



Ways of Knowing PHIL-2200 Fall 2019

Meeting Times

Lecture and Class Discussion

Tuesday and Thursday, 5:00pm to 6:15pm, Social Sciences Building, Rm. 2035

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Amy K. Donahue

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Phone: (470) 578-6624

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 2:00pm to 3:15pm or by appointment

Electronic Communication

The University provides all KSU students with an "official" email account with the address "students.kennesaw.edu." or "kennesaw.view.usg.edu" (in D2L). 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. **Student emails to the instructor should be sent through their "students.kennesaw.edu" addresses.**

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.

Objectives

- Demonstrate direct, primary text-based knowledge and understanding of historical and contemporary texts, arguments, and counterarguments in quizzes, exams, papers and class discussions.
- Articulate philosophically relevant theses, and elaborate and defend these theses in midterm and final papers through accurate, detailed, logically coherent, and well-written summaries of supporting and opposing arguments and concepts from assigned texts.
- Demonstrate disciplined critical thinking in quizzes, exams, papers and class discussions.

Outcomes

PHIL 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 will evaluate and synthesize information to support ideas and perspectives.

[For more information about KSU's General Education program requirements and associated learning outcomes, please visit \[http://catalog.kennesaw.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=34&poid=3977\]\(http://catalog.kennesaw.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=34&poid=3977\)](http://catalog.kennesaw.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=34&poid=3977)

Materials

Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals

Author: Immanuel Kant
Publisher: Cambridge University Press
Edition: 2nd Edition
ISBN: 978-1-10-740106-8
Availability: Campus Bookstore and most booksellers

The Communist Manifesto: A Modern Edition

Author: Marx and Engels
Publisher: Verso
ISBN: 978-1-84-46787-61
Availability: Campus Bookstore and most booksellers

Five Dialogues

Author: Plato
Publisher: Hackett Publishing Co.
Edition: 2nd Edition
ISBN: 978-0-87-220633-5
Availability: Campus Bookstore and most booksellers

Peace Is Every Step: The Path of Mindfulness in Everyday Life

Author: Thich Nhat Hanh
Publisher: Bantam Edition: 1992
ISBN: 978-0-55-335139-2
Availability: Campus Bookstore and most booksellers

The following online sources offer useful tips on effective philosophical writing:

- <http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html>
- https://philosophy.fas.harvard.edu/files/phildept/files/guide_to_philosophical_writing.pdf
- <http://www.claremontmckenna.edu/pages/faculty/akind/intro01s/writing.htm>
- <http://www2.gsu.edu/~phltso/paperguide.html>

Evaluation

Breakdown

- Online long answer quizzes (roughly weekly): 10%
- Two concise written exegeses of central textual concepts and arguments (300-400 words): 10% each
- 5 to 7 page midterm thesis paper: 25%
- 5 to 7 page final paper: 25%
- Class participation: 20%

Description of Assignments and Standards of Evaluation

The assignments in this course are “scaffolded.”

Online quiz assignments will typically ask students to explain select arguments and concepts from each week’s texts, and to use parenthetical page references to support each of their textual claims. Grading standards for these quizzes are low—to receive full credit (1 point), **students need only submit a response through D2L that addresses each element of the quiz prompt and includes at least two parenthetical page references.** If either of these criteria is not met, the student will receive 0 points on the quiz. Quiz responses will not be graded for grammar or style, accuracy or comprehensiveness, or degree of textual detail. However, **because students can use content from their quiz responses in their written exegeses and thesis papers, the more rigorously students approach the weekly quizzes, the more prepared they will be to perform well on their long answer exams and thesis**

papers. Quizzes will typically be posted by 5pm on Thursdays, and be due through D2L by 10am on the day of the next week's first class (usually Monday). **Missed credit on online quizzes cannot be made up.**

Before your midterm and final papers are due, students will be required to complete **300-400 word written exegeses of central textual concepts and arguments**. These written exegeses are expository, and are not reflective or evaluative; **your goal is to carefully and accurately explain a set of textual concepts and arguments, and to support your representation of these concepts and arguments with appropriate parenthetical page citations.** Each written exegesis assignment will prompt students to identify a thesis from one of the course readings, and to demonstrate how the author attempts to support this thesis through specific arguments and concepts. The task in these assignments is to explain a philosopher's argument in a way that is **a) accurate and comprehensive (40%), b) supported through appropriate parenthetical textual references** after each specific textual claim (30%), and **c) clearly and grammatically written (30%)**. Students are welcome to re-use content from their quizzes in their exams.

