

Philosophy 2200
Ways of Knowing

Fall 2019

Bagwell Education Building 135

TTHR 11:00-12:15

Instructor: Gabriel Soldatenko

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Office: Social Science #4091

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:30-2:30, and by appointment

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.**

HB 280 “Campus Carry”: Please follow the link for all relevant information and campus policies: [<http://police.kennesaw.edu/campuscarry.php>]

Of particular importance is the following paragraph found in Chancellor Steve Wrigley’s guidance to the University System of Georgia (see the link above):

“Under the new law, it is a misdemeanor crime for a license-holder to carry a handgun “in a manner or in a building, property, room, or space in violation of” these provisions. Doing so also may be a violation of the institution’s student code of conduct and personnel rules. *It will be the responsibility of those license-holders who choose to carry handguns on campus to know the law and to understand where they can go while carrying.* Institutions will not provide gun storage facilities or erect signs outside restricted areas.”

In light of the state’s ‘campus carry’ policies, faculty-student consultations regarding this course will be restricted to scheduled class times, office hours, appointments and email.

Course Description: “Ways of Knowing” is meant to introduce students to philosophy as a practical activity, or vocation. That is, to answer the questions; what is the purpose of philosophy? And, what does it mean to be a philosopher? Or, put another way, to think and explore philosophy as a tool for life. To that end, this course will provide students with a general picture of the history of Western philosophy, some of its major figures, and its core themes. In addition, this general understanding of the discipline of philosophy will be tempered by a brief investigation of Non-Western traditions (particularly those of Amerindian and Latin American origin), and feminist critiques.

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of the course students will have

- a general knowledge of the social context and history of Western philosophical thought;
- a general understanding of the major themes and concepts that have come to constitute the discipline of philosophy;
- an appreciation for the critical contributions made by those who were historically denied the capacity to reason;
- an understanding of the relationship of philosophy to other disciplines and areas of inquiry; and
- an understanding of philosophy as a vocation and praxis.

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

Attendance Policy: There are no excused absences in college. Students are responsible for making up class by conferring with classmates (i.e. getting notes and discussing the main topics of conversation). Students are responsible for all material covered: readings, lectures, and documentary presentations. I will allow make-up exams **only** if I'm contacted **at least** two days prior to the exam date.

Course Requirements: Over the course of the semester students

- will bring the days reading to class according to the schedule on the syllabus and/or the professor's instructions;
- will actively engage the course material and participate in the class discussion; and
- will attend class regularly, even if attendance is not taken.

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. See also <https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/ksu-student-code-conduct>.

In short, plagiarism and/or cheating will result in a failing grade for this course.

Evaluation: There will be three in-class writing exams covering each of the major sections of the course. Each will be worth 25% of your grade. There will also be two **random** quizzes, each worth 5% of your grade. The final 15% of your grade will be an evaluation of students’ in-class participation, critical thinking summaries (three are required), and in-class group assignments.

Exam Grading: Typically, exams will contain ten to fifteen 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.

Critical Thinking Summaries: In these short assignments (two to three pages in length) students are expected to take a position in which they relate a specific philosopher, or philosophical idea, to a representative movie. That is, does the movie effectively capture a philosopher, theme, or concept we cover in class? Thus, students must do two things; first, effectively explain the philosophical issue at play (using examples and citing a specific philosopher); and second give some justification to your claim as to whether the movie succeeds or fails in representing a philosophical issue we cover in class.

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). This brief essay ought to include the following: a summary objective account of the presenter’s main ideas and argument, at least one instance in which the presentation is linked to course content, and the specific details of when and where the event took place, who spoke, and the title of the speaker’s presentation.

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, <https://sds.kennesaw.edu/index.php>

Contact information is as follows:

SDS Email: sds@kennesaw.edu

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

Primary number for Marietta campus: [678-915-7244](tel:678-915-7244)

Schedule of Readings:

August 20: Introducing Philosophy

The Western Philosophical Tradition

August 22: Jean-Pierre Vernant, *The Origins of Greek Thought* (Cornell University Press: Ithaca, 1984)
“The Spiritual Universe of the Polis”

August 27: Vernant continued

August 29: Plato, *Five Dialogues* (Hackett Publishing: Indianapolis, 1981)
“Euthyphro”

September 3: Plato, *Five Dialogues* (Hackett Publishing: Indianapolis, 1981)
“Apology”
“Crito”

September 5: Michel Foucault, *Fearless Speech* (Semiotext(e): Los Angeles, 2001)
“The Word *Parrhesia*”

- September 10: W. T. Jones, *The Classical Mind: A History of Western Philosophy* (Harcourt Publishing: NY, 1970)
 “Aristotle: Metaphysics, Natural Science, Logic” (**emphasis** on pgs. 214-243)
- September 12: Aristotle continued
- September 17: W. T. Jones, *The Classical Mind: A History of Western Philosophy* (Harcourt Publishing: NY, 1970)
 “Aristotle: Ethics, Politics, Art” (particularly pgs. 255-287)
 Exam Review
- September 19: **Exam #1**
 Movie: *Agora* (2009)
- September 24: Rene Descartes, *Discourse on Method* (Bobbs-Merill: Indianapolis, 1960)
- September 26: Rene Descartes, *The Meditations* (Penguin Books: NY, 1968)
 “Meditations” (1-3)
- October 1: Rene Descartes, *The Meditations* (Penguin Books: NY, 1968)
 “Meditations” (4-6)
- October 3: Norman Melchert, *The Great Conversation: Vol. II Descartes through Heidegger* (Mayfield Publishing: Mountain View, CA, 1999)
 “Immanuel Kant: Rehabilitating Reason (within Strict Limits)”
 (with particular **emphasis** on pgs. 433-449)
- October 8: Kant continued
 Note: Last day to withdraw without academic penalty
- October 10: Friedrich Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil* (Vintage: NY, 1989)
 “On the Prejudice of Philosophers”
- October 15: Friedrich Nietzsche, “On Truth and Lie in a Nonmoral Sense”
 Exam Review
- October 17: **Exam #2**
 Movie: *The Name of the Rose* (1986)

Non-Western Philosophy

October 22: Enrique Dussel, “A New Age in the History of Philosophy”, *Prajna Vihara: The Journal of Philosophy and Religion*, 9:1 (Jan-June, 2008)

October 24: Dussel continued

October 29: *Latin American Identity and Constructions of Difference* (University of Minnesota: Minneapolis, 1994)

Enrique Dussel, “A Nahuatl Interpretation of the Conquest”

October 31: *The Postmodernism Debate in Latin America* (Duke: Durham, N.C., 1995)

Enrique Dussel, “Eurocentrism and Modernity”

November 5: Dussel continued

November 7: *Philosophy in Multiple Voices* (Rowman and Littlefield: New York, 2007)

Lewis Gordon, “What is Afro-Caribbean Philosophy?”

November 12: Gordon continued

November 14: *Latin American Philosophy* (Indiana University Press: Bloomington, IN, 2003)

Walter D. Mignolo, “Philosophy and the Colonial Difference”

Philosophy, Feminism, Gender, and Sexuality

November 19: Paula Gunn Allen, *The Sacred Hoop: Recovering the Feminine in American Indian Traditions* (Beacon Press: Boston, 1992)

“The Ways of Our Grandmothers”

November 21: Marilyn Frye, *Politics of Reality: Essays in Feminist Theory* (The Crossing Press: NY, 1983)

“Oppression”

“Sexism”

November 26 and 28: No Class

December 3: Frye continued

December 5: Final Exam Review

December 10: **Final Exam** (10:30-12:30)

Movie: *The Examined Life* (2008)