

Philosophy 3313
American Philosophy: The Public Intellectual
Fall, 2009
Dr. Susan Rouse

This course is a survey of some of the major philosophers and related thinkers in the United States and their roles as “public intellectual.”

Texts:

Ralph Waldo Emerson: Selected Essays, Lectures and Poems, ed. Richardson

The Metaphysical Club: A Story of Ideas in America, Menand

William James: Essays and Lectures, ed Kamber

The Essential Dewey, Volume I, ed. Hickman and Alexander

The Future of the Race, Gates and West

There are also some readings on Web CT.

Grading requirements:

There are 3 categories for grades:

- 3 in-class exams (one quarter of your grade),
- 5 analytic summaries*, each about 3-4 pages in length. All of the readings must come from readings that I assign. These lists of assigned readings can be found on WebCT. At least three but no more than four of these summaries are to cover any assigned reading other than Menand; at least one but no more than two sections or chapter summaries from Menand. (If you do a chapter summary, you will need to set summary in the context of the entire section of your previously graded summaries in a folder with this final reflective summary. Together, the summaries will count for one-half of your grade.
- One 10 minute oral Power Point presentation with outline and bibliography (one quarter of your grade).

There is also an expectation for class participation. I will say more about each of these grading categories and particular assignments. Guidelines for these assignments and particular reading assignments are posted on WebCT. It is your responsibility to look at these guidelines and reading assignments. I will hand out a schedule for the oral presentations.

I will not accept assignments over email.

Class rules:

It is very distracting to both me and other students when you leave and return to the room during class, so PLEASE don't leave unless you have some sort of genuine emergency. If you do have emergencies, I expect they will be few and far between. Furthermore, cell phones and the like are distracting: turn them off before class starts. Talking when I'm talking or when someone else is not only distracting, it's rude. I'll be happy to answer questions to give time for discussion, so just be patient.

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, 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.

In plain English this means that if you are caught plagiarizing or otherwise cheating, I fail you for the assignment and, if severe enough, I will fail you for the course. In either case, I will turn your name over to the Judicial Officer.

Office hours:

My office hours are 1-2 Mondays and Wednesdays. My office is 4126 of the Social Sciences Building, my phone is 423-6647, and my email is srouse@kennesaw.edu. PLEASE, if you send me email, remember to indicate in the subject line that you are one of my students. Because of so many computer viruses, I don't open email if I don't recognize the name in the return address. Please use this email to correspond with me and not the one on WebCT.

The KSU Writing Center is a free service offered to all KSU students. Experienced writing assistants work with you throughout the writing process (on concerns such as topic development, revision, research, documentation, grammar, and mechanics) although assistants cannot edit or proofread your paper for you. Appointments are strongly encouraged. For more information or to make an appointment, visit <http://www.kennesaw.edu/english/WritingCenter>, or stop by Room 242 in the English Building.

Tentative schedule:

August 17	Introduction
August 19	Background (Colonial/Enlightenment Philosophy)
August 24	Menand, Preface and Part 1
August 26	Emerson Reading summary due
August 31	Emerson
September 3	Emerson
September 7	No class
September 9	Emerson
September 14	In-class exam
September 16	Menand Part 2
September 21	Reading summary due Peer review of writing
September 23	James
September 28	James
September 30	James
October 5	Reading summary due In class peer review
October 7	Menand Part 3
October 12	"The Fixation of Belief" reading on WebCT Vista Last day to withdraw without academic penalty
October 14	Dewey
October 19	Dewey
October 21	Dewey
October 26	Dewey/Fesmire (on Web CT) Reading summary due
October 28	In-class exam
November 2	Reading summary due In class peer review
November 4	Class will not meet
November 9	Menand Part 4
November 11	Dubois
November 16	Dubois

November 18	Dubois
November 23	Menand Part 5
November 30	Gates/West
December 2	Gates/West
December 7	9:00-11:00, Final exam

*The analytic reading summaries may be on any of the **assigned** readings, but they are due no later than the date we address that reading in class if you want full credit for them. The summaries that have been peer reviewed must be turned in with those comments for full credit. If you miss a scheduled peer review date or do not have your paper, you will not receive full credit if you turn that paper in later.