# **Introduction to Philosophy**

Kent State University Course Syllabus:

PHIL 11001/016/16862 Spring 2017

MWF: 12:05-12:55 pm Location: Bowman 219

Instructor: Matthew Coate Office: Bowman Hall 320 Q

Office hours: MF: 10:00 - 11:00 am 1:00 - 1:15 pm W: 5:15 - 6:45 pm (and by appointment)

Contact: mcoate@kent.edu

## **Course Description:**

An introduction to the diverse methods and subject matters of philosophy. Primary philosophic sources from varied philosophical traditions focus on at least three philosophic areas. There are no prerequisites for this course, and it may be used to satisfy a Kent Core or University Diversity Requirement.

# **Course objectives:**

□ To learn about the texts that we'll be reading over the course of this semester;

□ To develop the ability to provide accurate explication of these texts, and hopefully, to say or write (at least relatively) interesting things about them; and

□ To increase our own capacities for questioning the way we understand the world, and if at all possible, to further our own sense of the intrinsic importance of this questioning.

## **Course requirements:**

# **Recommended text:**

□ *Classics of Western Philosophy*, 8th Ed. edited by Steven M. Cahn (Hackett Publishing, ISBN-13: 978-1-60384-743-8).

# Grading:

☐ Two midterm exams @ 20% each	40%
□ Final exam	20%
□ 8 mini-quizzes @ 3% each	24%
□ Participation and Attendance	16%

#### Exams:

Two exams and a non-comprehensive final will be given. Each will be worth 20% of the final grade.

#### **Quizzes**:

Over the course of the semester, ten very short quizzes will be given; each will be worth 3% of your grade, for a total of 24%. Missed quizzes *cannot* be made up, except under exceptional circumstances. However, each student's lowest *two* quiz scores (whether it is a zero or otherwise) will be dropped.

## Participation and attendance:

About every other week, you will be expected to write and post a blog to our Blackboard page in response to a question I pose about our assigned reading. Your post will be due by 6:00 pm on the due date; the full list of assignments is listed on the course schedule at the end of this syllabus. Posts should be at least one full paragraph, and should respond in some way to the guiding question that I will have posted on our blog page for the week.

In addition to this, you will be expected to post a response to at least one of your classmate's blog posts, usually due by 6:00 pm on the due date (the whole schedule can be found below, again). Responses should actually engage with the post to which you're responding, and respectfully so—healthy debate is encouraged, but don't make it personal!

Accomplishing the posts assigned adequately will earn you full participation credit for the week: posts and responses must indicate that real thought was put into the work. Unsatisfactory posts will receive only half credit (or no credit, if wholly unsatisfactory), while very strong posts can be awarded a small amount of extra credit. Each week's participation will count for about 1% of your final grade.

#### Extra credit:

Extra credit opportunities may be made available to students over the course of the semester, at the instructor's discretion. More information will be available on possible assignments as the semester goes on.

## University services and policies:

#### **Kent Core course:**

This course may be used to satisfy a Kent Core requirement. The Kent Core as a whole is intended to broaden intellectual perspectives, foster ethical and humanitarian values, and prepare students for responsible citizenship and productive careers.

#### **Diversity course:**

This course may be used to satisfy the University Diversity requirement. 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 courses also provide opportunities to examine problems and issues that may arise from differences, and opportunities to learn how to deal constructively with them.

#### **Enrollment and registration statement:**

The official registration deadline for this course is 1/22/17. 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 FlashLine) prior to the deadline indicated. Registration errors must be corrected prior to the deadline.

The course withdrawal deadline will be 3/26/17.

# **Student Disability Services statement:**

University policy 3-01.3 requires that students with disabilities be provided reasonable accommodations to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to make arrangements for necessary classroom adjustments. Please note, you must first verify your eligibility for these through Student Accessibility Services (contact 330-672-3391 or visit <a href="www.kent.edu/sas">www.kent.edu/sas</a> for more information on registration procedures).

## Personal responsibility and academic integrity statement:

University policy 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 in this policy will be used to deal with any violations. If you have any questions, please read the policy at http://www2.kent.edu/policyreg/chap3/index.cfm and/or ask.

# Make-up exam policy:

Exams can be made up only in the case of an excused absence with proper documentation. Students must contact the instructor and arrange to make up any missed exams. Except in the most extreme circumstances, missed exams which have not been made up before the first class following the exam become a 0%.

# **Electronic device policy:**

Cel phones and smart phone devices may not be used in class at any time. Laptops or tablets are also prohibited, except if a student has received prior permission from me for their use in class (for note-taking or other academic purposes only, of course).

