PHIL 2200  Ways of Knowing

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E-Mail: djohn151@kennesaw.edu

TEXTS: Passion of the Western Mind (Tarnas), Tao te Ching (trans. Wu), Thus Spoke Zarathustra (Nietzsche, trans. Kaufmann), Archetypes of the Collective Unconscious (Jung)

OBJECTIVES: As part of the General Education Program at Kennesaw State, this course we will survey many of the great ideas and thinkers from both Western and Eastern philosophical traditions. Although the principal aim of this course is to provide perspective on the history of philosophy, and thus the history of civilization, philosophical thinking cannot help but to be relevant to contemporary society and our present issues and questions. It is in this context and from this perspective that we will approach this subject.

COURSE STRATEGY: Studying philosophy is not about learning facts. Understanding others’ arguments and crafting one’s own are far more important than dates, people, places and terms. So although we will cover a great deal of the history of philosophy and encounter many facts, they are always secondary to understanding.

COURSE FORMAT: As a hybrid, this course will include an extensive online component in addition to the weekly meetings in person. You will see all of the relevant course readings, lectures and assignments for each week in the learning module(s) labeled for that week. In attempt to simulate the face-to-face learning environment of a classroom, I have recorded audio (MP3) versions of the lectures, corresponding roughly to the number and duration (minus discussion) of class meetings that you would expect from a course that meets in person twice per week. To ask questions about the lecture or reading material, simply post your questions in that week’s discussion board. When I have a sufficient number of questions that would benefit from a longer discussion, I will make audio recordings of my responses and post those for the class in addition to the normal, written responses on the boards themselves. Also in effort to recreate the classroom environment, I have created a PowerPoint file for each lecture that corresponds to the kind of outline material and key terms that I normally write on the board during class. It is important to note that the PowerPoint files are designed to supplement the lecture, not to summarize or replace them.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: For each week, for each assignment and for the course in general, please see the “Goals” tab on the class’ website for details on what my expectations are for your learning from week to week and for each assignment. For example, for the first week, I expect that after you have attended class and gone through the PowerPoint notes, links and discussion board, you will be able to discuss each of the topics and answer each of the questions set out in the learning objectives labeled for that week. You should also take a few minutes to go through the self-test for that week to ensure that your comprehension of the material matches expectations for the course. If you have met all the individual course objectives for each week of the course, you should be able to discuss those ideas in essay form, as appropriate to your chosen topics. If you can discuss each of the learning objective topics for each week and pass each self-test, you will have a great start in preparing for the final exam.

TECHNOLOGICAL PROFICIENCY: Since this is a hybrid course, the minimum for computer proficiency is naturally somewhat higher than it might be for a traditional course. I expect that you will have consistent access to an internet connection with a computer and browser capable of displaying the GeorgiaView Vista website for this class (be sure your version of Java is up to date). You will also need software that is capable of playing the audio lectures in MP3 format (e.g. Windows Media Player, Apple Quicktime). Some familiarity with using threaded discussion boards is also assumed. If you have any issues with Vista or technology-related questions, contact KSU’s Student Technology Services at http://its.kennesaw.edu/students.htm

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: In keeping with the ADA, if you have any special needs, please contact http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/dsss/dsss.html or on the second floor of the Student Center, Suite 267. Kennesaw State’s official ADA Statement: Kennesaw State University, a
member of the University System of Georgia, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin or disability in employment or provision of services. Kennesaw State University does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. 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.

GRADES AND EXAMINATIONS:

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<th>Value</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Attendance</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Online Discussions</td>
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<td>Introductory Essay</td>
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<td>Philosophical Essay</td>
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Due by class each week
June 18
July 16
July 23rd, 9:30-11:30 am

Total 100

Discussion Boards: Each week, you will be graded on your participation on the class’ discussion board. You will be expected to contribute at least four separate substantive commentaries per week of at least a paragraph in each response to either my posted discussion questions or other students’ postings. Irrelevant or weak responses will be given less or no credit. You are required to reference some specific bit of information from either the readings or a relevant outside source in at least two separate posts per week. This interchange can be fun and does not need to be intimidating or difficult. It must, however, be done consistently and on time to receive credit. Late submissions will receive no credit. Think of your discussion board posts as microcosmic versions of your papers, or as short answer questions that depend in large part on your own thoughts and position on the topic. Though you are responsible for four posts per week, they may be on any combination of the topics for that week as long as you post on at least two separate topics.

In summary:
1) Post on the topics we most recently covered in class
2) Four posts per week
3) At least two separate topics
4) At least two of your posts must contain a new reference (book, article, or quotation)

Discussion Board Etiquette: Please remember that these discussion boards are part of a university course and that the other people posting are your fellow students. You should interact with them with the courtesy and consideration that you would if you were sitting next to them in class. This does not mean that you shouldn’t disagree – this is philosophy, after all. If you do disagree with someone, simply remember to do so in a respectful manner.

Introductory and Philosophical Essays: The writing assignments, though not traditional research papers, will require the use of sources (the textbook, original philosophical texts, other books or articles). Each paper should contain a discussion that demonstrates the student’s understanding of the philosophers, the texts and arguments covered as appropriate, as well as the student’s own thoughts on the topic. A list of potential topics will be provided for each paper, though the student may write on any topic with the approval of the instructor. The paper in this class has a word count requirement. Consequently, details such as margins, typeface, font size, et al will not affect the word length of the paper.

