

Syllabus

Philosophy 2200 Ways of Knowing Fall 2009 Dr. T. H. White

This course is part of the General Education Program at Kennesaw State University. It is intended in part to familiarize you with the discipline of philosophy. In this course we will look at some of the traditional questions that have interested philosophers from many cultures and many times. These questions include how and what we know about our world, ourselves, and our ethical responsibilities within this context. Furthermore, we will look at how philosophy and philosophical thinking relate to other disciplines and how philosophy might help us in thinking about and understanding everyday questions and problems.

TEXTS: Edward Craig, "Philosophy, A Very Short Intro", Oxford U P (available in paperback) and K. A. Appiah, "Thinking It Through", Oxford U P (available in paperback)

OBJECTIVES: When you complete this course, you should have achieved the following:

- A familiarity with the vocabulary of philosophy, its major concepts, the historical development and consequences of these concepts, and methods of philosophical inquiry within some western (and perhaps non-western) traditions.
- An understanding of the different contexts and criteria for knowledge.
- An understanding of human diversity and the differing values that arise from diverse points of view; and
- An understanding of the relationship of philosophy to other disciplines and areas of inquiry.

GRADING:

There will be three opportunities to build your grade, each worth one-third of the final grade. Each of these opportunities will be a written paper done out of class. Each will have its own handout with the topic question and relevant details. Usually the paper will be due one week from when the handout is issued. Generally the paper's length requirement will be five to seven word processed pages with standard formatting. No handwritten work will be accepted. Letter grades will be used for evaluating your work. The final exam grade will be the grade earned on the last required work product only and thus not be more heavily weighted. The final course grade will be the average of the three grades according to the following scheme: -A = 11, A- = 10, B+ = 9, B = 8, B- = 7, C+ = 6, C = 5, C- = 4, D+ = 3, D = 2, D- = 1, and F = 0.

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, misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, 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.

CLASS ATTENDANCE

Attendance will be taken at every class meeting. A legal pad will be circulated to collect signatures. Because class participation counts and is recorded, your absence precludes you from earning this type of credit. Philosophy is not amenable to a "teach yourself" approach, and those who routinely miss class have with few exceptions done poorly in the past.

OFFICE HOURS

Please arrange to meet with me on Tuesdays and Thursdays only as I am not at KSU on the other days of the week. I am generally available right before or right after class should you require meeting privately with me. For emergencies and academic related issues please email me at my home office: thwhite4@bellsouth.net.

CONCERNING THE TEXT: "Thinking It Through" has nine chapters. I anticipate we will be able to cover about five of them. I will probably have some supplemental materials to distribute for one or two of the chapters. The first paper to be handed in will be on the Craig book. The other two papers will be on the Appiah book.