Philosophy 2200: “Ways of Knowing”

Course Description and Goals
This course will offer an introduction to some of the central issues of philosophy. We will read and discuss some of the most important figures from the history of philosophy including: Plato, Descartes, Nietzsche, Bertrand Russell, Daisetz Suzuki, Gandhi, and many others. Topics will cover the spectrum of conventionally held beliefs: from the nature of free will, the concept of self; the existence of God, to philosophical bases of “truth.”

Course Requirements
Each student’s grade will be based upon:

1) An active and well-prepared class participation, including the completion of all readings before the class for which they are assigned. Attendance is a requirement, and students are responsible for all assignments. After two (2) recorded class absences, there will be a deduction of one (1) letter grade from the Class Participation grade – 10% of overall grade. And, an additional deduction for each additional absence.

2) Your grade will also be based on the completion and quality of two short “Thought Papers.” These are position papers in which you must state an opinion on a debate topic assigned by the instructor (15% each) totaling 30% of the overall grade. Papers are due on the dates assigned. Late papers will be assessed a penalty of one letter grade deducted for each additional class session beyond the due date.

3) Two, in-class, essay examinations (30% each) totaling 60% of overall grade. You are required to supply a large Exam Book: “BLUE BOOK” (or GREEN = recycled) for both exams. This will be collected and redistributed on the day of the exam. EXAM BOOKS can be purchased from the KSU Bookstore for @.30¢

Required Text: Kit R. Christensen, Philosophy and Choice (Second Edition), McGraw Hill.

Schedule and Reading List:
Philosophical Inquiry: “How and Why?”

5/26: 1st Day of class
Introductions

5/31: Memorial Day, no class

6/2: Concepts & Definitions
Russell, p.65

6/7: Plato, “The Apology,” p.15
Boethius, p.28

6/9: Nietzsche, p.91
Peirce, p.94

6/14: Locke, p.99
Descartes, p.111
Suzuki, p.138

6/16: Flew, Hare, Mitchell (on Vista)

6/21: Clifford, p.151 & James, p.156

6/23: Midterm Exam
Metaphysics

6/28: Plato’s Allegory, p.187
     Skinner & Stace, p.247 ...

6/30: Sartre, p.258
     ... and a “Groundhog”

7/5: 4th of July observed, no class

7/7: Sri Aurobindo, p.243
     The Bhagavad-Gita, p.271
     * THOUGHT PAPER DUE

7/12: Anselm & Aquinas, p.284 ...
     Buber, p.279
     Christ, p.311

Ethics & Morality

7/14: Intro to Ethics
     Benedict, p.333
     Midgley, p.337

7/19: “The Mission”

7/21: Gandhi, p.514
     M. L. King, Jr., p.473

7/26: Exam 2

* Note: This syllabus represents a general plan for the course; changes may be necessary as the semester progresses.