

Phil 106: Kant

Spring 2009

Mon. and Wed., 5–7:45pm.

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Course Requirements

Take-home midterm exam (a choice of essay questions), due Mon., May 11; take-home final exam (ditto), due Tues., June 9. 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 (in PDF, MSWord, L^AT_EX, plain text, HTML, or RTF).

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).

For reasons I will discuss, we will be reading almost exclusively the text of the first (“A”) edition. Page numbers in both the first and second (“B”) editions are marked in the margin of Smith’s translation. In a few cases you will have to pay careful attention to piece together what belongs to the A text (for example, there are places where the B text adds a few paragraphs to the middle of a section—those additional B-edition paragraphs are not part of the assigned reading).

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

Mon., Mar. 30: (no reading, first class).

Wed., Apr. 1: Preface and Introduction to the First Edition (Avii–xxii, A1–16).

Mon., Apr. 6: Transcendental Aesthetic (A19–49).

Wed., Apr. 8: **no class**.

Transcendental Analytic

Mon., Apr. 13: Introduction to the Transcendental Logic, and Metaphysical Deduction (A50–83).

Wed., Apr. 15: Transcendental Deduction, part one (A84–98) (through the end of the “Preliminary Remark”).

Mon., Apr. 20: Transcendental Deduction, part two (A98–130).

Wed., Apr. 22: Schematism (and various introductory material) (A130–58).

Mon., Apr. 27: Analogies—Introduction and First and Second Analogies (A177–211).

Wed., Apr. 29: Phenomena and Noumena (A235–59).

Mon., May 4: Amphiboly (A260–89)

Transcendental Dialectic

Wed., May 6: Introduction to the Dialectic, and beginning of the Concepts of Pure Reason (A293–320).

Mon., May 11: end of the Concepts of Pure Reason, and beginning of the Inferences of Pure Reason (A321–48), and **take-home midterm due**.

Wed., May 13: First and Fourth Paralogisms (A348–51, 366–80).

Mon., May 18: Introduction to Antinomies, and Third Antinomy (A405–25, 444–51).

Wed., May 20: Concluding Note on the Solution of the Mathematical-transcendental Ideas, and Solution to the Third Antinomy (A528–58).

Mon., May 25: **no class** (Memorial Day).

Wed., May 27: Introduction to the Ideal (A567–91).

Mon., June 1: Impossibility of the Cosmological and Ontological Proofs (A592–614).

Transcendental Doctrine of Method (and a bit of the B Preface)

Wed., June 3: From the Preface to the Second Edition: Bxxiv (beginning “But, it will be asked”)–Bxxxix (ending “its errors at their very source.”). Canon (A795–831).

Tues., June 9: **take-home final or final paper due.**