

# PHIL 2200: Ways of Knowing

SECTION 9

Semester: Fall 2019

Location: Social Sciences Building 2035

Meeting Time: MWF 11:15am-12:05pm

**Instructor:** Justin Downey

**Email:** [jwd7171@kennesaw.edu](mailto:jwd7171@kennesaw.edu)

**Office:** Social Sciences 4005

**Office Hours:** MWF 12:05pm-2:05pm

## **Course Communication:**

Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, concerns, etc. The best way by far to reach me is through the official KSU email.

Although office hours are listed above, I'll be able to meet with you in person on campus outside of those hours if the need arises. Just let me know that you need to speak with me and we will arrange a mutually convenient time to do so.

## **Electronic Communications:**

The University provides all KSU students with an “official” email account with the address “students.kennesaw.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:**

Can be found in the course catalog: [PHIL 2200](#)

## **Learning Objectives:**

**PHIL 2200** satisfies one of Kennesaw State University's general education program requirements. It addresses the **CRITICAL THINKING** general education learning outcome(s). 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 the issue. For more information about KSU's General Education program requirements and associated learning outcomes, please visit [the course catalog](#).

## **Required Reading:**

All readings for the course except for one are available for free on D2L. The one reading not available on D2L is at the KSU Bookstore. It is:

### **Attendance Policy:**

Students are solely responsible for managing their enrollment status in a class; nonattendance does not constitute a withdrawal.

Routine attendance is **necessary** and will be a significant factor in your final grade for the semester. You will be allowed **two** unexcused absences without penalty, after which you will lose points from your final grade for each unexcused absence. Each unexcused absence will mean a loss of 4 points (see points system below) from your total points.

Please note that there is no limit to the number of overall points deductible from your final grade. Your unexcused absences continue to lose you points no matter how much you've already lost because of previous unexcused absences.

Of course, life does happen despite our damndest efforts, and so you may speak with me if circumstances outside your control make your absence unavoidable. So long as you can provide some verification of events, your absence will be excused and no points will be lost.

### **Electronic Devices Policy:**

**DO NOT USE CELLPHONES DURING CLASS.** It is rude to both your fellow students and to me. It also only works against your performance in the class, since it is a distraction. **It is an absence despite physical presence in the classroom and will be treated as such.**

### **Course Assessments/Assignments:**

Besides attendance, your overall grade will have four components to it:

1. Exams
2. Write-Ups for Readings
3. Class Participation
4. Online Participation

The exams will be three in number and will come in the form of take-home assignments. You will have one week to complete each. The primary format will be written-answer questions, though there may be some element of multiple choice here and there. Exams will exclusively cover material read and discussed for class between the previous exam and the current one. See the calendar below for the dates the exams will be posted and the dates they will be due. Each exam will be worth 20 points. This makes the total point value for the exams 60.

Write-ups for readings will be short questions, points of interest, observations, points of confusion, etc. having to do with what is read for each session. Each write-up should have at least five (5) things on it that interested, confused, or otherwise stuck out to you about the reading. While you will turn them in at the beginning of each class for a grade, you will also use these to

generate discussion in class. See the calendar below for reading dates. Dates with no reading due do not require you to bring any write-ups. The total point value for your write-ups over the course of the semester is 10. This means that I will take however many write-ups you've correctly turned in over the semester and divide that amount by the total number of write-ups expected and then turn that value into  $x/10$  to get your grade for this portion of the class.

Class participation is an overall block of your grade covered by your level of engagement in class as well as your behavior. Please be respectful and courteous to your classmates and to me. This is worth 10 points total.

Online participation corresponds to your engagement in message board discussions on D2L. You will be expected to engage in some form or fashion by either sharing one or more of the things on your write-up about the current reading or responding to another's remarks or questions (to the best of your ability). The point total for sustaining this over the semester is 20 (working, like the write-ups, as a fraction of those you've done over those due, that fraction then being turned into a fraction out of 20).

### **Makeup Exams and Late Assignments:**

For excused absences, you will be permitted to turn in late write-ups up to two class days after your absence. You will also be permitted to forego online participation during excused absences.

Late exams will suffer a 10 point deduction each day until they are turned in, unless you have an excused absence. If you foresee an exam's due date as being problematic for you for reasons that can be verified and documented, then you can talk to me about arranging for a mutually agreeable due date for that exam. Please, if you need to do this, do it BEFORE the due date of the exam, not after.

### **Grading:**

A simple points system is how your final grade is calculated. There are 100 points total to be earned over the semester. Each of the non-attendance portions of your grade comes from the four components outlined above.

