Philosophy 2200: Ways of Knowing
Maymester 2012

Instructor: Joe Johnson
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Office hours: after class M-F, or by appointment
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COURSE DESCRIPTION: A philosophical, critical examination of the different ways of knowing and thinking in the humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences—including ethical and religious perspectives. Emphasis is on the nature and purpose of philosophical inquiry as applied to selected issues within philosophy and the broader implications of these methods and questions for other disciplines and in everyday contexts.

PREREQUISITES: ENGL 0099 and READ 0099, if required; ENGL 1101 recommended.

REQUIRED TEXTS: Introduction to World Philosophy—A Multicultural Reader,

ATTENDANCE: While there is no mandatory attendance policy, students will not be able to do well in this course without complete attendance. Responsibility for material covered while absent is the sole responsibility of the student.

GRADING: There will be four in-class exams and one short paper (—pay special attention to the Academic Honesty policy below), all of which must be completed in order to receive course credit. Exams will include both multiple-choice and essay questions. Study questions will be provided. Makeup exams will be given only in the case of unavoidable and dire circumstances. If not arranged in advance, prompt notification—i.e., within the same day—by e-mail must be given, though acceptance of excuses is at the sole discretion of the instructor. There will be no opportunities for extra-credit work; rather, students should focus their efforts on mastering the material at each stage, and then move on whole-heartedly to the next.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: No student shall receive, attempt to receive, knowingly give or attempt to give unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any work required to be submitted for credit (including examinations, laboratory reports, essays, themes, term papers, etc.). Unless specifically authorized, the presence and/or use of electronic devices during an examination, quiz, or other class assignment is considered cheating. Engaging in any behavior that a professor prohibits as academic misconduct in the syllabus or in class discussion is cheating. When direct quotations are used, they should be indicated, and when the ideas, theories, data, figures, graphs, programs, electronic based information or illustrations of someone other than the student are incorporated into a paper or used in a project, they should be duly acknowledged. No student may submit the same, or substantially the same, paper or other assignment for credit in more than one class without the prior permission of the current professor(s).
Part I: Plato’s Epistemology, Metaphysics
14.1.1 Plato, from *Meno* (Epistemology)
14.1.2 Plato, from *Theaetetus* (Epistemology)
19.1.1 Plato, from *Republic* (Metaphysics; Forms)
9.1.1 Plato, from *Phaedo* (Immortality)

TEST 1 (WED 05/16, 13:00)

Part II: Philosophical Theology
23.2.1 Anselm, from *Proslogion* (Ontological Proof)
25.3.1 Thomas Aquinas, from *Summa Theologica* (Five Proofs)
25.5.1 David Hume, from *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion* (Counterarguments)
21.4.2 Friedrich Nietzsche, from *The Cheerful Science* (Death of God)

TEST-2 (FRI 05/18, 16:30)

Part III: Rationalism, Empiricism, Personal Identity
16.1.1 René Descartes, from *Meditations on First Philosophy* (I: Skeptical Considerations)
10.1.1 René Descartes, from *Meditations on First Philosophy* (II: Self as Mind)
10.2.2 Princess Elizabeth, Letter to Descartes--The Hague, June 20, 1643 (Questions)
10.2.3 Princess Elizabeth, Letter to Descartes--The Hague, July 1, 1643 (Questions)
16.2.1 John Locke, from *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (Empiricism)
10.3.1 John Locke, from *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (Personal Identity)
10.4.1 David Hume, from *A Treatise of Human Nature* (The Constructed Self)

TEST-3 (TUE 05/22, 16:30)

Part IV: Ethics
5.2.1 David Hume, from *A Treatise of Human Nature* (From Is to Ought)
5.3.1 Immanuel Kant, from *Fundamental Principles of the Metaphysics of Morals* (Categorical Imperative)
5.5.1 John Stuart Mill, from *Utilitarianism* (Greatest Happiness Principle)

TEST-4 PAPER (2-3 pages. Discuss Wed 05/23; DUE THU 05/24, 13:00)

Part V: Comparative Philosophy: Buddhism
1.3.1 The Buddha, from *The First Sermon* (Four Noble Truths; Eightfold Path)
7.3.1 From *Questions to King Milinda* (Anatman, or No-self)
8.3.1 From *The Heart Sutra* (Emptiness)
1.5.1 From *The Lankavatara Sutra* (Bodhisattva Ideal)
8.3.2 From *The Recorded Conversations of Zen Master Yixuan*

TEST-5 (FRI 05/25, 16:30)