

PHIL 415: Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*
Thursdays 10:00-12:30 Mundelein 617

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Office hours: TR 12:30-2:00 pm

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to gain a thorough understanding of Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*, the foundational text of Kant's Critical project. This work spans topics such as the nature of human cognition, the limits of reason, the conditions that make experience possible, and the status of claims about that which is beyond the limits of possible experience. We will conduct detailed analyses of key portions of this text (including the Transcendental Aesthetic, the Transcendental Deductions, the Analogies of Experience, the Antinomies, and the Appendix to the Dialectic, among others). Our reading of these portions of the *Critique* will be supplemented by secondary readings.

Objectives:

This class is meant to give students a solid grounding in the *Critique of Pure Reason*. Rather than reading the entire text, we will focus on essential portions and understand those portions of the text thoroughly. A thorough understanding of several parts will be more helpful than a superficial understanding of or familiarity with the whole. After completing this course, a student should be able to thoroughly explain the following aspects of Kant's Critical philosophy: (1) The role of synthetic, *a priori* judgments in Kant. (2) The roles and proper limits of Kant's three main faculties of the mind: sensibility, understanding, and reason. (3) The basic contours of transcendental idealism and (4) The proper and improper use of reason, and the role of reason in its regulative use.

Required Texts:

Critique of Pure Reason (trans. and ed. P. Guyer and A. Wood), Cambridge University Press, 1998.

Gardner, Sebastian. *Routledge Philosophy Guidebook to Kant and the Critique of Pure Reason*, Routledge, 1999.

Other Readings:

Secondary materials will be posted on Sakai or emailed. Many of these readings are available on the Cambridge Companions website.

Grades/Assignments:

Your grade in this class will be based on two class presentations on an assigned article (15% each), one short paper (based purely on primary material; 15%) and a final paper (55%), due one week after the last day of class.

Presentations: You will present on one of the articles assigned as secondary literature on two class days (not Gardner's *Guidebook*, but some other article). The format of the presentation is up to you, but I recommend a handout, with the bulk of the presentation spent summarizing the article, and some time at the end devoted to evaluation or examination of interesting questions raised by the article. These presentations should be at least 5-10 minutes long, with the presenter opening up a discussion about the secondary material following the presentation.

Short paper: Your short paper will be due on a particular day of class, and will be on the topic of the reading that is due that day, and it can be expository. It will be approximately 4 pages long.

Long paper: Your longer paper may expand on this shorter paper, or it may be entirely independent. The longer paper, however, should conform with the standards for a publishable or near-publishable article in Kant scholarship, and should engage carefully with relevant secondary literature. It should be approximately 12 pages long. I suggest you speak with me about your topic well in advance of the due date, and also that you submit your paper to me for feedback. I will give feedback on any drafts received by April 18th.

CC to K&MP = *Cambridge Companion to Kant and Modern Philosophy*

CC to K = *Cambridge Companion to Kant*

CC to CPR = *Cambridge Companion to Kant's Critique of Pure Reason*

WEEK 1: January 17 -- Prefaces

Primary: Prefaces A and B (CPR pp 99-124)
Letter to Marcus Herz (1772)

Secondary: Gardner, *Guidebook*, Preface, Ch. 1-2
Wood, "Kant's Life and Works" in *Blackwell Companion to Kant*

Topics: Intellectual heritage and climate, purpose and context of the *CPR*. Structure and overview of the *CPR* and some basic terminology.

WEEK 2: January 24 -- Introduction

Primary: B-Introduction (B1-30) (pp. 136-152)

Secondary: Gardner, *Guidebook* Ch. 3 (optional)
Anderson "Introduction to the Critique" CC to CPR
Kitcher, "A priori" in CC to K&MP

Topics: "Copernican Revolution"; Synthetic *a priori* judgment; Kant's project in *CPR*

WEEK 3: January 31 -- Transcendental Aesthetic

Primary: Transcendental Aesthetic: Forms of Sensibility: Space and Time
(A19/B33-A/50-B74 -- *read , not <A>* -- pp. 172-192)

Secondary: Gardner, *Guidebook*, Ch. 4 (optional)
Parsons "The Transcendental Aesthetic" in CC to Kant
Allais "Kant's Argument for Transcendental Idealism in the Transcendental Aesthetic" *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society*, 2010.

Topics: The status of geometrical and mathematical truths; transcendental ideality and empirical reality; space and time

WEEK 4: February 7 – Transcendental Logic

Primary: Transcendental Logic (A50/B74-A65/B90) pp. 193-200

Secondary: Tolley “The Generality of Kant’s Transcendental Logic” *JHP* 2012.

Topics: Transcendental logic; Recap: transcendental aesthetic.

