

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY  
PHIL 10011/14206 (003)  
PHIL 11001/14595 (004)  
INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY: 201080  
Fall, 2010

*(A course that presents a diversity of philosophical perspectives:  
This course satisfies Kent State University diversity requirement\*)*

Section 004

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**Office hours, Phil Dept: M/W @ 1:15 - 2; T/Th, early afternoon by appointment.**

**DESCRIPTION AND GOALS OF THE COURSE:**

**PURPOSE OF THE COURSE:**

The purpose of the course is to initiate disciplined questioning and structured reflection through an introduction into the nature and purposes of philosophy. Although this is a general historical survey on the nature and tasks of philosophy, the in-depth study of philosophical issues will be covered from the perspective of three important philosophers: the classical Greek philosopher, Plato, the Enlightenment philosopher, Immanuel Kant, and the American pragmatist, William James. Philosophical thought in the transitions between these periods that these philosophers represent will also be looked at briefly. It is hoped that students can become familiar with the changing views on the nature of reason itself in the history of philosophy's study of humanity. The goal is to enable student recognition of the issues and tasks that historically have been undertaken by philosophers as well as to present the ideas of specific philosophers. Thus, the readings and class discussion topics are designed for the student's own "discovery of reason" and thinking rather than the means for positing incontestable answers to the ultimate questions that mark the human condition. What these questions are will be clarified in this introduction into philosophic thinking.

A note on the materials that will be used in this course. There are three required books and an extensive course pack of readings. Also the main text itself has several selected readings at the end of each chapter. It is not possible to cover all this material in class, probably only a third of the readings will actually be used in class. The more extensive body of readings are provided both as reference material for students, and as information for the student who is self motivated to learn on his/her own beyond the minimum that can actually be covered in class.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

*Philosophy: A Text with Readings*, 11<sup>th</sup> edition, by Manuel Velasquez. (Wadsworth/Cengage Learning, 2011, 2008). ISBN 978-0-495-80875-6.

*Man's Search for Meaning*, by Victor Frankl (Beacon Press, Boston, 2006). ISBN# 978-0-8070-1427-1

*Journey Outside*, by Mary Q. Steele, (Puffin Books, 1979). ISBN# 978-0-14-030588-3.

*Course Packet*—these readings will be available for purchase from Wordsmith on Main Street in Kent.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

1. **Attentive presence and participation in class.** Participation is dependent on preparation and hence, there is a requirement that the readings and text book chapters be read before you come to class. A record of your attendance will be kept, and attendance will be factored into your final grade. An important student participation project is the “fish bowl”, each student should take part in one during the semester. Information on this group discussion project will be provided outside of this syllabus. Other student participation opportunities will be teacher led discussions on the readings and class debates on controversial issues.
2. Besides the preparation for class by a careful reading of assigned pages, you should **bring the reading assignments or pertinent text with you to class** so that you can refer to them.
3. Written Assignments: a short term paper (5-7 pages) on a philosopher of your choice from a specific period in the history of philosophy that will include a brief biography, a list of his/her major works and your analysis of his/her thought and its importance and impact on philosophy. You will need to come up with a thesis vis-vis this philosopher’s ideas on one of the main questions covered in the course. Secondly, there will be a 2-3 page paper on an assigned question on the allegorical novel, *Journey Outside*. Finally, there will also be a series of questions to which you should provide short and concise answers on the book *Man’s Search for Meaning*.
4. A short mid-term test and some chapter quizzes that will be averaged with it. There will be a final exam. The format for both the midterm and the final will be fill in the blanks, matching, true and false, and an essay section. The mid-term will be 10/13/2010; the class before the mid-term exam will include time for a review of the content to be covered in the exam. The schedule for the final exam is listed in the Syllabus calendar provided at the end of this syllabus. More information will be given on it closer to the date.