#### Grade scale:

Graue	e scare:	
A =	92-100%	4.0 per credit hour
A-=	90-92%	3.7 per credit hour
B+=	88-90%	3.3 per credit hour
B =	82-88%	3.0 per credit hour
B-=	80-82%	2.7 per credit hour
C+=	78-80%	2.3 per credit hour
C =	72-78%	2.0 per credit hour
C-=	70-72%	1.7 per credit hour
D =	68-70%	1.3 per credit hour
D+=	60-68%	1.0 per credit hour
F =	0 - 60%	0.0 per credit hour

# **Course schedule:**

Schedule is subject to change!!! Readings are due on the day listed!
(Please note: all readings are from the required text, unless otherwise noted)

□ week 1:	7		
Monday	MLK Day:	7	
1/16	No Class!		
Wednesday	Introduction		
1/18			
Friday	Plato:	read: p. 1-2 and 18-22,	
1/20	The Euthyphro	up to "10" in the margin	
□ week 2:			
Monday		read: p. 22-26	Blog #1 due:
1/23			(Sun. 1/22, 6 pm)
Wednesday	The Republic	read: p. 145 (Book II) -	
1/25		151 (end of left column)	
Friday		read: p. 151 (start of	
1/27		left column) – p.161	
□ week 3:			
Monday		read: p. 162-169 (end of	
1/30		Book V)	
Wednesday		read: p. 178-192 (Book	
2/1		VIII to Book X)	
Friday		read: p. 169-175 (to	
2/3		start of Book VII)	
□ week 4:			
Monday		read: p. 175-178 (to end	Blog #2 due:
2/6		of Book VIII)	(Sun. 2/5, 6 pm)
Wednesday	Aristotle:	read: p. 193-198	Blog #2 response due:
2/8	Categories		(Tues. 2/7, 6 pm)
Friday		read: p. 229-233 (to	
2/10	On the Soul	start of Ch. 3)	
□ week 5:			
Monday		read: p. 233-238 (end of	
2/13		Book II)	
Wednesday		read: p. 238-242	Blog #3 due:
2/15			(Tues. 2/14, 6 pm)
Friday	Augustine:	read: p. 372-377 (to	Blog #3 response due:
2/17	Free Choice of the Will	Book Two)	(Thur. 2/16, 6 pm)
□ week 6:			
Monday		read: "Augustine" (on	
2/20		<b>Blackboard</b> ), p. 30 (start of Book 2) - p. 43	
Wednesday		read: "Augustine" (on	
2/22		Blackboard), p. 46-68	
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Friday	Midterm Exam #1		
2/24			
□ week 7:			
Monday	Descartes:	read: p. 499-500 and 533-539 (to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Med.)	
2/27	Meditations	,	D1
Wednesday		read: p. 539-546 ( to start of 4 <sup>th</sup> Meditation)	Blog #4 due:
3/1		read: p. 546-549, p.552	(Tues. 2/28, 6 pm)
Friday 3/3		6 <sup>th</sup> Meditation) – p.559	
□ week 8:			
Monday	Hume	read: p. 832-838	
3/6	Enquiry		
Wednesday		read: p. 838-847 (start	Blog #5 due:
3/8		of Section V)	(Tues. 3/7, 6 pm)
Friday		read: p. 847-854 (start	Blog #5 response due:
3/10		of Section VI)	(Thur. 3/9, 6 pm)
□ week 9:			
Monday		read: p. 854-862 and	
3/13		873- 875 (Section IX)	
Wednesday	Kant:	read: "Critique" (on	
3/15	Critique of Pure Reason	<b>Blackboard</b> ) p. 16-24	
Friday		read: "Critique" (on	
3/17		<b>Blackboard</b> ) p. 24-31	
□ week 10:			
Monday		read: "Critique" (on	
3/20		Blackboard) p. 32-44	
Wednesday	Groundwork	read: p. 1110-1127 (to	
3/22		footnote 33)	
Friday	Midterm Exam #2		
3/24			
□ week 11:	G : D 1	1	
Monday	Spring Break: No Class!		
3/27		-	
Wednesday 3/29	Spring Break: No Class!		
Friday	Spring Break:	-	
3/31	No Class!		
□ week 12:	110 024000	J	
Monday	Nietzsche:	read: p. 1227-1228	
4/3	Human, All Too Human		
Wednesday		read: "Human" (on	Blog #6 due:
4/5		Blackboard) p. 39-52	(Tues. 4/4, 6 pm)
Friday		read: "Human" (on	Blog #6 response due:
4/7		Blackboard) p. 64-76	(Thur. 4/6, 6 pm)

□ week 13:			
Monday 4/10	Peirce: "How to Make Ideas"	read: p. 1244-1245, 1255-1258	
Wednesday 4/12	"Fixation of Belief"	read: p. 1246-1254	
Friday 4/14	Husserl: "Paris Lectures"	read: p. 1310-1318	
□ week 14:			
Monday 4/17	Analyses of Passive Synthesis	read: "Husserl" (on Blackboard)	
Wednesday 4/19		read: continue "Hus- serl"	
Friday 4/21	Kierkegaard: The Concept of Angst	read: "Angst" (on Blackboard)	Blog #7 due: (Thur. 4/20, 6 pm)
□ week 15:			
Monday 4/24		read: continue "Angst"	Blog #7 response due: (Sun. 4/23, 6 pm)
Wednesday 4/26		read: p. 1177-1178	
Friday 4/28	De Beauvior: The Ethics of Ambiguity	read: "Ethics" (on Blackboard) p. 35-44	
□ week 16:			
Monday 5/1		read: "Ethics" (on Blackboard) p. 45-62	Blog #8 due: (Sun. 4/30, 6 pm)
Wednesday 5/3		read: "Ethics" (on Blackboard) p. 63-72	Blog #8 response due: (Tues. 5/2, 6 pm)
Friday 5/5	Study Day	TBA	•
□ Finals week:		1	1
Monday 5/8	Final Exam 10:15 am-12:30 pm		