You must submit each assignment via www.turnitin.com.
Class ID: 3271086
Password: aristotle
The assignments will be marked and returned via the website so that both the student and the instructor have dated copies of the assignment. You must log back into the website to see your graded paper and comments. If you are having difficulty submitting the assignment via turnitin.com, be sure to email me a copy of the paper or drop off a hardcopy of it at the History and Philosophy department office in my mailbox before the due date so that it will not be counted as late. This is to ensure that a technical problem with the website or similar matters out of your control do not preclude you from submitting the assignment on time. You will still need to submit the paper to the website to receive credit for the assignment.

**GRADING METHOD:** People frequently think that grading on philosophical papers is largely subjective. While clarity and quality of content are things that have an element of subjectivity to them, the standard is not as loose as you may think. If you are familiar with the compositional and grammatical quality standards for English classes that relate to clarity, then you know what to expect on the assignments for this class. Similarly, the standards for analytical writing (such as those for the GRE, for example) are very close to the content standard used to assign grades in this class. If your writing is free of grammatical issues, sensibly structured with an argument that proceeds naturally from one point to the next using the appropriate resources and represents the relevant philosophical ideas of others accurately, then you will likely do very well on the papers. If you have any question as to how the grading process works or whether your work will be sufficient to garner an A, I encourage you to make liberal use of my draft policy and submit drafts early and often until you are comfortable with your performance.

**DRAFT POLICY:** Up to one week before a paper is due, the student may elect to submit a draft of the paper to the instructor. I will provide comments on the paper just as I would for a graded assignment except that it will not have a grade on it. Comments will be returned with the paper within a week. There is no limit to the number of drafts you can submit. I am available via email to go over the comments and answer additional questions. If you have concerns about your writing ability, organization, understanding of the topic or are interested in sharpening your paper to get the best grade possible, turning in a draft and revising your paper before it is due is an excellent way to improve your grade.

**LATE ASSIGNMENTS POLICY:** An assignment is late if it is turned in after the day that it is due. Late assignments will be penalized 10% of the point value of the assignment for each class meeting that the assignment is late. If a student has a circumstance that they feel warrants additional time for an assignment, contact with the instructor must occur well in advance. This does not mean the day before the assignment is due. Exceptions will only be given for appropriately documented medical emergencies.

**PLAGIARISM POLICY:** 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 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 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. Plagiarism includes copying material from websites, books, or any other source and presenting it as your own work without a citation or quotation. I am aware of the online resources available and have the knowledge and ability to search these sources. If you copy entire sentences or paragraphs from an online source or book, that is plagiarizing. **Anyone caught plagiarizing will immediately receive a grade of F for the course.**

**RESPONSE TIME** - As a general guide, I will respond to emails within two days, return drafts and papers within a week, and post any new audio responses within a week.

**ACADEMIC SERVICES** – Kennesaw State has a number of academic services that may be useful to you in this course. The library ([http://www.kennesaw.edu/library/](http://www.kennesaw.edu/library/)) has online searchable databases for articles and books that you may use as sources for your writing assignments in this course. I highly encourage you
to take advantage of our Writing Center on campus (http://www.kennesaw.edu/english/WritingCenter/) if you are having structural or grammatical challenges with your papers.

INCOMPLETE POLICY - A grade of Incomplete or “I” will not be given unless the student contacts the instructor and makes special arrangements for making up the required work. Only emergency situations that prohibit a student from completing the course will warrant a grade of “I”. Therefore, it will not be given automatically. Incomplete grades not corrected in accordance with the college catalog will be changed to a letter grade of “F”.

Schedule of Events

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<th>Topics</th>
<th>Textbook Reading</th>
<th>Online Reading</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 28</td>
<td>What is philosophy? Socrates Plato’s Meno</td>
<td>Tarnas pp.1-54</td>
<td>Plato: Meno, Republic Book VII</td>
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<td>June 18</td>
<td>Buddhism Zen &amp; Meditation</td>
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<td>Dhammapadda</td>
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<td>June 25</td>
<td>Taoism Confucianism Aquinas and the Existence of God</td>
<td>Tao te Ching Tarnas pp.91-222</td>
<td>Confucius: Analects</td>
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<td>July 2</td>
<td>Problem of Evil &amp; Occam’s Razor Descartes, Kant, Berkeley Utilitarianism: Bentham &amp; Mill</td>
<td>Tarnas pp.223-350</td>
<td>Descartes: Meditations Ch.1 J.S. Mill: Utilitarianism (abridged)</td>
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<td>July 9</td>
<td>Schopenhauer Nietzsche</td>
<td>Tarnas pp.351-394 Thus Spoke Zarathustra: Prologue and Book I</td>
<td>Schopenhauer: Essays on Pessimism, sections 1 and 2</td>
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<td>July 16</td>
<td>Philosophy of Science / Math Consciousness Artificial Intelligence Wittgenstein</td>
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<td>July 23</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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All of the original texts that are listed in the Online Reading column are not included in the required textbooks for the course and are instead available on the class’ website under the appropriate learning module.
Bibliography


Carter, Elizabeth. (1758). *All the Works of Epictetus, Which Are Now Extant; Consisting of His Discourses, preserved by Arrian, In Four Books, the Enchiridion, and Fragments. Translated from the Original Greek*. Meredith: S. Richardson, Printer.