## **SYLLABUS:**

The syllabus will guide you as to each session’s topic so you can come prepared for class. It will also list all assignments and dates they are due. Keep the syllabus in a convenient place and check it often so that you are not caught unawares of an assignment that is due or a reading needed to be read before class.

## **COURSE METHOD:**

This course will proceed by using a variety of instructional methods: lectures, power-point presentations, discussion of readings, question and answer sessions, and student led discussions. In order for you to have a successful experience, it is important for you to come to class prepared by reading the texts assigned for that day, by following along and participating in class discussions, and by taking good notes—remember in the long run *a teacher will test in a most basic sense on what a teacher teaches in class*. Finally, this course in Philosophy is a *discussion intensive one* and your attendance and participation are invaluable if its goals are to be met.

**COURSE GRADING:** 25% class participation and attendance, 25% on the three written assignments, 25% mid-term averaged with the quizzes—2/3 for the mid-term and 1/3 for the average score on the quizzes, 25% on the final exam.

**ATTENDANCE:** *Un-excused* absences, tardiness, or early exit from class will be recorded and impact your class participation grade. Too many absences can result in an 'F' in this grade which lowers the chance for any over all good grade for the course. I will require a prior notice for an excused absence and/or official note as to why you couldn't make class. Obviously your classmates and I need you to be actively present and it is university policy that you should attend each and every class. In sum, the attendance grade will reflect **four considerations:** your presence in class, your presence in class on time, your presence in class that is not disruptive—cell phone interruptions are included and walking out of the classroom as class is in progress, and finally, your presence in class for the full time that it is scheduled—in other words—remaining in class until the scheduled end time.

**GRADING SCALE:** The A grades will fall between 90-100, B will be 80-89, C will be 70-79 and D between 60-69. Pluses and minus will be given at the lower and higher ends of these numbers.

**LATE WORK:** Late papers mean lots more work for you ( because assignments can build up and become overwhelming) and for me. There will be a grade penalty on all late work; exceptions will require a documented reason for the work being late.

#### **WRITTEN WORK:**

Be careful and show pride in the papers you turn in as to neatness, correct grammar and spelling, appropriate academic language, and clarity of writing. Your major papers must be typed, double spaced, and adequately identified as to topic and author (you!). Please proofread and make corrections neatly—that is not my job. I reserve the right to return papers which have not been adequately proofread before I grade them. I have included some guidelines on effective writing with this syllabus.

**EXTRA CREDIT:** There will be a 10 point extra credit question on both your final and your mid-term exams. Also you may read one of the supplied supplemental readings at the end of the chapters of the text or in the course pack that has not been covered in class, and write a 2-3 pages summary of this reading--- that includes your understanding and critique of the author's thesis. You may request that an extra ten points to be applied where you think you most need some extra credit. You may earn up to 20 points extra credit this way.

**CONSULTATION:** Office hours are the half hour before class, after class informal meetings, or by appointment. I would be happy to meet with you for consultation outside of class for any questions you may have about course content, or for help with assignments, studying for tests, etc. You may make an appointment in person with me before or after class. You can also call me at home for an appointment or reach me with your questions by e-mail.

**NEED HELP?** There are many avenues for academic help at Kent State University. As your instructor I will be available to help you with any course work that is giving you difficulties by appointment. You should not hesitate to ask for help or additional explanation if you feel confused about the subject matter because philosophy can be a challenging subject and perhaps just a little more clarification of a specific topic may be all that is needed.

Kent State University recognizes its responsibilities for creating an institutional climate

in which students with disabilities can succeed. Students with disabilities are entitled to reasonable accommodations and should have equal access to course content. This is University policy, 3342-3-01.3. If you have a documented disability and require accommodation, the contact number for this service is 330-672-3391 or visit [www.kent.edu/sas](http://www.kent.edu/sas) for more information. Please note you must first verify your eligibility. It is also a true that accommodations are not retroactive, so it is best to register with Student Disability Services at your earliest convenience.