Further, students are welcome to use content from their first written exegesis in their midterm paper, and from their second written exegesis in their final paper. The written exegeses offer students an opportunity to test their understandings and receive detailed feedback before completing their midterm and final papers.

After the first written exegesis, students will complete a **5-7 page midterm paper**. In this assignment, students will a) state a clear and relevant philosophical thesis (25%), b) provide accurate and comprehensive expositions of relevant textual concepts and arguments to support this thesis (30%), c) include parenthetical textual citations after each specific textual claim (25%), and d) write clearly and grammatically (20%).

After the second exam, students will complete a **5-7 page final paper**. This paper will be graded according to the same criteria as the midterm paper but will involve a different set of texts.

All exams and papers should be submitted as .docx or .doc files through D2L, and should be double-spaced in 12 point Times New Roman font with 1" margins.

Be sure to review KSU's policies on academic integrity and plagiarism before submission (see below). Time permitting, I am happy to review paper drafts before assignments are due and to work with students to improve their academic writing and critical thinking. Graded written exegeses and papers are normally returned with extensive comments approximately a week and a half after their due date.

Good (i.e., "B"-level) **class participation** requires consistent and on-time attendance, evidence of in-class preparation and attentiveness (e.g., asking appropriate questions, completing assigned readings, bringing texts and completed quizzes to class, etc.), and appropriate engagement with others (e.g., responding appropriately to instructor and student questions, working constructively in group exercises, treating fellow class participants with respect and courtesy, etc.) and with the texts. "A"-level class participants excel in these areas and thereby help to create an effective learning environment and experience for all in the class.

Course Policies

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Students are required to provide a reasonable, documentable explanation for class absences. After three unexcused absences, students lose a full letter grade, to be deducted from class participation, with ***each additional unexcused absence*** .

To do well in this course, you cannot afford to miss class. If you miss class, be sure to meet with me during my office hours to discuss what you have missed.

Electronic Devices

The use of mobile electronic devices is not permitted in class. The volume on all such devices should be off, and the devices should be placed out of sight.

Late Assignments

Late assignments will receive a failing grade. Other than in the case of missed argument summaries, the instructor may choose to allow students to make up a missed/late assignment. To explore this possibility, students should contact the professor at least **two days before** the missed assignment deadline. The professor is not obliged to allow students to make up missed / late assignments except when absences are excused, or when extenuating circumstances (e.g., inclement weather) affect the entire class.

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 5c 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. See also KSU Student Code of Conduct (<https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/ksu-student-code-conduct>).

The instructor has a zero-tolerance policy against plagiarism and uses TurnItIn plagiarism detection services when grading written assignments. Students who plagiarize **any part of an assignment** will receive an F for that assignment in accord with KSU's academic misconduct procedures. **Academic dishonesty (cheating and plagiarism) may result in a failing grade for the class.**

To avoid plagiarism, including unintentional plagiarism, please visit:

<https://scai.kennesaw.edu/students/general-info/cheating.php>

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, sss.kennesaw.edu/sds (<http://sss.kennesaw.edu/sds>).

Contact information is as follows:

SDS Email: sds@kennesaw.edu (<mailto:sds@kennesaw.edu>)

Primary number for Kennesaw campus: 470-578-2666 (<https://inform.kennesaw.edu/posts/470-578-2666>)

Primary number for Marietta campus: 678-915-7244 (<https://inform.kennesaw.edu/posts/678-915-7244>)

Institutional Policies

Federal, BOR, & KSU Course Syllabus Policies

Information contained in the links below constitutes the Federal, BOR, and KSU course syllabus policies and procedures and may be referenced by faculty members in their course syllabi. These policies are updated on the Academic Affairs Website annually.

Academic Affairs - Federal, BOR, & KSU Policies

(http://curriculum.kennesaw.edu/resources/federal_bor_ksu_student_policies.php)

Academic Affairs - KSU Student Resources for Syllabus

(http://curriculum.kennesaw.edu/resources/ksu_student_resources_for_course_syllabus.php)

Note to Faculty: The KSU faculty handbook requires the Academic Integrity Policy in the course syllabus.