WEEK 5: February 14– Analytic: Transcendental Logic/Metaphysical Deduction

Primary: Transcendental logic/Metaphysical deduction A65/B90-A83/B109

Secondary: Gardner, *Guidebook*, Ch. 5, pp. 115-135 (optional)
Longuenesse “Kant on a priori concepts: the metaphysical deduction of the categories” in CC to K&MP

Topics: Logical use of the understanding; the metaphysical deduction of the categories.

WEEK 6: February 21 – Analytic: B-deduction

Primary: Transcendental Analytic: B-Deduction 1 (A84-94/B116-129; B159-165)
Optional primary (B109-116)

Secondary: Gardner, *Guidebook*, Ch. 5, pp. 135-165 (optional)
Guyer “The Deduction of the Categories: The Metaphysical and Transcendental Deductions” In CC to Kant’s *CPR*

Topics: Kant’s Transcendental Deduction of the Categories

WEEK 7: February 28 – Analytic: B-deduction

Primary: Transcendental Analytic: B-Deduction 2 (B129-146)
Optional Primary: A-deduction (A84-A130)

Secondary: Ameriks “Kant’s Transcendental Deduction as a Regressive Argument” (1978) reprinted in *Interpreting Kant’s Critiques* (2003).
Longuenesse *Kant and the Capacity to Judge* Ch 1.

Topics: Kant’s Transcendental Deduction of the Categories

******Spring Break**** NO CLASS MARCH 7**

Optional primary reading: A130-A176/B146-218

WEEK 8: March 14 – Second Analogy

Primary: Transcendental Analytic: Analogies of Experience (focus: 2nd Analogy)
Skim: A176/B218-A218/B265; *read carefully:* A189/B232-A211/B256

Secondary: Melnick “The Second Analogy” in Blackwell Companion to Kant
Watkins “The System of Principles” in CC to Kant’s CPR

Topics: Analogies of Experience

WEEK 9: March 21: Refutation of Idealism

Primary: Transcendental Analytic: Refutation of Idealism
Read: A218-A260/B265-B315; *read carefully:* B274-279
(skip pages 338-353: these follow A; we will be reading B: pp. 354-365)

Secondary: Emundts “The Refutation of Idealism and the Distinction Between Phenomena and Noumena” in CC to Kant’s CPR
Guyer “Kant’s Intentions in the Refutation of Idealism” *Philosophical Review* 1983.

Topics: Refutation of Idealism

WEEK 10: March 28 – Reflection on Analytic/Transcendental Idealism

Primary: No new primary reading.

Secondary: Gardner *Guidebook*, Chs. 5 and 8 (optional)
Allais “Kant’s One World: Interpreting Transcendental Idealism” *BJHP* 2004.
Oberst: “Two Worlds and Two Aspects: on Kant’s Distinction Between Things in Themselves and Appearances” *Kantian Review* 2015

Topics: Refutation of Idealism, cont./catch-up; the meaning of transcendental idealism

WEEK 11: April 4 – Dialectic: General

Primary: Amphiboly; Transcendental Illusion; Concepts of Pure Reason
A260/B316-A340/B398

Secondary: Ameriks “The Critique of Metaphysics: The Structure and Fate of Kant’s Dialectic” in CC to Kant & MP
Allison “Reason and Illusion” *Kant’s Transcendental Idealism*: Ch. 11

Topics: Reason, Illusion, and the purpose of the Dialectic

WEEK 12: April 11 – Dialectic: Third Antinomy

Primary: Transcendental Dialectic: Antinomies; focus: 3rd Antinomy: Freedom
Skim: A405/B432-A567/B595
Read carefully: A444/B472-A452/B480; A532/B560-A558/B586

Secondary: Allison “The Third Antinomy” in *Kant’s Theory of Freedom*

Topics: Freedom!

WEEK 13: April 18 -- Appendix: Use of Reason

Primary: Appendix to the Dialectic (A642/B670-A703/B731)

Secondary: Rauscher “The Appendix to the Dialectic and the Canon of Pure Reason: The Positive Role of Reason” in CC to Kant’s CPR

Topics: Paper workshop (5 minute presentations of paper topics, feedback from class); Ideas of reason; systematicity, unity, and God; the regulative use of reason

WEEK 14: April 25 – Appendix, Continued

Primary: Canon of pure reason (A795/B823-A819/B847); selections from Doctrine of Method (TBD)

Secondary: Gardner, *Guidebook*, Ch. 9 (optional)
Onora O’Neill, “Vindicating Reason” in CC to Kant

Topics: Paper workshop (5 minute presentations of paper topics, feedback from class)
Practical and Theoretical Reason; Ultimate end of the use of pure reason; the highest good in the CPR

Final Papers: Due Wednesday, 5/1
Hard deadline: Thursday, 5/2 by 9 am