Once again, I would be quite happy to provide further explanation, so please feel free to set up an appointment with me for help with readings you feel too difficult to understand.

**\*DIVERSITY ELEMENT:** Diversity courses provide opportunities for students to learn about such matters as the history, culture, values and notable achievements of people other than those of their own national origin, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, age, gender, physical and mental ability and social class. Diversity course also provide opportunities to examine problems and issues that may arise from differences, and opportunities to learn how to deal constructively with them.

While the importance of the Greek discovery of reason and the creation of philosophy as a form of human thinking is the cornerstone of western intellectual history, Greek philosophy and especially the work of Plato gives voice to a philosophical way of thinking in a different culture than our own pluralistic one at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Your text, *Philosophy: A Text with Readings* is one that meets diversity requirements; also it highlights and covers feminist philosophers in depth. One issue in reference to modern continental culture and philosophy is that of “meaning”. We will explore this issue in the examination of the holocaust by Viktor Frankl. An important concern in American philosophy is addressed in Cornel West’s *Race Matters*, and we will read selections from this book. Your course pack contains a short story written by a notable African-American writer, Richard Wright.

**GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE:** The Philosophy Department Grievance Procedure is in conformity with the Student Academic Complaint Policy and Procedures set down as University Policy 3342-4-16 in the University Policy Register

**Academic Appeals:** The general principle that applies to the following procedures is that an appeal is directed to the administrative level immediately above the unit from which the appeal emanates. Appeals are limited to the following reasons:

- a. The decision is arbitrary or unreasonable
- b. The decision resulted from a procedural error.
- c. The decision is not in accordance with the facts presented
- d. New information is available which may suggest a modification of the decision

**REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT:** The official registration deadline for this course is August 29, late registration, Sept. 5, 2010. University policy requires all students to be officially registered in each class they are attending. Students who are not officially registered for a course by published deadlines should not be attending classes and will not receive credit or a grade for the course. Each student must confirm enrollment by checking his/her class schedule (using Student Tools in Flash Fast prior to the deadline indicated. Registration errors must be corrected prior to the deadline. The last day to withdraw using Flashfast is November 7, 2010 and a grade of ‘W’ will be assigned. There are no formal class prerequisites for this

100 level course.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** A statement by Mary Ann Haley: University policy 3342-3-01.8 deals with the problem of academic dishonesty, cheating and plagiarism. None of these will be tolerated in this class. The sanctions provided by this policy will be used to deal with any violations. If you have any questions, please read the policy at [http://www.kent.edu/policyreg/.cfm?customel\\_datapageid\\_197765529=2037779](http://www.kent.edu/policyreg/.cfm?customel_datapageid_197765529=2037779) and or ask.

Please note the enclosed information on Student Cheating and Plagiarism plus the Proposed Statement of Student Academic Intent which you are asked to read, sign and turn in to me.

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### **STUDENT CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM: Condensed Version**

*For the complete policy and procedure, go to [www.kent.edu/policyregister](http://www.kent.edu/policyregister) and search for policy 3342-3-01.8, or see <http://www.kent.edu/policyreg/chap3/3-01-8.cfm> or <http://www.kent.edu/policyreg/chap3/upload/3342.3.01.8.pdf> ]*

Cheating and plagiarism constitute fraudulent misrepresentation for which no credit can be given and for which appropriate sanctions are warranted and will be applied. The university affirms that acts of cheating and plagiarism by students constitute a subversion of the goals of the institution, have no place in the university and are serious offenses to academic goals and objectives, as well as to the rights of fellow students.