Note to Faculty and Students: The Office of the Provost will work to keep the policies and links in this document as accurate as possible.

Schedule

This schedule is *tentative* and subject to revision.

Week 1: Introductions, and *Meno* dialogue

- 8/20 Class introductions, welcome, and discussion of syllabus and of distinctions, if any, between “belief,” “true belief,” and “knowledge.” Lecture on Socrates, Plato and *Meno*.
- 8/22 Read part 1 of the *Meno* dialogue in Plato's *Five Dialogues* (pp. 58-70), and come to class with notes highlighting and explaining central textual concepts, conceptual distinctions and arguments. If you haven't yet bought the text, you can find the relevant passages (70a-80d) [here](#).

Week 2: *Meno* and *Apology*

- 8/27 Online quiz due. Re-read *Meno* part1 and read *Meno* part 2 (pp.70-92).
- 8/29 Read *Apology* dialogue in Plato's *Five Dialogues*, and come to class with notes highlighting and explaining central textual concepts, conceptual distinctions and arguments.

Week 3: *Apology* and *Crito*

- 9/3 Online quiz due. Re-read *Apology*. Read the *Crito* dialogue in Plato's *Five Dialogues*, and come to class with notes highlighting and explaining central textual concepts, conceptual distinctions and arguments.
- 9/5 Re-read *Crito*.

Week 4: Review and 1st Written Exegesis

- 9/10 Online quiz due. Review.
- 9/12 **1st Written Exegesis Due through D2L**

Week 5: *Communist Manifesto*

- 9/17 Read pp. 1-62 of *The Communist Manifesto*, and come to class with notes highlighting and explaining central textual concepts, conceptual distinctions and arguments.
- 9/19 Re-read *The Communist Manifesto*.

Week 6: 1st *Capital* excerpt

- 9/24 Online quiz due. Read first excerpt from *Capital* (on D2L), and come to class with notes highlighting and explaining central textual concepts, conceptual distinctions and arguments.
- 9/26 Re-read first excerpt.

Week 7: 2nd *Capital* excerpt

- 10/1 Online quiz due. Read second excerpt from *Capital* (on D2L), and come to class with notes highlighting and explaining central textual concepts, conceptual distinctions and arguments.
- 10/3 Re-read second excerpt.

Week 8: Review and Midterm Paper Due

- 10/8 Review
- 10/9 **LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY**
- 10/10 **Midterm Paper Due through D2L**

Week 9: *Peace Is Every Step*

- 10/15 Read Hamilton introduction to Buddhist philosophy and parts 1-2 of *Peace Is Every Step*. Introductory lecture on engaged Buddhism and central concepts and arguments in early Buddhist philosophy.
- 10/17 Read Part 3 of *Peace Is Every Step*.

Week 10: Pāli canon excerpts

- 10/22 Read excerpts from *In The Buddha's Words* and *Sourcebook in Indian Philosophy* (see D2L).
- 10/24 Re-read Pāli canon excerpts. Review.

Week 11: 2nd Written Exegesis and Kant's *Groundwork*

- 10/29 **2nd Written Exegesis Due through D2L** due through D2L by 4pm.
- 10/31 Read pages ix-xvii and section 1 (pp. 9-20) of Kant's *Groundwork*.

Week 12: Kant's *Groundwork*, Section II

11/5 Read section 2 of Kant's *Groundwork* and corresponding section of editors' introduction.

11/7 Re-read section 2 of Kant's *Groundwork*.

Week 13: Kant's *Groundwork*, Section III

11/12 Read section 3 of Kant's *Groundwork* and corresponding section of editors' introduction.

11/14 Re-read section 3 of Kant's *Groundwork*.

Week 14: Rae Langton's "Duty and Desolation"

11/19 Read "Duty and Desolation" by Rae Langton (see D2L).

11/21 Re-read Langton.

Week 15: **Midterm Break**

11/26 **No Class**

11/28 **No Class**

Week 16: Final Exam Period

12/3 Review and discussion of thesis topics.

12/5 Peer review and discussion.

FINAL PAPER DUE THROUGH D2L – TUESDAY, DEC. 10TH AT 8:00PM