

Phil 290P: Kant on the Finite and the Infinite
Spring, 2018

Tuesday and Thursday, 1:30pm–3:05pm, Hum 1 400

Contact Information

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Office hours: Tues. 3:15–4:15pm, Thurs. 5:15–6:15pm, or by appointment

Course Requirements

Seminar participation. You should be prepared to ask at least one brief question about the reading, or make at least one brief comment about it or one brief objection to it.

One in-class presentation (approximately 15 minutes). The presentation should be aimed at getting seminar discussion started on a certain day.

One final paper (approximately 15–20 pages), due Tuesday, June 12 (via the Assignments tool on Canvas, on a topic related to the course to be determined by the student (with advice from the instructor if desired)).

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>).

Texts

Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, tr. Norman Kemp Smith (Palgrave Macmillan; 2nd edition, 2007) (ISBN: 0230013384).

I've ordered the above at the Literary Guillotine. If you prefer a different translation (or, better, the original), that's OK. Assigned readings are all from the B edition. Readings from other texts will be available online, either via publicly available links or on Canvas.

Readings

Tuesday, April 3: no reading, first class.

Thursday, April 5: **no class**, due to the last two days of Passover.

Background

Tuesday, April 10: Plato *Philebus* 16c–27b, *Parmenides* 137c–e; Aristotle, *Physics* 3.4–8.202b30–208a23, 8.10.266a10–24, *Metaph.* 3.4.999a24–b20 (starting “In this connection there is a difficulty”), 9.6.1048b9–17 (starting “Infinity and void”).

Thursday, April 12: Proclus, *Elements of Theology*, §§84–96 and 138; Thomas Aquinas, *De pot.* 1.2; John Duns Scotus *Ordinatio* 1.8.1.3 nn. 113–19 and 141.

Tuesday, April 17: Descartes, *Third Meditation*; Locke, *Essay*, 2.4, 2.13.4–6, 2.16.1–3 and 2.17.

Thursday, April 19: Baumgarten, *Metaphysics*, §§14–15, 69, 109–112, 155–64, 246–64; Kant, *Inaugural Dissertation*, §1 (Ak. 2:387–9); *Reflexionen* 3899 (Ak. 17:333), 4243–49, 4252–3 (Ak. 17:477–83), 6034–5 (Ak. 18:428–9); *KrV*, footnote to B201 (in Kemp Smith this is note *a* on pp. 197–8).

Theoretical Philosophy

Tuesday, April 24: *KrV*, Aesthetic, §§1–6 (B33–53); §8 Parts II (B66–9) and IV (B71–2).

Thursday, April 26: *KrV*, Phenomena and Noumena (B294–315).

Tuesday, May 1: *KrV*, Concepts of Pure Reason (B366–96).

Thursday, May 3: *KrV*, Introduction to the Dialectical Inferences (B396–8) and Antinomy, §1 (B432–48).

Tuesday, May 8: *KrV*, Antinomy, §2 (B448–89).

Thursday, May 10: *KrV*, Antinomy, §§7 and 8, and §9 through the end of the Concluding Note on the Solution of the Mathematical-Transcendental Ideas (B526–60).

Tuesday, May 15: *KrV*, Antinomy, end of §9 (B560–95).

Thursday, May 17: *KrV*, Ideal, Sections 1–3 (B595–619).

Tuesday, May 22: *KrV*, Regulative Employment of the Ideas (B670–96).

Practical Philosophy

Thursday, May 24: *KpV*, Incentives of Pure Practical Reason (Ak. 5:71–89); Guevara, “The Incentives of Pure Practical Reason,” h. 3 of *Kant’s Theory of Moral Motivation* Guevara reading (PDF).

Tuesday, May 29: Continued discussion of the above; *KpV*, Remark II to §3 (Ak. 5:25–6); *MdS*, §13 (Ak. 6:262).

Aesthetics

Thursday, May 31: *KU*, Analytic of the Sublime (Ak. 5:244–266).

Tuesday, June 5: *KU*, §59 (Ak. 5:351–3); Matherne, “Imagining Freedom: Kant on Symbols of Sublimity.”

Tuesday, June 12: **final paper due.**