Philosophy 2100  
Values and Society  
Fall 2019  
Online

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Office Hours: Online and by appointment

Electronic Communications: The University provides all KSU students with an “official” email account with the address “kennesaw.view.usg.edu.” As a result of federal laws protecting educational information and other data, this is the sole email account you should use to communicate with your instructor or other University officials.

Course Description: “Values and Society” takes as its object of inquiry those aspects of our society that most directly affect and shape our everyday lives. In this way, the course shows how philosophy can be helpful in thinking more deeply about everyday life by focusing on those social relations, institutions, and systems that structure the way we live, and which we often take as givens. Put another way, if one of the classical projects of philosophy has been to define and outline “the good life”, then this course traces some of the central features through which social life has been arranged in our present. Consequently, this course encourages students to ask critically, and reflect on, how close we have (or have not) come to that “good life” in our modern society.

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of the course students will be able

- to identify the historic roots of what we call “modern Western” society in our hemisphere.
- to express a general account of the complex historical relation between North American social formation and the rest of the Americas.
- to explain generally the major points of philosophical reflection around the themes of race, patriarchy, sexuality, the nation-state, and capitalism.
- to explain how these themes have been arranged and put into practice in American society.
- to apply philosophy as a critical tool for thinking about society and one's location in it.

Required Texts: All course materials will be provided through D2L Brightspace. Note that the cost you save in in not having to buy books may be incurred through printing and photocopying.

Attendance Policy: There are no excused absences in college. This expectation also holds true in an online environment, insofar as all modules should be completed in a timely manner and all online lectures should be treated with the same degree of attention and seriousness as if you were in a class room. After all, as a professor I am expecting the same quality of work and grading no differently than as if you were in a real class room. So, please do not make the mistake of thinking an online course is an
“easier” version of a face to face one.

**Grading Scale:**
Students are evaluated on the following scale:
- A (90%-100%)
- B (80%-89%)
- C (70%-79%)
- D (60%-69%)
- F (59% and below)
- I (Indicates an incomplete grade for the course, and will be awarded only when the student has done satisfactory work up to the last two weeks of the semester, but for nonacademic reasons beyond his/her control is unable to meet the full requirements of the course. Incomplete grades are only valid after submission of the Incomplete Grade form, signed by both the instructor and student, to the Department Chair’s office.)

**Academic Integrity Statement**
Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section 5. C 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 Department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (SCAI), 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 short, plagiarism and/or cheating will result in a failing grade for this course.

**Evaluation:**
Grades will be determined by three different types of exercises: first, there will be between one and three quizzes per module over the course of the class for a total of roughly thirty multiple choice quizzes; second, there will be three comprehensive exams that cover one-third of the course content per exam. Please note that the first two exams will require you to use Respondus software (please see the “Course Resources” section for more information on this), and the final exam will require use of the “Proctoring Center” on either the Kennesaw or Marietta campus, which will require a payment of $25. Lastly, there will also be weekly discussion posts and two replies required. In terms of final grade calculation, the discussion boards and replies will be worth 15%, the quizzes collectively another 25%, and the three exams 20% each, or 60% total.

**Description of Assignments and Assessments:**
Comprehension Quizzes: A quiz will be given at the end of each lecture (keep in mind that some modules have more than one lecture). The quizzes will aim to determine that students have done the reading and listened carefully to the lecture.

Discussion Posts: A discussion post must be submitted for every module along with two replies to other students. The discussion post is a 500 word philosophical reflection on the reading and lecture content. The replies are shorter and meant to be constructive in nature, to more fully understand the text.
Exams: You will be required to answer a series of short answer questions pertaining to the readings and lectures covered to date. All the exams, except the final, will use Respondus technology. Students will be required to have a working webcam.

**Quiz Grading:** Quizzes are multiple choice.

**Discussion Post Grading:** You will be graded on your participation and interaction with course materials and other students. In order to receive full marks, you must take part in online discussions for all fourteen modules. You are required to write 500 words (min. 450, max. 550), providing reflection on the question provided. In your post, you will also be required to refer to at least one quote from the reading. Lastly, you will also be required to respond to two other posts for each discussion board in each module. The discussion board posts are graded according to the grading scale in line with the following rubric:

1. Student has successfully identified and explained a significant point or argument in one of the appropriate readings
2. Student has proofread the document for grammar and spelling
3. Student has referred to an important quote
4. Student has provided a substantial reflection on the significant point or argument identified and explained

**Exam Grading:** Typically, exams will contain eight to ten short-answer questions, and each question will be graded on a scale from one to five. The following is the rubric by which the exam questions will be graded:

1. Major inaccuracies; major elements/issues not even mentioned; and, little or no details, examples, or discussion.
2. Major confusions or gaps; little effort to describe elements; and, limited use of details or examples.
3. Accurately identifies most general parts of an answer; some serious confusions; and, superficial discussion with some detail and use of examples.
4. Accurately identifies most of the elements of an answer; some minor confusions; and, discussion and examples not as strong as they could be.
5. Clearly and accurately identifies all the elements of an answer; and, strong use of examples and details.

