

Ways of Knowing – Introduction to Philosophy
Maymester 2018 - May 14-May 25 (1:00-5:30)
Social Science Bldg. 2033

Professor: Dr. David Jones

Office: 4082 Social Science Building

Consultation Times: MTWTHF 12:30-1:00 and by appointment

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Specific Course Description: Philosophy 2200 is an introductory course in philosophy that explores a variety of issues from a philosophical perspective. The approach of the class will be historical and comparative. Some of the problems and issues we will be investigating this semester are: the differences between philosophical questions, religious questions, and scientific questions; how values are established and how they change over time; the relationship between faith and reason; the nature of reality; and what ways of knowing do we develop to address these types of questions. These questions (and more) will spin off from a more fundamental question that is the major focus of the course: what is the nature of the human soul/self and its relation to other selves and the external world? We will address Socrates' challenge to know ourselves through various contexts and relationships. Also, students are introduced to the vocabulary of philosophy and how it applies to other disciplines, to the values and objectives of thinking critically, and alternative ways of knowing the self and world through chronologically and comparatively presented worldviews. Ways of knowing our world and ourselves are presented in the context of the following worldviews: Mythic/Primitive, Pre-Socratic, Platonic, Chinese, Modern Western, and Postmodern Western. Historical representatives of each worldview are presented.

Generic Course Description: A philosophical, critical examination of the different ways of knowing and thinking in the humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences including ethical and religious perspectives. Emphasis is on the nature and purpose of philosophical inquiry as applied to selected issues within philosophy and the broader implications of these methods and questions for other disciplines and in everyday contexts.

Generic Learning Objectives: Philosophy 2200 satisfies one of Kennesaw State University's general education program requirements. It addresses the Critical Thinking general education learning outcome. The learning outcome states: Students articulate a position on an issue and support it by evaluating evidence relevant to the position, considering opposing positions or evidence, and evaluating the implications and/or consequences of this issue. For more information about KSU's General Education program requirements and associated learning outcomes, please visit

http://catalog.kennesaw.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=14&poid=1248.

Specific Course Objectives:

1. To develop an understanding of philosophy, its traditions, and relation to subsequent disciplines and forms of inquiries emerging from them

2. To develop a working philosophical vocabulary, one that is especially appropriate for other disciplines
3. To achieve a level of competence when dealing with a philosophical problem within philosophical, social scientific, and scientific contexts
4. To understand and appreciate the origin and development of values and knowledge
5. To develop the necessary critical faculties to deal with philosophical problems and issues in a written and verbal format
6. To develop critical skills applicable to all facets of life
7. To incorporate the philosophical and ethical perspective into one's professional and personal life
8. To develop one's conceptual abilities and expand ways of knowing
9. To develop the "whole person"—one who is not narrowly defined

Course Format: Classroom sessions will be both lecture and discussion with the emphasis placed on informal, that is, interactive lecture. Students are encouraged and expected to ask questions and must be prepared each class to discuss the problems and issues of the class. ***This class will not have power point presentations or study guides.*** If you are reliant on these types of learning crutches, you should enroll in a different class.

Specific Course and Classroom Policies: All work completed outside of class must be word-processed. There are no provisions for makeup examinations in Philosophy 2200. Participation and attendance are mandatory and are essential for a good grade in this course. Consider the statement on academic honesty in the *Kennesaw State University Undergraduate Catalogue* to be a part of this Course Description and Syllabus. Students plagiarizing will automatically fail the course. Active cellular telephones or paging devices are not permitted in class. Also, in order to enhance critical listening skills, no audio or visual taping of lectures is permitted without the instructor's approval. If students are using laptops for note taking, they are not allowed to be on-line or engaged in instant messaging. Final Grades will not be transmitted electronically to individual students by the professor. Arrive to class on time. All contents of lectures, including written materials distributed to the class, are under copyright protection.

Electronic Devices Policy: No electronic devices including laptops and cell phones are permitted unless students qualify for the Americans with Disabilities Act. Learning to listen without distraction is essential for philosophical thinking. All cell phones must be disabled during class time.

Class Notes Policy: Notes or recordings made by students in this class based on my lectures, discussion group or class discussions may only be made for the purposes of individual or group study, or for other non-commercial purposes that reasonably arise from your membership in this class. Permission to make notes or recordings falls within my discretion as the instructor and as informed by instructional purposes, classroom order, property interests and other reasonable considerations arising in the academic context. Notes and recordings of this class may not be exchanged or distributed for any commercial purpose, for compensation, or for any purpose other than your personal study. Unless authorized by the University in advance and explicitly and in writing permitted by me, commercial or any non-personal use of class notes or recordings constitutes an unauthorized commercial activity in violation of the Student Conduct Code, and students who violate this policy are subject to University discipline. As the instructor in this

course, I retain intellectual property rights in the lecture material pursuant to U.S. copyright law and Georgia Civil Code. Misuse of course notes or recordings derived from lecture material may also subject you to legal proceedings.

Generic Academic Honesty Policy Statement: The high quality of education at Kennesaw State University is reflected in the credits and degrees its students earn. The protection of high standards of academic integrity is crucial since the validity and equity of the University's grades and degrees depend upon it.

