Philosophy 2200: Ways of Knowing
Instructor: Tom Pynn
MW 11-1:45
Summer 2012

*Philosophy is a critical disposition of wrestling with desire in the face of death, dialogue in the face of dogmatism, [and] democracy in the face of despotism.* –Dr. Cornel West

**Office/Hours:** SO 2008. MW, 10-10:45 and 1-2; TR, 10-10:45; and by appointment.

**E-mail address:** tpynn@kennesaw.edu to be used only for communication purposes. If you use the email on Georgia View Vista, there is a strong chance that I will not respond for a couple of days. You are more likely to get a quicker response by using my KSU address. *Exams submitted electronically without authorization will be deleted.*

**Course Description:** Philosophy 2200 presents the student with an opportunity to engage in a guided philosophical examination of the different questions, texts and concepts developed by thinkers from both Western and Non-Western traditions of thought and practice. The student reads primary works of philosophy and engages in thoughtful discussions about the ideas raised by and in these works. Students take essay examinations, engage in class discussion, and view documentaries. All in-class and out-of-class activities focus on elevating the student’s critical ability to read philosophical texts, comprehend concepts and conceptual frameworks, and apply the ideas we study to their own self-understanding, other-understanding, and understanding of the world they live in.

**Primary Texts**

Plato, *The Last Days of Socrates*  
Immanuel Kant, *Perpetual Peace and Other Essays*  
James Baldwin, *The Fire Next Time*  
Roger T. Ames and David L. Hall, *Daodejing: Making This Life Significant*

**Highly Recommended:** W. L. Reese, *Dictionary of Philosophy and Religion: Eastern and Western Thought* or a reputable dictionary of philosophy either in print or online.

**Evaluation:** The student will demonstrate *performative competence* in communicating (by writing and speaking) his/her understanding of the course material. Each exam emphasizes a close reading of the texts we study. The student will not use outside sources or secondary sources whether Internet, World Wide
Web, journal, or book. If you want to use a text in addition to the ones required for this course you must have it OK’d by the instructor. Failure to cite outside sources on the exams, known as plagiarism, will result in an “F” for the exam. Continued plagiarism will result in your being brought before the school judiciary. See Academic Integrity Statement below. All exams are due when class begins. I will allow late exams only if the student contacts me about the absence at least one week prior to the exam date and/or if the student finds himself/herself in dire straits; e.g., giving birth, comatose, hospitalization for an extended period of time, and, of course, being dead. A student may email me their assignment(s) only if prior arrangements have been made with me. See section E-mail address. The student must complete and turn in all exams in order to receive credit for the course.

- **4 exams** (80%) covering each section of study. Each exam reiterates what is done in class: lecture, class discussion, readings, and documentaries. The take-home essay exams are posted on Georgia View one week prior to the due date. The exams emphasize close reading of texts, reasoning acuity, and composition skills. No outside or secondary sources other than those studied in class are to be used.

- **Class participation** (20%). Class participation is willingly and spiritedly engaging in reading aloud, asking questions and freely participating in discussion of the topics at hand with other students and instructor. Class Participation also entails working in small groups, giving brief presentations and facilitating discussion about the case studies we use.

Attendance is neither rewarded nor punished; however, students who miss class do not perform as competently as students who attend class on a regular basis.

*Nota Bene:* All course work is to be typed in Times New Roman at 12 point, double-spaced, and in standard margins. I will not accept handwritten assignments. No covers or jackets or folders, please. The student must complete and turn in all exams in order to receive credit for the course. In each exam essay I am looking for: accurate presentation of the author’s ideas, use of relevant vocabulary items, your critique of the author’s ideas, accuracy of grammar, and college-level composition skills.

**Academic Integrity Statement:** Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate 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.

**Absence Policy:** There are no excused absences in college. Students are responsible for making up class by conferring with classmates (i.e. getting notes, discussing the main topics of conversation). Instructors are neither expected to, nor encouraged to repeat class lectures for student convenience. The student will neither be punished for absence, nor rewarded for presence; however, the student is responsible for material covered: all readings, lectures, and documentary presentations. I will allow late exams **only** if the student contacts me about the absence **at least** one week prior to the exam date and/or if the student finds himself/herself in dire straits; e.g., giving birth, comatose, hospitalization for an extended period of time, and, of course, being dead. **A student may email me their assignment(s) only if prior arrangements have been made with me.**

**Plagiarism Policy:** See student handbook. If you are unsure of what constitutes plagiarism, please visit the writing center or see me during office hours. See **Academic Integrity Statement.**

**Expected Outcomes:** By the end of the semester the student will
- Demonstrate a college-level understanding of the major figures, themes, and movements from the history of philosophy through reading, exams and writing assignments;
- use the concepts of the various philosophers, philosophical traditions and philosophical periods we have studied in reading, reading, exams and writing assignments;
- compare and contrast different philosophical schools of thought and their cultural and historical roots in both Western and non-Western contexts as evidenced in classroom discussion, reading, exams and writing assignments;
- identify and employ philosophical language, analysis, and argumentation by participating in classroom dialogue and writing expository compositions;
- be ethically sensitive to the role of cultural, social and political diversity in human thought and action by exploring with and responding to others in open dialogue about human diversity;
- critically examine her/his own social, cultural, and historical situation and its effects on individual, group, and national beliefs about the self, others, and the world through evaluating and discussing the social and historical origins and implications of those positions; and
- apply the ideas we study to his/her life as evidenced in classroom discussion, reading, exams and writing assignments.
Schedule of Events

May 30: Introduction to Philosophy: *Examined Life* (DVD); Introduction to “Euthyphro”

May 30-June 11: *The Last Days of Socrates*
May 30-June 4: “Euthyphro,” 3-30
June 6: “Apology,”
June 11: “Allegory of the Cave” (the first 10 pages)
http://www.constitution.org/pla/repub_07.htm

Exam I: June 18, 2012

June 13-25: *Immanuel Kant, Perpetual Peace and Other Essays*
June 18: “An Answer to the Question…” : 41-48
June 25: “To Perpetual Peace…” : 107-144

Exam II: July 2, 2012

June 27-July 11: *James Baldwin, The Fire Next Time, and existential thinking*
June 27: Introduction to Existential Thinking: “An Existentialist Looks at Americans” (on-line)
July 2: *The Fire Next Time*, 3-10
July 9: *The Fire Next Time*, 15-81
July 11: *The Fire Next Time*, 82-106

Exam III: July 18, 2012

July 16-27: *Daodejing, Making this Life Significant*
July 16: Introduction to Daoism; ix-10. *Taoism* (video)
July 18: *Daodejing*, 11-71;
July 23-25: *Daodejing*, 77-204. Philosophy of War and Peace in *Daodejing*

Exam IV: July 31, 2012

NOTE: Schedule of events subject to change by Fate, the insightful awareness of the instructor, and/or the collaboration between students and instructor.

Summary of Grading Percentages and Grading Scale
Four Essay Exams: 80%
Class Participation: 20%
A: 90-100; B: 80-89; C: 70-79; D: 60-69; F: 59 and below

Important Dates

- Last day to withdraw with a W: June 27, 2012
- Holiday: July 4, 2012
- Last Class: July 27, 2012