INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY - 17041 - PHIL 11001 - 023
Spring 2015: Salem Campus

MEETING TIME AND DATES: M/W 2:15 - 3:30 am
LOCATION: Bowman 224
PROFESSOR: Brian R. Huth
EMAIL: bhuth3@kent.edu
OFFICE HOURS: Mondays: 12:30 - 2:15; Wednesdays: 12:30 - 2:15, 3:30 - 4:45; in Bowman 320 room W.


COURSE DESCRIPTION
Have you ever considered whether or not existence has a meaning, or thought about what actually does exist? Have you ever wondered about the nature of truth and reality? Do you contemplate whether or not machines can think? This class will explore Western philosophy's response to certain questions in metaphysics, epistemology, religion, and philosophy of mind. The class will also pay attention to responses given by non-Western traditions to these questions. Our focus will be on identifying arguments -- the authors' arguments as well as our own -- and developing and defending reasons for our beliefs.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
In this class, students will be asked to evaluate their own reasoning on a deeper level than they most likely have ever done before. They will be challenged to challenge themselves and others on difficult issues such as the nature of knowledge, divinity, and the mind. Students will learn to focus their reasoning, evolve argumentative skills, and frame their opinions from a background of justified reasons. Students will have the opportunity to see their philosophical acumen grow through semi-formal journal essays, which will test their argumentative and creative talents.

ASSIGNMENTS, TESTS, AND GRADING
There will be three different kinds of assignments in this class: (1) reading quizzes; (2) tests; (3) journal essays.

Reading Quizzes:
There will be random reading quizzes on any given day -- you could consider these to be pop quizzes if you like. The purpose of these quizzes is to demonstrate to me that students have been reading the material. There will be twelve reading quizzes, and I will drop two failing quizzes if you have any (you don't earn extra credit for having no failed quizzes). THESE QUIZZES CANNOT BE MADE UP!
These are graded as pass/fail. Read diligently, as many of the reading quizzes will be challenging.

**Tests:**
There will be four tests in this class. Each test will cover only the material found in that unit. The tests will typically consist of multiple choice, matching, and short answer questions.

**Journal Essays:**
Students will be asked to write four sets of what I like to call "journal essays." These journal essays are semi-formal, but they are not to be considered personal diary entries. Students will be given a set of essay questions during the course of each unit. Each question set will typically have three essay questions on them. The students are to choose one of the three essay prompts and write one full typed, double-spaced, page FOR EACH entry.

The following provides the overall distributed weight of each of the four kinds of assignments.

Reading Quizzes: 20% (two percent for each pass/fail)
Tests: 40% (ten percent each)
Journal Entries: 20% (five percent each)
Attendance: 20%

Note 1: Attendance will be taken everyday. Each student will receive two non-excused "freebies." This means that each student is allowed to miss two days without excuse and not have those absences affect their grade. Each absence after the second needs to have some kind of written documentation excusing the absence, otherwise it will negatively impact the grade of each student at a rate of 5 percentage points per missed class. Also, remember that the reading quizzes cannot be made up. You don't want to make a habit of missing class!

Note 2: Participation can only ever help your grade. At the end of the semester, if a student is between grades but has good participation, I will bump that student up to the higher grade; if that student's participation was poor then he/she will receive the lower grade.
The following provides a translation from the numerical score to a letter grade:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93 - 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 - 92</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>86 - 89</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>83 - 85</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>80 - 82</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>76 - 79</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>73 - 75</td>
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<td>C-</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>63 - 65</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60 - 62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59 or below</td>
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</tbody>
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**GENERAL ETIQUETTE**

- Turn off your cell phones or turn off your ringer and take your cell phone off of vibrate. PLEASE. I hate interrupting class because someone is texting or because someone keeps getting text messages. If it is an accident, that happens; but let’s try to minimize the accidents as well.

- You may use your laptop or tablet for note taking purposes only.

- During email correspondences, please make sure to give the email a title. Also, please sign your name. Treat your email correspondences with me as if you were emailing any other professional.

- DO NOT SLEEP IN MY CLASS. This is college; if you need to sleep, please leave the room. If you sleep in my class I will take 5% off of your final grade. This is your one and only warning.

- If the classroom has plenty of open seating, avoid sitting in the back of the room.

- If you are going to be late, email me if you can. Also, if you show up late, please just quietly and respectfully find the seat closest to the door. If any student is repeatedly tardy, it will count as an absence. See me if you are concerned.

If you continue to violate my policies, your grade will suffer. I don't like making grades suffer, so please don't violate my policies.
KENT STATE UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Drop and Withdrawal Dates

The official registration deadlines for this course can be found by doing a Detailed Class Search from the Schedule of Classes found at: https://keys.kent.edu:44220/ePROD/bwlkffcs.P_AdvUnsecureCrseSearch?term_in=201580

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.

Plagiarism, Cheating, and other forms of Academic Dishonesty

Please note that I do not tolerate academic dishonesty in any form. Ignorance of university policy will not be accepted as an excuse. University policy 3-01.8 deals with the problem of academic dishonesty. 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://www.kent.edu/policyreg/policydetails.cfm?customel_datapageid_1976529=2037779

Information for Students with Documented Disabilities

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

Week 1

M 8/31: Syllabus. Introduction to the course. What is philosophy? Why study philosophy?


Week 2

M 9/7: LABOR DAY. NO CLASSES. Be safe.

Unit 1: Religion and Philosophy


Week 3


Week 4


W 9/23: Test 1: Unit 1 and Russell.

Week 5

Unit 2: Epistemology and Skepticism


Week 6

W 10/7: David Hume (excerpt) pp. 141 - 149.

Week 7

M 10/12: P. F. Strawson "The "Justification" of Induction" pp. 151 - 159.


Week 8

M 10/19: Rene Descartes "Meditation I" pp. 299 - 303.

Q W 10/21: Jonathan Vogel "Skepticism and Inference to the Best Explanation" pp. 328 - 335.

Week 9

M 10/26: Test 2: Unit 2.

Unit 3: Philosophy of Mind

W 10/28: Saul Kripke "Wittgenstein and Other Minds" 253 - 260.

Week 10

M 11/2: EXTERNAL ARTICLE: Alan Turing "Computing Machinery and Intelligence." (On Blackboard). Reading TBA.


Week 11


W 11/11: VETERAN'S DAY. NO SCHOOL!!

Week 12

Frank Jackson "Postscript on Qualia" pp. 421 - 423.

Q W 11/18: Patricia Churchland "Are Mental States Irreducible to Neurobiological States?" pp. 424 - 430.
Week 13


W 11/25: FALL RECESS. NO SCHOOL!!!