**"Cheat" means to intentionally misrepresent the source, nature, or other conditions of academic work so as to accrue undeserved credit, or to cooperate with someone else in such misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:**

1. Obtaining or retaining partial or whole copies of examinations, tests or quizzes before these are distributed for student use;
  2. Using notes, textbooks or other information in examinations, tests and quizzes, except as expressly permitted;
  3. Obtaining confidential information about examinations, tests or quizzes other than that released by the instructor;
  4. Securing, giving or exchanging information during examinations;
  5. Presenting data or other material gathered by another person or group as one's own;
  6. Falsifying experimental data or information;
  7. Having another person take one's place for any academic performance without the specific knowledge and permission of the instructor;
  8. Cooperating with another to do one or more of the above;
  9. Using a substantial portion of a piece of work previously submitted for another course or program to meet the requirements of the present course or program without notifying the instructor to whom the work is presented; and
  10. Presenting falsified information in order to postpone or avoid examinations, tests, quizzes, or other academic work.
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**“Plagiarize” means to take and present as one’s own a material portion of the ideas or words of another or to present as one’s own an idea or work derived from an existing source without full and proper credit to the source of the ideas, words, or works. As defined, plagiarize includes, but is not limited to:**

- a. The copying of words, sentences and paragraphs directly from the work of another without proper credit;
- b. The copying of illustrations, figures, photographs, drawings, models, or other visual and nonverbal materials, including recordings of another without proper credit; and
- c. The presentation of work prepared by another in final or draft form as one's own without citing the source, such as the use of purchased research papers.

#### **Academic Sanctions, From Section D**

The following academic sanctions are provided by this rule for offenses of cheating or plagiarism. Kent campus instructors shall notify the department chairperson and the student conduct office each time a sanction is imposed. Regional campus instructors shall notify the regional campus dean and the student conduct officer each time a sanction is imposed. Regional campus student conduct officer shall notify the Kent student conduct office each time a sanction is imposed by a regional campus Instructor. The following academic sanctions are provided by this rule for offenses of cheating or plagiarism. In those cases the instructor may:

1. Refuse to accept the work for credit; or
2. Assign a grade of "F" or zero for the project, test, paper, examination or other work in which the cheating or plagiarism took place; or
3. Assign a grade of "F" for the course in which the cheating or plagiarism took place; and/or;
4. Recommend to the department chair or regional campus dean that further action specified in the rule be taken. The department chairperson or regional campus dean shall determine whether or not to forward to the academic dean or to the vice president for the extended university a recommendation for further sanction under this rule.

#### **Procedures for invoking sanctions. (From Section E)**

(1) Academic administrative procedures pertaining to paragraph (D)(1)(a) of this rule. In the event that an instructor determines that it is more probable than not that a student in a course or program under the instructor's supervision has presented work for university credit which involves an act of cheating, plagiarism or cooperation in either, then the instructor shall:

(a) Inform the student as soon as is practical, in person or by mail, of the belief that an act of cheating or plagiarism has occurred. If the student cannot be reached in a reasonable period of time, the instructor may proceed with sanctions, notifying the student in writing as promptly as possible of the belief and the procedural steps the instructor has taken.

(b) **Provide the student an opportunity to explain orally, in writing, or both, why the student believes the evaluation of the facts is erroneous.**

(c) If the explanation is deemed by the instructor to be inadequate or if no explanation is offered, the instructor may impose one of the academic sanctions listed in paragraph (D)(1)(a) of this rule. Where appropriate, the instructor may recommend the imposition of academic sanctions listed in paragraph (D)(1)(b) of this rule. In addition, the instructor may refer the matter to the dean of the college, campus, or school in which the student is enrolled for imposition of academic sanctions listed in paragraph (D)(1)(b) of this rule.

(d) The instructor shall notify the office of judicial affairs of the circumstances and action taken. Such notification will be used as background information in the event that formal conduct charges are initiated against the student.

(e) The instructor shall inform the student in writing of the right to appeal, and the procedure to follow.

(f) The instructor shall keep the evidence of cheating or plagiarism in a secure place and provide it upon request to any appeals officer or the conduct officer. The instructor shall provide copies on request to the student at the student's expense.

(g) The instructor shall cooperate with academic and student conduct personnel in any appeal of the decision, and/or in adjudication of any disciplinary proceedings.

