

**PHILOSOPHY 2200 — WAYS OF KNOWING**  
Online Course

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**Catalogue 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.

**Instructor's 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 include: 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, Presocratic, Platonic, Chinese, Modern Western, and Postmodern Western. Historical representatives of each worldview are presented.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Identify philosophical questions and specific philosophical methods.
2. Analyze important issues and concepts in philosophy.
3. Describe and explain claims made by philosophical thinkers and test these against available evidence with a view to advancing general and transferable critical skills.
4. Learn to identify the fundamental philosophical presuppositions involved in "ordinary" and "everyday" experiences and knowledge claims.
5. Create writing indicative of an advanced level of comprehension, argumentation,

presentation and writing skills.

**Learning Objectives:**

PHIL2200 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](http://catalog.kennesaw.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=14&poid=1248)

**Course Format:**

Philosophy 2200 is an online course. Course content will combine formal online lectures in podcast format and informal online discussions. Students are encouraged to participate actively in discussions and to raise related issues relevant to their lives and experience. Students are expected to prepare all readings in advance of the assignments they are meant to address. Some of the assigned primary texts are difficult, but they will be openly discussed and explained in online podcast lectures and complemented with required and optional secondary readings.

**Required Course Books**

- *The Last Days of Socrates*, Hugh Tredennick (Penguin Books ISBN: 014 04.4037 2)
- *Symposium*, Alexander Nehamas and Paul Woodruff (Hackett ISBN: 0-87220-076-0)
- *The Analects of Confucius: A Philosophical Translation*, Roger Ames and Henry Rosemont (Ballantine Books ISBN: 0-345-40154-9)
- *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, Graham Parkes trans. (Oxford University Press ISBN: 0192805835)
- *Zhuangzi: The Essential Writings*, Brook Ziporyn trans. (Hackett Publishing Company ISBN-10: 0872209113)
- *Meditations on First Philosophy*, Laurence J. Lafleur trans. (Prentice Hall ISBN-13: 978-0023671708)

***\*It is necessary to use these translations. Do not use other translations.***

**Other Required Readings:**

Other readings will either be made available online as electronic documents or included in the required textbooks.

**Course Assessments/Assignments:**

Reading Quizzes (12) 10%  
Comprehension Quizzes (12) 20%  
Major Tests (3) 30%  
Final Exam 20%  
Discussion Posts/Voicethread (4) 20%

**\*\*\*Note Bene: Late assignments will automatically receive a mark of zero unless official medical documentation is provided. \*\*\***

### **Description of Assessments/Assignments:**

**Reading Quizzes:** A quiz will be given at the start of each new module. The quizzes aim to determine that students have done the reading and will therefore consist of simple questions based on the text.

**Comprehension Quizzes:** A quiz will be given at the end of each new module. The quizzes aim to determine that students have completed the module assignments and have fulfilled the module objectives as outlined at the beginning of each module. All quizzes are comprehensive.

**Final Exam:** You will be required to answer 30-50 questions pertaining to the readings and lectures covered in the entire course. This is a comprehensive exam.

**Discussion Essay Posts Requirements:** 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 the four (4) modules with Discussion Boards (2, 9, 11, 12). The 'Introduce Yourself' discussion board is mandatory for all students and does not count as one of the four. Each discussion post is worth 5% of your final grade.

You are required to write 500 words (min. 450, max. 550), providing philosophical reflection on a significant point or argument from the modules leading up to the discussion board post (for Discussion Board 1 [module 2], use modules 1 and 2; for Discussion Board 2 [module 9], use modules 5, 6,7, and 9; for Discussion Board 3 [module 11], use modules 10 and 11); for Discussion Board 4 [module 13] use modules 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 12.

You are required to discuss and cite at least the primary reading selected from these modules (for Module 1, there is no primary reading provided. Instead, students are invited to choose one independently).

### **Rubric**

Discussion Essay Posts are graded according to the grading scale in line with the following rubric:

1. Student has cited the primary reading selected from the appropriate modules. Citations must be from the designated texts for the class.
2. Student has successfully identified and explained a significant point or argument in one of the appropriate readings.
3. Student has proofread the document for grammar and spelling.
4. Student has cited at least one primary text. See Rubric 1.

5. Student has provided a substantial reflection on the significant point or argument identified and explained

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 and/or voicethreads for each module as indicated. For every module you fail to contribute to, you will lose 5% of your overall grade.

