

PHI2200- Ways of Knowing Fall 2009

Instructor's Contact Info:

Victor Ezquerra, M.A.
History and Philosophy Dept.
Kennesaw State University
1000 Chastain Road #2206
Bldg. 22 Room 4120
Kennesaw, GA 30144
770-423-6294

Course Description:

Philosophy 2200 (Ways of Knowing) is a course in Kennesaw State University's General Education Program. This is an introductory course to philosophy, intended for students with little or no background in the area. This course is a critical, philosophical examination of the different ways of thinking and knowing found within various texts and representations spanning through several distinctive fields of study. Emphasis is placed on how philosophical and critical inquiries are relevant on both microcosmic and macrocosmic scales, and how philosophy has questioned, determined, and changed human existence. This course will cover a broad range of philosophical topics and also how these topics have related to and/or influenced other disciplines. We will look closely at how philosophical and critical thought has impacted humans from the highest king to the lowest layperson in past, present, and future.

Text:

Philosophy and Choice: Selected Readings from Around the World, 2nd ed.
Christensen, Kit R. Boston, MA: McGraw-Hill, 2002.

Course Objectives and Goals:

- To become familiar with the vocabulary of philosophy, its major concepts, the historical development and consequences of these concepts, and methods of philosophical inquiry within western and non-western traditions
- To develop and understanding of the different contexts and criteria for knowledge
- To develop and understanding of human diversity and how this is reflected through different perspectives

- To improve the effectiveness of rhetoric, writing, and communication through philosophical study

Course Assessment:

There will be three major assignments/exams. These will all be take-home essays and/or short answer questions. These three major assessments will constitute 90% of your final class grade. The other 10% of your grade is made up of participation, attendance, and any in-class quizzes that are conducted:

Exam 1 (Due 5th week)...30%
Exam 2 (Due 10th week)...30%
Exam 3 (Due Finals week)...30%
Attendance, Participation, Quizzes...10%
Final Class Grade...100%

Obviously, there will be a penalty for late work. A half-letter grade will be deducted for each day an assignment is late. Apart from the grades above, there will be an extra credit opportunity somewhere down the line, but focus on your grade and don't be dependent on the extra credit!

Grading Scale:

100% to 90%...**A**
89% to 80%...**B**
79% to 70%...**C**
69% to 60%...**D**
59% and below...**F**

Office Hours:

By appointment. I will be glad to meet any time, just see me before or after class to either resolve any issues or make an appointment. My office is located at 4120 building 22 (Social Sciences) where you can leave a message in my mailbox. The office phone is 770-423-6294.

Class Schedule:

This is an ambitious schedule and is SUBJECT TO CHANGE!

* = October 12 is the last day to withdraw without academic penalty

= Exam handed out

\$ = Exam is due

Week 1, Aug 17-21- Introduction to course, Part I intro
Week 2, Aug 24-28- Plato "Apology" p.13-27, Russel "On the Value of Philosophy" p.65
Week 3, Aug 31-Sept 1- Part II intro, Nietzsche "On Truth" p.91, Peirce "Fixation" p.94
#Week 4, Sept 7-11 (No class Monday)- Descartes "Quest for Rational Certainty" p.111
\$Week 5, Sept 14-18- Descartes cont., James "The Will to Believe" p. 156
Week 6, Sept 21-25- Part III intro, Plato "The Intellectual World/Visible World" p.187
Week 7, Sept 28-Oct 2- Satre "Existentialism" p.258, Hume "Dialogues" p.288
Week 8, Oct 5-9- Part IV intro, Confucius "Analects" p.370, Aristotle "Virtue" p.379
#Week 9, Oct 12-16- Kant "Nonconsequentialist Ethics" p.403, Hassan "Islamic" p.422
\$Week 10, Oct 19-23- Part V intro, Mill "On Liberty" p. 454, Marx & Engels
"Manifesto" p.482
Week 11, Oct 26-30- Ghandi "Nonviolent Resistance" p.514, MLK Jr. "Letter" p.473
Week 12, Nov 2-6- Chomsky "Democracy and Media" p.520, Inrona "Privacy" p.462
Week 13, Nov 9-13- Dewey "On Democracy" p.538, Lenin "State" p.543
Week 14, Nov 16-20- Part VI Intro, Tolstoy "What is Art?" p.589
Week 15, Nov 23-27 (No class Wed or Thurs)- Ducasse "Aesthetic" p.617, Beardsley
"Taste" p.626
#Week 16, Nov 30-Dec 2- Review last section and Entire class, Instructor evaluations
\$Week 17, Dec 4- 10- FINALS WEEK!

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, misrepresentations/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 to the Code of Conduct's minimum one semester suspension requirement.