

## Phil 106: Kant

Spring 2011

Tues. and Thurs., 10–11:45am.

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Office hours: Tues. and Thurs., 2:15–3:15pm.

## Course Requirements

Take-home midterm exam (a choice of essay questions), due Thurs., May 12; take-home final exam (ditto), due Tues., June 7. Students who receive an A- or higher on the midterm may choose to write a final paper (approximately 8–10 pages) in place of the final, on a topic to be discussed in advance with the instructor. (Each worth 50% of the grade.)

Exams and papers are due by e-mail to the instructor, with cc to Gabe (the grader), in PDF or some format easily convertible to PDF (e.g. MSWord — either `.doc` or `.docx` is fine —  $\LaTeX$ , plain text, or RTF).

Attendance at lecture is *strongly* encouraged, but it is not a course requirement and I will not be taking attendance.

## Texts

Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, tr. Norman Kemp Smith (ISBN: 1403911959).

The above text should be available at the Literary Guillotine. Some commentaries and secondary works will be available on reserve at McHenry (see below).

If you want to use a different translation you are welcome to, but you should be aware that it may be confusing because translations can differ greatly. Of course, if you know German, you should read in the original.

This year we will be reading exclusively the text of the second (“B”) edition. Page numbers in both the first and second (“A”) editions are marked in the margin of Smith’s translation. In most cases where the two editions differ, it should be relatively easy to figure out what the text of the B edition says: Smith mostly either prints the B-edition text with A-edition difference in footnotes, or, where there are big differences, prints the two texts separately.

I will put on reserve the following secondary texts, which you may or may not find useful: Walsh, *Kant's Criticism of Metaphysics*; Gardner, *Routledge Philosophy Guidebook to Kant and the Critique of Pure Reason*; Strawson, *The Bounds of Sense*; Bennett, *Kant's Analytic and Kant's Dialectic*; Allison, *Kant's Transcendental Idealism*; Guyer, ed., *Cambridge Companion to Kant* Longuenesse, *Kant And The Capacity To Judge : Sensibility And Discursivity In The Transcendental Analytic Of The Critique Of Pure Reason*. (The first two on this list have been highly recommended to me as beginning-level texts, but I haven't read them myself as of now; your mileage may vary. The others are somewhat more involved. Strawson and Bennett are basically anti-Kant — they claim to think that he's a great philosopher, but attack and ridicule most of what he actually says — whereas Allison is basically pro-Kant. The *Cambridge Companion* is a collection of essays by various authors. Longuenesse is a more difficult author, but one whom I personally have found useful. There is plenty of other literature on Kant, of course.)

## Readings

Tues., Mar. 29: (no reading, first class).

## Preface, Introduction, and Transcendental Aesthetic

Thurs., Mar. 31: Preface, from “Metaphysics is a completely isolated speculative science” to “and the loss of which it can therefore never feel,” and beginning of Introduction, through end of part V (Bxiv–xxxv, B1-18).

Tues., Apr. 5: end of Introduction and beginning of Transcendental Aesthetic, through end of §6 (B19–53).

Thurs., Apr. 7: end of Transcendental Aesthetic (B53–73).

## Transcendental Analytic

Tues., Apr. 12: Introduction to the Transcendental Logic, and beginning of Metaphysical Deduction, through the end of §10 (B74–109).

Thurs., Apr. 14: end of Metaphysical Deduction, and beginning of Transcendental Deduction, through the end of §15 (B109–131).

Tues., Apr. 19: **no class** (first day of Passover).

Thurs., Apr. 20: end of Transcendental Deduction (B132–69).

Tues., Apr. 26: **no class** (last day of Passover).

Wed., Apr. 27, 1:45pm–3:15pm (in Cowell Conference Room): Schematism (and various introductory material) (B169–202) (this lecture is available on video).

Thurs., Apr. 28: Introduction to the Analogies, Second Analogy, Postulates of Empirical Thought, and Refutation of Idealism (B218–24, B232–47, B265–79).

Tues., May 3: Phenomena and Noumena (B295–315).

Thurs., May 5: Amphiboly (B316–49).

### **Transcendental Dialectic**

Tues., May 10: Introduction to the Dialectic, and beginning of the Concepts of Pure Reason (B349–77).

Thurs., May 12: end of the Concepts of Pure Reason, and beginning of the Inferences of Pure Reason (B377–406), and **take-home midterm due**.

Tues., May 17: Paralogisms (B406–32).

Thurs., May 19: Introduction to Antinomies, and Third Antinomy (B432–453, B472–79).

Tues., May 24: Concluding Note on the Solution of the Mathematical-Transcendental Ideas, and Solution to the Third Antinomy (B556–86).

Thurs., May 26: Ideal (B595–619).

Tues., May 31: Impossibility of the Cosmological and Ontological Proofs (B620–42).

### **Transcendental Doctrine of Method**

Thurs., June 2: Canon (B823–58).

Tues., June 7: **take-home final due**.