**Grading Scale:**

Students are strictly evaluated on the following scale:

**A** — 100 – 90

**B** — 89 – 80

**C** — 79 – 70

**D** — 69 – 60

**F** — <60

**Philosophy Resources—**

**Resources for writing a philosophy paper:**

How to Write a Philosophical Essay (available on D2L)

KSU Philosophy LibGuide:

<http://libguides.kennesaw.edu/c.php?g=546002>

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/>, or stop by Room 242 in the English Building.

Your Professors and Instructors

Philosophy Student Association

<http://www.philosophystudentassociation.com>

**Academic Policies**

Students are expected to comply with KSU's academic policies, listed here:

<http://registrar.kennesaw.edu/student-records/academic-policies.php>

**Academic Integrity:**

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 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 that a professor prohibits as academic misconduct in the syllabus or in class discussion is cheating. When direct quotations are used, they must 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 must 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>

To avoid plagiarizing, including unintentionally plagiarizing, please visit: <http://plagiarism.org/>  
<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>  
<https://new.library.arizona.edu/research/write-cite>

### **ADA Compliance:**

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

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.

Qualified individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply for employment opportunities with the University. Individuals with disabilities who require reasonable accommodation to participate in any portion of the application, interview and/or testing process must advise the

University's Department of Human Resources in advance. Upon request, applicants must provide documentation confirming a disability and the need for an accommodation. Advance requests for reasonable accommodation(s) should be directed to the Director of Human Resources. The office telephone number is (770) 423-6030 V/TDD. The FAX number is (770) 423-6570. The Web address for employment opportunities is <http://www.kennesaw.edu/hr>

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 either the ADA Compliance Officer for Students at (770) 423-6443; the ADA Compliance Officer for Facilities at (770) 423-6224; or the Director of Human Resources, ADA Compliance Officer for staff and faculty at (770) 423-6030.

### **Student Resources for Online Learning:**

[http://learnonline.kennesaw.edu/how-it-works/online\\_student\\_resource\\_guide.php](http://learnonline.kennesaw.edu/how-it-works/online_student_resource_guide.php)

All useful links for students may be found here:

<http://distanceed.hss.kennesaw.edu/elearning/onestopshop.html>

## **Syllabus**

**Modules run weekly throughout the 15-week semester.**

**Topics and Readings (subject to change at the discretion of instructor)**

### **Introductions**

- Assessments due: Introduce yourself posting
- Deadline: Introduce yourself post

### **Module 1—The Mythic World View; Pre-Philosophy and the Beginning of Philosophy**

Our primary question: What is the human experience and *how* does Philosophy matter?

- Assessments due: Syllabus Quiz and Comprehension Quiz
- Deadline: Syllabus Quiz
- Deadline: Comprehension Quiz

**Readings:** Hesiod's *Theogony*; Homeric Psyche

<https://msu.edu/~tyrrell/theogon.pdf>

Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* selections (Handouts)

## ***NATURE PHILOSOPHY, THE PRESOCRATICS, AND THE BEGINNING OF CRITICAL REASONING*** **(2 Modules)**

## Module 2—Thinking Philosophically

Our Primary Question: What is the human experience in the natural world and *why* does philosophy matter?

Introduction to Greek Philosophy; The Pre-Socratic World View: Thales and Heraclitus

**Reading(s):** *Philosophy During the Tragic Age of the Greeks*: Nietzsche on Thales

[http://nietzsche.holtof.com/Nietzsche\\_various/Nietzsche\\_on\\_Thales.htm](http://nietzsche.holtof.com/Nietzsche_various/Nietzsche_on_Thales.htm)

Heraclitus Selections in Greek Phase Handouts (online D2L)

- Assessments due: Reading Quiz, Discussion board postings with comment on one other student's posting, Comprehension Quiz
- Deadline: Reading Quiz
- Deadline: What are the similarities and differences between the Mythic and Presocratic Worldviews? discussion board post
- Deadline: Comment – Similarities and differences between the Mythic and Presocratic Worldviews? discussion board post
- Deadline: Comprehension Quiz

## Module 3—Pre-Socratics: Heraclitus, Parmenides, Democritus, and the Sophists

**Reading(s):** Heraclitus (*handouts*) on D2L

Parmenides (*handouts*) <http://www.platonic-philosophy.org/files/Parmenides%20-%20Poem.pdf>

Democritus <http://www.humanistictexts.org/democritus.htm#The%20Physical%20World> (especially “The Physical World”) and <https://www.crystalinks.com/democritus.html>

Sophists

<https://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl201/modules/Philosophers/Protagoras/protagoras.html>

