

**Phil 106: Kant**  
Spring, 2024

Monday and Wednesday, 5:20–6:55pm, Cowell Acad 113

**Contact Information**

Professor: Abe Stone ([abestone@ucsc.edu](mailto:abestone@ucsc.edu))

Office: Cowell Annex A-106

Phone (office): 459-5723

Website: <https://people.ucsc.edu/~abestone/courses>

Zoom link for lectures: [here](#)

Office hours (in person): Mon. 3–4pm

Zoom office hours: Mon. 3–4pm; Thurs. 11:30am–12:30pm (or by appointment)

Teaching Assistant:

Karl Fisse ([kfisse@ucsc.edu](mailto:kfisse@ucsc.edu))

**Course Description**

We will read (large parts of) the fundamental text of Kant’s philosophy, *The Critique of Pure Reason*.

**Modality:** I will lecture in person in our assigned classroom, but I intend also to live-stream every lecture over Zoom. However, there are three classes I need to cancel due to Passover, however, and to make up for this there will be **three lectures on Thursday evenings**, 4/18, 4/25, and 5/2, **via Zoom only**, at the usual class time (5:20–6:55pm). I will also make a recording of every lecture available on YouTube.

**Course Requirements**

Two take home midterms exams, due Tuesday, April 30 and Thursday, May 16 (a choice of essay questions) (each worth 20% of the grade); take home final (also a choice of essay questions), due Tuesday, June 11 (60% of the

grade). Students who receive an A- or higher on the first two exams 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 me.

Assignments are due as an attachment via the “Assignments” tool on Canvas. The assignments will be available online and there will be links to them from the online version of this syllabus as well as from my main course page.

Please do not plagiarize. If you do and I catch you, you will receive no credit for the assignment and may fail the course, and you will also be subject to “disciplinary sanctions” from the University. (In contrast: if you hand in an assignment paper consisting mostly of quotes from or paraphrases of other sources you have consulted, properly cited, you will not get a good grade, but you will not fail, either.) If you have any questions about what plagiarism is or how to avoid it, you can ask me, or consult the resources listed on the Library website.<sup>1</sup> For possible consequences of plagiarism, see the Academic Misconduct Policy.<sup>2</sup>

AI policy: I encourage the use of AI assistance with proper caution (i.e., keeping in mind that current AI is often wrong). You may use AI assistance basically in any way that would not constitute cheating if you used a human for the same thing. Similarly, you should cite the AI in cases where you would cite a human. If in doubt, feel free to ask me for clarification.

Note that all three exams are due by 11:55pm on the due date.

You can find answers to some commonly asked questions about my assignments and grading in my FAQ (<https://people.ucsc.edu/~abestone/courses/faq.html>).

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 (Palgrave Macmillan; 2nd edition, 2007) (ISBN: 978-0230013384).

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<sup>1</sup><https://guides.library.ucsc.edu/c.php?g=1349850&p=9960819>.

<sup>2</sup><https://ue.ucsc.edu/academic-misconduct.html>.

The above text can be ordered and/or purchased as an e-book at the UCSC Bookstore (Akademos), and are also on reserve at McHenry

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.

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.

## **Readings**

Monday, April 1: (no reading, first class). (Lecture on YouTube.)

## **Preface, Introduction, Tr. Aesthetic, and Intro to Tr. Logic**

Wednesday, April 3: Preface, through “philosophy into philodoxy” (Bvii–xxxvii) (Lecture on YouTube.)

Monday, April 8: Introduction (B1–30). (Lecture on YouTube.)

Wednesday, April 10: beginning of Transcendental Aesthetic, through end of §7 (B33–58) (Lecture on YouTube.)

Monday, April 15: end of Transcendental Aesthetic, and Introduction to Transcendental Logic (B59–88). (Lecture on YouTube.)

## **Transcendental Analytic**

Wednesday, April 17: Introduction to Transcendental Analytic, and Metaphysical Deduction (B89–116). (Lecture on YouTube.)

Thursday, April 18: beginning of Transcendental Deduction, through the end of §20 (B116–143). (This lecture will be at the usual class time, 5:20–6:55pm, via Zoom only.) (Lecture on YouTube.)

Monday, April 22: **No class** due to Passover (which begins this evening).

Wednesday, April 24: **No class** due to the second day of Passover.

Thursday, April 25: end of Transcendental Deduction (B144–69). (This lecture will be at the usual class time, 5:20–6:55pm, via Zoom only.) (Lecture on YouTube.)

Monday, April 29: **No class** due to the seventh day of Passover.

Tuesday, April 30: **First take home midterm due.**

Wednesday, May 1: Schematism (and various introductory material) (B169–202). (Lecture on YouTube.)

Thursday, May 2: Introduction to the Analogies, Second Analogy, Postulates of Empirical Thought, and Refutation of Idealism (B218–24, B232–47, B265–79). (This lecture will be at the usual class time, 5:20–6:55pm, via Zoom only.) (Lecture on YouTube.)

Monday, May 6: Phenomena and Noumena (B295–315). (Lecture on YouTube.)

Wednesday, May 8: Amphiboly (B316–49). (Lecture on YouTube.)

### **Transcendental Dialectic**

Monday, May 13: Introduction to the Dialectic, and beginning of the Concepts of Pure Reason (B349–77). (Lecture on YouTube.)

Wednesday, May 15: end of the Concepts of Pure Reason, and beginning of the Inferences of Pure Reason (B377–398). (Lecture on YouTube.)

Thursday, May 16: **Second take home exam due.**

Monday, May 20: Paralogisms (B398–432). (Lecture on YouTube.)

Wednesday, May 22: Introduction to Antinomies, and Third Antinomy (B432–453, B472–79). (Lecture on YouTube.)

Monday, May 27: **No class (Memorial Day)**

Wednesday, May 29: Concluding Note on the Solution of the Mathematical-Transcendental Ideas, and Solution to the Third Antinomy (B556–86). (Lecture on YouTube.)

Monday, June 3: Ideal (B595–619). (Lecture on YouTube.)

Wednesday, June 5: Impossibility of the Cosmological and Ontological Proofs (B620–42). (Lecture on YouTube.)

Tuesday, June 11: **Take home final (or final paper<sup>3</sup>) due.**

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<sup>3</sup>There is no formal assignment for the final paper; if you would like to pursue this option and need guidelines or suggestions, please contact me.