No student shall receive, attempt to receive, knowingly give or attempt to give unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any work required to be submitted for credit (including examinations, laboratory reports, essays, themes, term papers, etc.). Unless specifically authorized, the presence and/or use of electronic devices during an examination, quiz, or other class assignment is considered cheating. Engaging in any behavior which a professor prohibits as academic misconduct in the syllabus or in class discussion is cheating. When direct quotations are used, they should be indicated, and when the ideas, theories, data, figures, graphs, programs, electronic based information or illustrations of someone other than the student are incorporated into a paper or used in a project, they should be duly acknowledged. No student may submit the same, or substantially the same, paper or other assignment for credit in more than one class without the prior permission of the current professor(s).

Students suspected of violating the KSU statement of Academic Honesty will meet with the instructor to discuss the violation **AND** will be reported to the Department of Student Conduct according to the process outlined at the following link:
[https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/scai-misconduct-procedures.](https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/scai-misconduct-procedures)

Specific Course Academic Policy Statement:

Students plagiarizing will automatically fail the course. Examples of Plagiarism Avoidance websites:

<http://plagiarism.org/>

<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>

<http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html>

ADA Compliance: Kennesaw State University, a member of the University System of Georgia, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin or disability in employment or provision of services. Kennesaw State University does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Public Law 101-336, gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities. This statute guarantees equal opportunity for this protected group in the areas of public accommodations, employment, transportation, state and local government services and telecommunications.

The following individuals have been designated by the President of the University to provide assistance and ensure compliance with the ADA. Should you require assistance or have further questions about the ADA, please contact:

ADA Compliance Officer for Students: Nastassia Sanabria, Assistant Director of Student Disability Services, Kennesaw Hall #1205, 470-578-2666

Grading: There will be one cumulative mid-term examination and a comprehensive Final Exam. Exams are worth 50 points. Exams will consist of a limited amount of objective questions that assess information acquisition and distinction making, short essays, and extended essays. Extended essays will be evaluated on organization, development and coherence of ideas, clarity of expression, grammar, and style. Students should expect both in-class and take-home essays. Although students may anticipate an exam prior to the last date to drop this class, the instructor reserves the right to adjust the course syllabus according to the pace of the class.

If students are having difficulty understanding course material and/or completing assignments, it is crucial for them to either seek a consultation during office hours or request an appointment. Consultation hours are listed at the beginning of this Course Description.

Attendance Policy: There are no excused absences at the university. Participation and on time attendance are required. On the second absence (20% of the course) final grades will be lowered by one letter grade. There are no exceptions to this attendance policy. Attendance will be taken daily. *Students are not allowed to leave class early and early departures nullify attendance for the day.*

Up to 3 points may be added at the discretion of the instructor for a student's participation in classroom discussion.

If students are having difficulty understanding course material and/or completing assignments, it is crucial to either seek a consultation during office hours or request an appointment. Consultation hours are listed at the beginning of this Course Description.

Grading Scale: Students are evaluated on the following scale:

- A - 90+ points
- B - 80-89 points
- C - 65-79 points
- D - 55-64 points
- F - 55 points or less

Texts:

- ❖ *The Last Days of Socrates*, Hugh Trednennick (Penguin Books ISBN: 014 04.4037)
- ❖ *Symposium*, Alexander Nehamas and Paul Woodruff (Hackett ISBN: 0-87220-076-0)
- ❖ *Analects of Confucius: A Philosophical Translation*, Roger Ames and Henry Rosemont (Ballantine Books ISBN: 0-345-40154-9)
- ❖ *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, Walter Kaufman trans. (Handout)
- ❖ Selections from *Chuang Tzu: Basic Writings*, Burton Watson trans. (Handout)
- ❖ Selections from *Meditations on First Philosophy*, Laurence J. Lafleur trans. (Handout)

* Note that there is not a textbook for this class. If students feel uncomfortable reading and studying original texts in translation, they should withdraw at the beginning of the term. Most of the readings are difficult and require an investment of time and focus.

* All texts are available at the KSU Book Store and most retail bookstores.

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY SYLLABUS - PHILOSOPHY 2200

Ways of Knowing Maymester 2018

Professor: Dr. David Jones

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Topics Discussed in Order - Dates may be adjusted a bit

- May 14 – May 18** Introduction to course; Introduction to Philosophy
The Mythic (Primitive) World View
Hesiod's *Theogony*; Homeric Psyche
READ: Handouts

Introduction to Greek Philosophy
The Pre-Socratic World View:
Thales, Herakleitos, Demokritos, Parmenides, the Sophists
READ: Handouts

Demokritos and the Sophists

Platonic World View
READ: Plato's *Apology* in *Last Days of Socrates* (LDS)
READ: Plato's "Allegory of the Cave" (Handout)

Plato's Theory of Ideas or Forms
READ: Plato's *Phaedo* (LDS)
READ: Plato's *Symposium*

Greek Philosophy Review

Modern (Cartesian) World View
READ: Descartes' *Meditations on First Philosophy* (Handout)
- May 18** **Mid-Term EXAM 1 *All exams are cumulative.**
- May 21– May25** Chinese World View

Introduction to Chinese Philosophy
The Philosophy of Confucius
READ: *The Analects of Confucius: A Philosophical Translation*
Laozi **READ:** Handouts
Zhuangzi **READ:** *Chuang Tzu: Basic Writings* (Handout)

Beginnings of the Post-Modern World View

The Philosophy of Friedrich Nietzsche

READ: Nietzsche's *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* (Handout)

Review

May 25

FINAL EXAM (Cumulative)