In almost all cases, an answer that receives full credit will be at least a paragraph.

**Extra Credit:** You may acquire extra credit, but all exams must have been completed to receive points. Extra credit is obtained by completing a 500-word summary of any philosophically relevant lecture you attended at KSU or off campus (check with instructor for eligibility). A summary is an objective (no critique) account of the presenter’s main ideas that also includes the specific details of when and where the event took place, who spoke, and the title of the speaker’s presentation.

**Feedback Timeline:** Exams and discussion posts will be returned a week after they are completed, and quizzes will be graded automatically by the computer. In addition, I am always available via email, just
allow for three business days for response. Keep in mind, that my expertise is limited to the course content and material and does not include technological expertise. For any tech issues I recommend you contact UITS (see link provided below)

**Resources for writing philosophically:**

How to Write a Philosophical Essay (available on D2L) KSU Philosophy LibGuide:

(http://libguides.kennesaw.edu/content.php?pid=531460&sid=4372684)

The KSU Writing Center

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://kennesaw.edu/writingcenter/](http://kennesaw.edu/writingcenter/), or stop by Room 242 in the English Building.

Your Professors and Instructors

Philosophy Student Association

[http://www.philosophystudentassociation.com](http://www.philosophystudentassociation.com)

**ADA Compliance:** Students with qualifying disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act who require “reasonable accommodation(s)” to complete the course may request those from Department of Student Success Services. Students requiring such accommodations are required to work with the University’s Department of Student Success Services rather than engaging in this discussion with individual faculty members or academic departments. If, after reviewing the course syllabus, a student anticipates or should have anticipated a need for accommodation, he or she must submit documentation requesting an accommodation and permitting time for a determination prior to submitting assignments or taking course quizzes or exams. Students may not request retroactive accommodation for needs that were or should have been foreseeable. Students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations, for more information please visit their [website](http://www.philosophystudentassociation.com).

Contact information is as follows:
SDS Email: sds@kennesaw.edu

**Additional Support Services:**

For technical support: [https://uits.kennesaw.edu/](https://uits.kennesaw.edu/)

For academic services: [https://advising.kennesaw.edu/](https://advising.kennesaw.edu/)

For student services: [https://learnonline.kennesaw.edu/how-it-works/osrg_student_success_services.php](https://learnonline.kennesaw.edu/how-it-works/osrg_student_success_services.php)
A general trouble shooting starting point for any question or problem you may have:
http://distanceed.hss.kennesaw.edu/elearning/onestopshop.html

Accessibility Statements:
Kaltura: https://corp.kaltura.com/products/core-platform/video-accessibility
D2L: https://www.d2l.com/accessibility/
Adobe: https://www.adobe.com/accessibility/products/acrobat.html

Schedule of Readings (subject to change at the discretion of the instructor):

I. Race and Racism

Module 1: Race and Racism #1

Module 2: Race and Racism #2

Module 3: Race and Racism #3
    Robert Bernasconi, “Who Invented the Concept of Race?,” in Race (Blackwell: Malden, Mass., 2001)

Module 4: Race and Racism #4
    Derrick Bell, “The Real Status of Black Folks Today,” in And We Are Not Saved (Basic Books: NY, 1989)

II. Gender, Patriarchy, and Heterosexism

Module 5: Gender and Sexuality #1

Module 6: Gender and Sexuality #2

Module 7: Gender and Sexuality #3

Module 8: Gender and Sexuality #4

**III. The State and Capitalism**

Module 9: The State #1

Module 10: The State #2
Michel Foucault, “Chapter 10,” in *Security, Territory, Population* (Palgrave: NY, 2007)

Module 11: The State #3
Walter Trattner, “War on the Welfare State,” in *From Poor Law to Welfare State*

Module 12: The State #4
Loic Wacquant, “Race as Civic Felony”, *International Social Science Journal*, 181 (Spring 2005)

Module 13: Capitalism #1
Karl Marx, selections from the *Early Writings* (Penguin: New York, 1992)

Module 14: Capitalism #2
Noam Chomsky, "Neoliberalism and Global Order," in *Profit Over People* (Seven Stories Press, New York, 1999)