**PHIL 415  
Kant’s *Critique of Judgment***

Wednesdays 7–9:30 p.m. in Crown Center 142

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Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 1–2 pm; by appointment

**Course Description**

In this course we will examine Kant’s *Critique of the Power of Judgment*, an influential work of philosophy written in 1790. The first part of the *Critique*addresses aesthetics; the second part addresses biology. Through reading the primary text and some secondary literature, we will come to understand why Kant chose to focus specifically on aesthetics and biology as objects of philosophical inquiry that could not be subsumed under his previous theoretical and practical philosophy. This class will prepare you to understand later developments that were in large part inspired by this work: the immediate reception of this *Critique* and the philosophical movements of German Idealism and Romanticism, the development of aesthetics as a field of study, the 19th century biological revolution, and the development of phenomenology.

**Required Text**

Kant, *Critique of the Power of Judgment,* trans. Guyer and Matthews*.* Cambridge University

Press: 2000.

**Grades/Assignments:**

Your grade in this class will be based on two class presentations on the reading (12.5% each), one short paper (25%) and a final paper (50%), due May 6th. I reserve the right to reduce a grade significantly for excessive absences.

*Presentations:* You will sign up to present on two of the readings. These presentations should be approximately 5-10 minutes long, with the presenter opening up a discussion about the material following the presentation. You should have a handout, no longer than a single sheet of paper, front and back. Do not summarize the reading, but rather, draw attention to a particular theme of the reading and discuss or problematize that theme.

*Short paper:* Your short paper will be due one week following the presentation of your choice and will typically be on the topic of your presentation. It will be approximately 4-5 pages long. If you would prefer to write on some other topic, that will be fine, just talk to me and we can arrange something. The paper should be argumentative and textually-based; i.e., it should have a clear, substantive thesis, and draw primarily on the primary text for support. It may take the form of arguing for a particular interpretation of Kant, or it may take the form of defending or refuting a particular view put forth by Kant.

*Long paper:* Your longer paper may expand on this shorter paper, or it may be entirely independent. The longer paper should engage with relevant secondary literature. It should be approximately 12 pages long, but can be longer if necessary. 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.

**WEEK 1: January 19**

Introduction and Overview General background and terminology

* SEP article “Immanuel Kant” by Rohlf (<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/kant/>)
* Selections from the Third Antinomy (from *CPR* A444/B472­–A558/B586)

**WEEK 2: January 26**

First Introduction (pp. 3–51) Nature and freedom; reflecting judgment

**WEEK 3: February 2**

*COTJ* *Analytic* §§61-68 Natural ends, teleological judgment

**WEEK 4: February 9**

*COTJ* *Dialectic* 1 §§69–75 Antinomy of teleological judgment

**WEEK 5: February 16**

*COTJ* *Dialectic* 2 §§76–77 God, the intuitive intellect, the supersensible

**WEEK 6: February 23**

*COTJ* *Dialectic* 3 §78 Resolution to the Antinomy

**WEEK 7: March 2**

*COTJ Appendix: Methodology* §§79–86 Teleology, mechanism, nature, atheism

**\*\*\*\*Spring Break\*\*\*\* NO CLASS MARCH 9**

**WEEK 8: March 16**

*COTJ Appendix: Methodology* §§87–end Moral proof of the existence of God

**WEEK 9: March 23**

Introduction (pp. 55–83) Reset! Nature and freedom

**WEEK 10: March 30**

*COAJ Analytic of the Beautiful* §§1–22Judgments of taste

**WEEK 11: April 6**

*COAJ Analytic of the Sublime* §§23–29 The sublime, mathematical and dynamical;

*& Deduction of Pure Judgments of Taste* §30–42 *sensus communis* (this is a lot of reading—don’t linger)

**WEEK 12: April 13**

*COAJ Deduction of Pure Judgments of Taste* §43-54Genius, art (only *skim* §§51–54)

**WEEK 13: April 20**

*COAJ Dialectic and Methodology of Taste* §§55–58 Antinomy of taste

**WEEK 14: April 27**

*COAJ Dialectic and Methodology of Taste* §§59–60 Beauty as a symbol of morality

***Final Papers:*** Due Friday 5/6

Abbreviated English-language Bibliography for Kant’s *Critique of the Power of Judgment*

(These are *central* and seminal works, to be regarded as starting points/unavoidable literature).

Major book-length works of secondary literature

**Entire book** (these are worth looking at for pretty much *any* topic in the third *Critique*)

Rachel Zuckert *Kant on Beauty and Biology* (Cambridge 2007)

Hannah Ginsborg *The Nature of Normativity* (Oxford 2015)

**Introduction/on judgment**

Beatrice Longuenesse *Kant and the Capacity to Judge* (Princeton 1998)

**Aesthetics**

Paul Guyer *Kant and the Claims of Taste* (Cambridge 1997)

Henry Allison *Kant’s Theory of Taste* (Cambridge 2001)

**Biology**

Paul Guyer *Kant’s System of Nature and Freedom* (Oxford, 2005)

A *very* abbreviated list of central articles (see me for further suggestions)

Ameriks, Karl. (2003) *Interpreting Kant’s Critiques* (Cambridge) Chs. 12–14 on aesthetics.

Aquila, R., 1991. “Unity of Organism, Unity of Thought, and the Unity of the Critique of Judgment,” *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, 30 (Supplement): 139–155.

Breitenbach, Angela. (2017). “Laws in Biology and the Unity of Nature” in *Kant and the Laws of Nature*, ed. M. Massimi and A. Breitenbach (Cambridge University Press).

Ginsborg, Hannah. (2017). “Why Must We Presuppose the Systematicity of Nature?” in *Kant and the Laws of Nature*, ed. M. Massimi and A. Breitenbach (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press)

Kneller, J., 1986. “Kant's Concept of Beauty,” History of Philosophy Quarterly, 3: 311–24.

Kreines, J., 2005. “The Inexplicability of Kant's Naturzweck: Kant on Teleology, Explanation and Biology,” Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie, 87: 270–311.

Pippin, R., 1996. “The Significance of Taste: Kant, Aesthetic and Reflective Judgment,” Journal of the History of Philosophy, 34(4): 549–569.

Teufel, Thomas (2011). “What is the Problem of Teleology in Kant’s *Critique of the Power of Teleological Judgment*?” in *SATS* v. 12, pp. 198-236.

Watkins, E., 2009. “The Antinomy of Teleological Judgment,” Kant Yearbook, 1: 197–221.