## CALENDAR OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNED PREPARATORY READINGS

(Note: Readings listed should be read before each session)

### INTRODUCTION TO PHIL 11001/201080—003 & 004

DATE	TOPIC
8/31/10	Explanation of the syllabus; information on assignments and general class introductions.
9/1/10	Main text, pp. 1-29. The Allegory of the Cave from Plato's Republic. Lecture and discussion
9/6/10	Labor Day—no class
9/8/10	The value of philosophy. Text, pp. 30-37; CP 1-13.
9/13/10	Paper on Journey Outside is due. Class discussion of Crito; A glance at early Western and Eastern philosophers, Text, pp. 39-41. Fish Bowl 1.
9/15/10	Brief Quiz on Chapter 1, <i>Philosophy: A Text with Readings</i> Lecture and Presentation: What is Human Nature?, Chapter 2, pp. 48-74.
9/20/10	In-Debt discussion: The Greek philosopher's discovery of Reason, CP. Pp. 34-44.
9/22/10	Philosophical issues vis-a-vis human nature, Ch. 2, pp. 75-109.
9/27/10	Fish Bowl 2: What makes us human? Are we essentially different from animals?
9/29/10	In depth with one of our philosophers—William James, "The Stream of Thought", CP., pp. 45-62. Also, brief quiz on Chapter 2, Text.
10/4/10	Chapter 3, "What is Reality"? pp. 134-153; A brief interlude for an historical perspective on this topic, CP., pp., 63-70, 98-117.
10/6/10	A sea change in philosophical method—the Challenge of Rene Descartes and the Enlightenment the ensued. Immanuel Kant. CP. pp. 118-128.
10/11/10	Logical Positivism and the Argument as method in philosophy. CP. pp. 133-135; Text, Ch. 3. Pp. 159-164. Review-Mid-term.
10/13/10	Mid-term Exam

- 10/18/10 Post-modernism, Anti-Realism, Phenomenology, Existentialism: text, pp. 205; CP pp. 136-143. Lecture
- 10/20/10 Chapter 4: Religion and ‘Proofs’ of God’s existence. Text: 235-273.
- 10/25/10 Fish Bowl 3 ---- The Natural Desire to see God, pp. 146-151; this fish bowl will deal with pp. 250-257 & 289-291 in the text and the with the Stoic definition of religion, CP, pp. 144-151.
- 10/27/10 Brief quiz on Ch. 4. Empiricism and Rationalism, Text, 296-327.
- 11/1/10 In-depth: Kant’s transcendental Idealism, Text, 327-338, 413-422.
- 11/3/10 In-depth: James’ “Radical Empiricism, CP 152-164. Quiz, Ch. 5.
- 11/8/10 Theories of Truth, text, pp. 368-396; CP, 171-175..
- 11/15/10 A post-modern question: is all language relative and open to endless interpretation—so can there be a way to know truth? Fish bowl 4, text, pp. 404-413, 423-426.
- 11/17/10 A method to access truth; the experience of insight, truth from aesthetic knowing. CP. 165-170; 187-199. Brief Quiz, Ch. 6.
- 11/22/10 A summary of Ch. 8, Lecture. Fish Bow 5 on Cornel West and *Race Matters*, CP, pp. 227. Begin Thanksgiving Holiday—no class on Wednesday, 11/24/10. Also **Term Paper is due today!**
- 11/29/10 “Limits on the State, text, pp. 534-580. “A Constitutional Answer to the Rev. Mr. John Wesley, CP, pp. 200-208.
- 12/1/10 Chapter 9, The Meaning of Life, text, pp. 598-610.
- 12/6/10 Class Discussion on Viktor Frankl’s *Man’s Search for Meaning*.
- 12/8/10 Open session and Review for the final exam.
- 12/14/10 Exam schedule for Phil 11001-14595 (004) @ 12:45-3PM.
- 12/16/10 Exam Schedule for Phil 11001-14026 (003) @ 7:45-10 AM.