

The Philosophy of Kant [L6/L7]
Fall 2016-7
Syllabus

Overview: In this module, we focus on the work of Immanuel Kant. We will consider his 'Copernican turn' in epistemology and metaphysics, his moral philosophy, and his aesthetics. Although we will seek to understand Kant's seminal contributions in their historical context, we will also be focused on assessing the philosophical structure and merits of his arguments. Texts studied will include selections from his *Critique of Pure Reason*, his *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals* and his *Critique of Judgment*.

Lecturer/ Tutors: The lecturer is Dr. Andrew Huddleston (a.c.huddleston@gmail.com). If you have any questions about the material or the organization of the course, please contact him.

Lectures: The lectures for this module will be in:

Seminars: The seminars for this module will be in:

Assessment:

Essays (BA): For this module, you will be assessed on the basis of two essays, *combined* total of around 3000 words (max 3200). Neither essay should be shorter than 1200 words. This essay will be due at the beginning of Term 2. For the exact essay deadline and further details, please consult the BA Handbook. A list of questions will be available on Moodle.

Essays (MA): For this module, you will be assessed on the basis of two essays, *combined* total of around 3500 words (max 3700). Neither essay should be shorter than 1300 words. This essay will be due at the beginning of Term 2. For the exact essay deadline and further details, please consult the MA Handbook. A list of questions will be available on Moodle.

Moodle:

Electronic copies of certain course materials will be available through Moodle, at <http://moodle.bbk.ac.uk>. You will need your ITS login name and password to enter.

Readings:

Those seeking a general introduction to Kant may wish to consult Paul Guyer's *Kant* (Routledge, 2006) or Allen Wood's *Kant* (Blackwell, 2005).

The course will focus on reading and grappling with Kant's own work. For each week, I have included, in addition to the Kant text, one or more suggested chapters or articles expounding Kant's ideas. These readings will be helpful to you, but they are not required. (Due to copyright restrictions, not all of these readings can be put on Moodle, however I will ensure that there is at least one secondary reading electronically available each week. If you would like to go into more depth on a particular topic (particularly if you are writing an essay on that topic), please be in touch with me, so that I can suggest additional readings.

We will be reading parts of the following three books of Kant's listed below. I recommend the translations listed here. However, these editions are also expensive, especially if purchased new. Older translations of Kant's work are available free, in electronic form, on this website (<http://staffweb.hkbu.edu.hk/ppp/K2texts.html>) and elsewhere. (You may also find the other translations through googling. The Guyer and Wood edition of the CPR is presently available for example.) It is essential that you come to the seminar with text in hand, whether in hardcopy or electronic form, because we will be looking at particular passages in detail.

The three main texts are as follows:

1. Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason* (CPR)

[Recommended edition: translated by Paul Guyer and Allen Wood (Cambridge University Press, 1998). The Kemp Smith translation is also of very high quality.]

(Note: Kant revised the *Critique of Pure Reason* after its initial publication. Hence today we have the so-called 'A edition' and the (revised) 'B edition.' The Guyer and Wood translation I recommend encompasses both and includes in the margins 'A's and 'B's' followed by numbers, indicating the original pagination from each edition (and thereby what material was included in each edition). Several other scholarly editions will include this in the margins as well, so I will assign your readings by reference both to the title of the relevant section(s) and to these letters and numbers. If you are confused about whether you have identified the right portion to read in the particular edition you have —Kant's extensive architectonic of sub-section titles can sometimes be bewildering—please consult me or your tutor.

2. Kant, *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals* (GMM)

[Recommended edition: translated by Mary Gregor (Cambridge University Press, 1996)].

(Note: also titled *Fundamental Principles of the Metaphysics of Morals* and similar things in different translations)

3. Kant, *Critique of the Power of Judgment* (CJ)

[Recommended edition: translated by Paul Guyer (Cambridge University Press, 2000)].

(Note: also titled simply the *Critique of Judgment* in other translations.)

In addition to the introductory books already suggested, you may also find helpful the following guides to Kant's main texts:

Sebastian Gardner, *Kant's Critique of Pure Reason* (Routledge, 1999)

Paul Guyer, *Kant's Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals* (Continuum, 2007)

Hannah Ginsborg, "Kant's Aesthetics and Teleology"

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/kant-aesthetics/>

Schedule:

Week 1: Background to Kant's Philosophy and Kant's Critical Project

Kant, CPR, "Preface" and "Introduction" (Avii-Axxxii, Bvii-Bxliv, A1-16, B1-29).

(Note: Because there were two editions to the *Critique of Pure Reason*, there are two prefaces, followed by two introductions. Please read both.)