- Assessments due: Reading Quiz and Comprehension Quiz
- Deadline: Reading Quiz

## MODULE 4— MAJOR TEST

### Module 4—Major Test

- Review and Major Test 1
- Assessments due: Major Test 1 Deadline: Major Test 1

## ***CRITICAL REASONING, THE SOCRATIC METHOD, and PLATONIC WORLD VIEW*** **(3 Modules)**

### Module 5—Socrates and Plato

**Reading:** Plato's *Apology* in *Last Days of Socrates* (LDS))

- Assessments due: Reading Quiz and Comprehension Quiz
- Deadline: Reading Quiz
- Deadline: Comprehension Quiz

### ***KNOWLEDGE AND REALITY (2 Modules)***

#### **Module 6—Plato’s Metaphysics**

**Reading:** Plato’s "Allegory of the Cave"

[https://yale.learningu.org/download/ca778ca3-7e93-4fa6-a03f-471e6f15028f/H2664\\_Allegory%20of%20the%20Cave%20.pdf](https://yale.learningu.org/download/ca778ca3-7e93-4fa6-a03f-471e6f15028f/H2664_Allegory%20of%20the%20Cave%20.pdf)

**Readings:** Plato’s Theory of Ideas or Forms and Plato’s *Phaedo* (LDS)

- Assessments due: Reading Quiz and Comprehension Quiz
- Deadline: Reading Quiz
- Deadline: Comprehension Quiz

### ***KNOWLEDGE AND REALITY CONTINUED***

#### **Module 7— Plato’s Solution**

**Reading:** Plato’s *Symposium*

- Assessments due: Reading Quiz and Comprehension Quiz
- Deadline: Reading Quiz
- Deadline: Comprehension Quiz

### **MODULE 8—MAJOR TEST**

#### **Module 8—Major Test**

- Review and Major Test 2
- Assessments due: Major Test 2 Deadline: Major Test 2

### ***ABOUT THINGS WE KNOW***

#### **Module 9— The Modern (Cartesian) World View**

**Reading:** Descartes’ *Meditations on First Philosophy*

- Assessments due: Reading Quiz, Plato and Descartes’ methodological investigation discussion board postings with comment on one other student’s posting, Comprehension Quiz
- Deadline: Reading Quiz



- Deadline: How might it be seen that Descartes completes Plato's philosophical project discussion essay post
- Deadline: Comment – Descartes's methodological investigation and Plato's project discussion essay post

Deadline: Comprehension Quiz

**CONSTRUCTIONS OF TRUTH: THE CHINESE WORLD VIEW AND POST-MODERN WORLD VIEW**  
(3 modules)

**Module 10—Virtue as Ritual: A Confucian Approach**

Chinese World View Introduction to Chinese Philosophy and the Philosophy of Confucius

**Reading:** *The Analects of Confucius: A Philosophical Translation*, Roger Ames and Henry Rosemont

- Assessments due: Reading Quiz and Comprehension Quiz
- Deadline: Reading Quiz
- Deadline: Comprehension Quiz

**Module 11—Perspectivism and Reality: A Daoist Reading**

**Readings:** Laozi: Handouts; Zhuangzi: *Zhuangzi: The Essential Writings*

- Assessments due: Reading Quiz, Confucius and Zhuang board postings with comment on one other student's posting, Comprehension Quiz
- Deadline: Reading Quiz
- Deadline: Argue for whether the *Analects* and *Zhuangzi* texts resonate with other or whether they are fundamentally different from each other discussion board post
- Deadline: Comment on *Analects/Zhuangzi* texts discussion board post
- Deadline: Comprehension Quiz

**Module 12—Constructions of Truth Continued (Nietzsche)**

Beginnings of the Post-Modern World View

The Philosophy of Friedrich Nietzsche

**Readings:** Nietzsche's *Gay Science* (handouts) *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*

- Assessments due: Reading Quiz, Nietzsche's challenge board postings with comment on one other student's posting, Comprehension Quiz
- Deadline: In what ways does Nietzsche challenge Plato and Descartes discussion board post
- Deadline: Comment – Nietzsche's challenge discussion board post
- Deadline: Comprehension Quiz

## **MODULE 13—MAJOR TEST 3**

### **Module 13—Major Test**

- Assessments due: Major Test 3
- Deadline: Major Test 3

## **MODULE 14—REVIEW**

Review all lectures, reading and comprehensive quizzes, notes, and discussions

## **MODULE 15—FINAL EXAM**

### **Module 15—Final Exam**

- Assessments due: Final Exam
- Deadline: Final Exam