhite4@bellsouth.net and it will get you right to me at my home office.

TENTATIVE CORSE OUTLINE: Our primary text will be Rachel’s Problems from Philosophy (purple book). The blue book will be a secondary source for assigned readings. With only eight weeks we must leave out a few topics. Thus, tentatively, we will be doing the following chapters: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 12, and 13. I will assign selections from the blue book to support chapters from the purple book as we go along. As your instructor, I reserve the right to add and/or subtract from this outline when it is thought to be an improvement to the general course.