As stated above, each unexcused absence after the two free ones will constitute a loss of 4 points from your final grade.

#### **Grade Calculations**

Write-Ups – 10pts

Online Participation – 20pts

Class Behavior and Participation – 10pts

Exams – 60pts overall (20pts x 3)

$10+20+10+60=100$  possible points

## **Grading Scale**

Students are evaluated on the following scale:

A – 90pts or higher

B – 80pts – 89pts

C – 70pts – 79pts

D – 60pts – 69pts

F – 59pts or lower

**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. See the full [KSU Codes of Conduct](#).

**Anyone caught plagiarizing work, copying answers, or otherwise breaking the rules of proper academic conduct will be reported to the Office of Academic Affairs and will receive an F for the course.**

Some websites on plagiarism:

<http://plagiarism.org/>

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

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

## **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://sds.kennesaw.edu/>.

Contact information is as follows:

SDS Email: [sds@kennesaw.edu](mailto:sds@kennesaw.edu)

Primary number for Kennesaw campus: [470-578-2666](tel:470-578-2666)

Primary number for Marietta campus: [470-578-7361](tel:470-578-7361)

Additional [Student Rights and Responsibilities](#) can be found in the [Student Handbook](#).

### **Course Schedule:**

See calendar below.

### **Final Exam:**

The final exam session will be on Wednesday, December 11, 2019 from 10:30am -12:30pm

### **Changes to this syllabus:**

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus. Any substantive changes which impact grade calculations or grading will be announced in writing using D2L and will be emailed to the class. If you have concerns about announced changes, please contact the instructor and ask for clarification before the end of the semester.

## **AUGUST**

19 – First Day of Classes: Review Syllabus and Introduction to Class, Etc.

21 – Read: Watts, *The Way of Zen*, chapter 1

23 – No Reading Due

- 26 – *The Book on the Taboo*, chapter 3 – pp.42-52  
28 – Read: *The Book on the Taboo*, chapter 3 – pp.53 to chapter’s end  
30 – No Class This Day

## SEPTEMBER

- 2 – Labor Day – No Classes  
4 – No Reading Due  
6 – Read: Jaynes, *Bicameral Mind*, chapter 1  
  
9 – Read: *The Way of Zen*, chapter 2  
11 – No Reading Due  
13 – Read: *The Way of Zen*, chapter 3  
  
16 – Read: *The Way of Zen*, chapters 5 and 6  
18 – Read: *The Way of Zen*, chapter 8  
    Read: “Call Me By My True Names”  
    Exam I Posted  
20 – Read: Logos Review  
  
23 – No Reading Due  
25 – Read: “Class Notes”  
    Exam II Due  
27 – Read: “Class Notes”  
  
30 – Read: Abram, *Spell of the Sensuous*, chapter 2 – pp.31-44

## OCTOBER

- 2 – Read: “The Seven”  
4 – Read: *Spell of the Sensuous*, chapter 2 – pp.44 to end of chapter  
  
7 – No Reading Due  
9 – Read: *Spell of the Sensuous*, chapter 3  
    **LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY**  
11 – No Reading Due  
  
14 – Read: *Spell of the Sensuous*, chapter 4  
    Exam II Posted  
16 – No Reading Due  
18 – No Reading Due  
  
21 – Read: Eliade, *Cosmos and History*, pp.39-48  
    Exam II Due

23 – No Reading Due

25 – No Reading Due

28 – Read: Jaynes, *Bicameral Mind*, chapter 2

30 – No Reading Due

## **NOVEMBER**

1 – Read: *Sacred and the Profane*, pp.116-121, 128-132, 138-159

4 – No Reading Due

6 – No Reading Due

8 – No Reading Due

11 – Read: “Why?”

13 – No Reading Due

15 – Read: “Behold!”

**Exam III Posted**

18 – Watch: Batailles

20 – Watch: Video List 1

    Watch: Rituals Video

    Read/Fill-Out: Political Spectrum

22 – Watch: Video List 2

    Read: “Walmart”

**Exam III Due**

**25 – Break: No Classes**

**27 – Break: No Classes**

**29 – Break: No Classes**

## **DECEMBER**

2 – Watch: Video List 3

    Read: “The Business Plot”

4 – Watch: Video List 4

    Read: “Christian Communism”

6 – Watch: Video List 5

9 – Watch: Video List 6

Final (Wednesday, December 11, 2019 from 10:30am -12:30pm) – Watch Video List 7

