

## PHIL 2030

## KANT'S CRITICAL PHILOSOPHY 1ST SEMESTER 2013

Wed 10:30-12:20 - CPD-LG.07 Centennial Campus

### Instructor Details

Dr. Wolff Johanna

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Office: Centennial Campus, Run Run Shaw Tower, 10/F 1005

Office Hours: Tu 11:20-12:20 and by appointment

### Description & Objectives

The topic of this class is Kant's Critical Philosophy, a period of Kant's work beginning with the publication of the *Critique of Pure Reason* in 1781. Our focus will be on the *Critique of Pure Reason*, especially on the second edition of 1787. We will discuss central claims and arguments in this work: space and time as pure intuition, the transcendental deduction of the categories, transcendental idealism... Towards the end we will relate some of these ideas to central elements of Kant's practical philosophy.

### Assignments and Grading

1. Reading responses (20%)

3. Paper 1: 2000 words (40%)

4. Paper 2: 2000 words (40%)

Assessment: 100% coursework

*The reading responses:* You are asked to write **four** short reading responses over the course of the semester, each about a paragraph long. The response should address the reading assigned for that week, e.g. a reading response in week 2 should be about the *Preface*. Reading responses should be turned in through **moodle**.

*The papers:* You are asked to write two papers (2000 words/each) for this class. There will be a choice of prompts for each paper, handed out two weeks before the due date. If you have not written a philosophy paper before, or if you feel unsure about what is required for such a paper, please contact me before writing the paper!

How to turn in your papers:

Submit a doc or pdf copy of your paper through TURN IT IN.

### Due Dates

Reading Questions: **4 over the course of the semester, due Fridays at 18:00.**

Mid-term paper: **10:30 24.10.12**

Final Paper: **10:30 8.12.12**

### Class Meetings

**Lectures:** Every Wed, 10:30-12:20, CPD-LG.07, except for reading week (Oct. 29 - Nov. 3)

**Reading Tutorials:** There will be three reading tutorials over the course of the semester: in week 3, in week 4, and in week 7. Exact times and locations of the tutorial will be announced. These tutorials are *optional*, although I do recommend that you attend at least one of them. Each tutorial will be 50 min long; we will closely read and discuss a particular passage of the text.

## Reading

### Sources

*Kant - What is Enlightenment?* <http://www.columbia.edu/acis/ets/CCREAD/etscc/kant.html>

*Kant - Critique of Pure Reason*, Guyer, P. and Wood, A. (transl.) (recommended)

*Kant - Critique of Pure Reason*, Norman Kemp Smith (transl.) (alternative)

Allison, H.: *Kant's Transcendental Idealism*, 1983

Guyer, P.: *The Cambridge Companion to Kant's Critique of Pure Reason*, (CCCPR) 2010

Wood, A.: *Kant*, blackwell, 2005

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (SEP): <http://plato.stanford.edu/>

Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* will be cited according to the standard A/B format: "A" stands for the first (1781) edition of the *Critique of Pure Reason*, "B" for the second (1787) edition. The second edition differs from the first in some parts, which means that scholars refer to passages by citing A/B numbers, and where applicable A or B numbers only. All standard translations of the *Critique of Pure Reason* have those numbers in the margin, and you should always cite the *Critique* by using those numbers (e.g. in your papers)!

### How to read for this class:

Each week you will be asked to read some text by Kant, as well as some secondary literature. In some cases there will even be additional optional reading material. So how are you going to manage all this reading?

The most important thing is to read the **original text by Kant**. Unfortunately this is also the most difficult reading, which is why there are secondary sources to help.

A good strategy for reading would be this:

1. Before class, read through the assigned Kant reading. Aim to get an overall sense of what the reading is about, and try to pinpoint the passages/terms/issues you don't understand.
2. After class, read the secondary source(s) assigned. This should be much easier, and together with the lecture should help you to understand the context and structure of the original Kant reading.
3. Once you've done that, re-read the original Kant passage. Do you understand it better now?
4. Write a reading response.

Other things that might help with the reading:

- a) form a reading group with other students in the class
- b) ask questions on the moodle forum
- c) reading tutorials
- d) office hours

## Course Topics & Readings by Week

1. **09/19/12 Introduction to Kant's Critical Philosophy and the Enlightenment**  
READING *What is Enlightenment?*  
Bristow, W.: "Enlightenment", SEP
2. **09/26/12 The Project of the Critique of Pure Reason I**  
READING *Preface to the Critique of Pure Reason (B-edition)*  
Wood, A.: "synthetic a priori cognition", *Kant Ch.2*, pp. 24-35
3. **10/03/12 The Project of the Critique of Pure Reason II**  
READING *B Introduction (sections: I, II, IV, V)*  
Anderson, L.: "The Introduction to the Critique - Framing the Question", CCCPR
4. **10/10/12 The Transcendental Aesthetic - Intuition**  
READING *Transcendental Aesthetic sec. 1-3*  
Shabel, L.: "The Transcendental Aesthetic", CCCPR
5. **10/17/12 The Transcendental Analytic I - Concepts**  
READING *A50/B74-A57/B82; A64/B89-B95/A70; A76/B102-A83/B109*  
Longuenesse, B.: "The Divisions of the Transcendental Logic and the Leading Thread", in Reader
6. **10/24/12 The Transcendental Analytic II - Deduction**  
READING: *A84/B116-A95/B129; B129-B169*  
Wood, A.: "the transcendental deduction of the categories", *Kant Ch.3*, pp. 46-54
7. **11/07/12 The Transcendental Analytic III - Analogies of Experience**  
READING *A177/B218-A181/B224; B232-A/211B57*  
Watkins, E.: "The System of Principles", CCCPR
8. **11/14/12 The Transcendental Analytic IV - Transcendental Idealism**  
READING: *B274-B279 (Refutation of Idealism)*  
Wood, A.: "transcendental idealism", *Kant Ch. 4*, pp 63-76  
Emundts, D.: "The Refutation of Idealism and the Distinction between Phenomena and Noumena", CCCPR
9. **11/21/12 The Transcendental Dialectic - Antinomies**  
READING: *A426/B454-A434/B462; A491/B519-A508/B536; A517/B545-A523/B551*  
Wood, A.: "The Antinomies of Pure Reason" CCCPR
10. **11/28/12 Freedom and Causality**  
READING: *A444/B472-A452/B480; A532/B560-A559/B587*  
Wood, A.: "The Antinomies of Pure Reason", Section 5 CCCPR or  
Wood, A.: "the problem of freedom" *Kant Ch. 5*, pp 96-100
11. **12/03/12 Freedom and Morality**  
no reading