Week 2: Transcendental Aesthetic

Kant, CPR, "The Transcendental Aesthetic" (A19/B33 to A49/B73)

Secondary Reading:

Lisa Shabel, "The Transcendental Aesthetic," in *The Cambridge Companion to Kant's Critique of Pure Reason*, ed. Paul Guyer (Cambridge, 2010).

P.F. Strawson, *The Bounds of Sense* (Oxford, 1966), 47-71.

James van Cleve, *Problems from Kant* (Oxford, 1999), Ch. 3-5.

Week 3: Transcendental Deduction

Kant, CPR, "Transcendental Deduction of the Pure Concepts of the Understanding" (B129 to B169)

Secondary Reading:

Dieter Henrich, "The Proof Structure of Kant's Transcendental Deduction," *Review of Metaphysics*, Vol. 22, No. 4 (Jun., 1969), pp. 640-659.

Karl Ameriks, "Kant's Transcendental Deduction as a Regressive Argument," *Kant-Studien* 69, 273-287 (1978).

James van Cleve, *Problems from Kant* (Oxford, 1999), Ch. 7.

Paul Guyer, "The Deduction of the Categories: The Metaphysical and Transcendental Deductions" in *The Cambridge Companion to Kant's Critique of Pure Reason*, ed. Paul Guyer (Cambridge, 2010)

Jonathan Bennett, *Kant's Analytic*, (Cambridge, 1966), Ch. 8 [Ch. 6 and 7 provide good background too.]

Week 4: Analogies of Experience

Kant, CPR, "First Analogy" and "Second Analogy" (A182/B224 to A211/B256)

Secondary Reading:

Eric Watkins, "The System of Principles," in *The Cambridge Companion to Kant's Critique of Pure Reason*, ed. Paul Guyer (Cambridge, 2010)

(Note: You will be reading only the First and Second Analogies of Experience, but the Watkins paper will help to put this into broader context.)

P.F. Strawson, *The Bounds of Sense* (Oxford, 1966), 118-152

Ralph Walker, *Kant* (Routledge, 1978), 98-105

Henry Allison, *Kant's Transcendental Idealism* (Yale, 2004), Ch. 9

James van Cleve, *Problems from Kant* (Oxford, 1999), Ch. 8-9

Week 5: Refutation of Idealism and Phenomena/Noumena Distinction

Kant, CPR, “Refutation of Idealism” and “On the Ground of the Distinction of All Objects in General into *Phenomena* and *Noumena*” (B274 to B279; A235/B294 to A260/B315)

Secondary Reading:

Dina Edmunds, “The Refutation of Idealism and the Distinction Between Phenomena and Noumena” in *The Cambridge Companion to Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason*, ed. Paul Guyer (Cambridge, 2010)

Henry Allison, *Kant’s Transcendental Idealism* (Yale, 2004), Ch. 10; [Ch. 2 also provides good background]

James van Cleve, *Problems from Kant* (Oxford, 1999), Ch. 10

P.F. Strawson, *The Bounds of Sense* (Oxford, 1966), 235-277

Week 6: Moral Philosophy

Kant, GMM, “Preface” and Section I

Secondary Reading:

Barbara Herman, “On the Value of Acting from the Motive of Duty,” *Philosophical Review*, XC, No. 3 (1981)

Allen Wood, *Kant’s Ethical Thought*, Ch. 1

Rae Langton, “Duty and Desolation,” in her *Sexual Solipsism: Philosophical Essays on Sexuality and Objectification* (Oxford, 2009)

Week 7: Moral Philosophy Cont’d

Kant, GMM, Section II

Secondary Reading:

Christine Korsgaard, “Kant’s Formula of Universal Law” in *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* 66 (1985), 24-47.

Allen Wood, *Kant’s Ethical Thought*, Chs. 3-4

Week 8: Moral Philosophy Cont’d

Kant, GMM, Section III

Secondary Reading:

H.J. Paton, *The Categorical Imperative*, p. 207-222

Allen Wood, *Kantian Ethics*, (Cambridge, 2008), Ch. 7 “Freedom”

Christine Korsgaard, “Morality as Freedom” in her *Creating the Kingdom of Ends* (Cambridge, 1996)

Week 9: Aesthetics

Kant, CJ, §1-22

Christopher Janaway, "Kant's Aesthetics and the 'Empty Cognitive Stock'" in the

Philosophical Quarterly 47 (1997)

Paul Guyer, *Kant and the Claims of Taste* (Harvard, 1977; Republished Cambridge, 1997)

Week 10: Aesthetics Cont'd

Kant, CJ, §30-51

Ted Cohen, "Why Beauty is a Symbol of Morality," in *Essays in Kant's Aesthetics*, ed. Ted Cohen and Paul Guyer (Chicago, 1980)

Robert Wicks, *Kant on Judgment* (Routledge, 2007), Ch. 3