

Philosophy 7106
Fall 2016

Preliminary Syllabus – Kant I: *Critique of Pure Reason*
(Please note that this preliminary syllabus may be subject to changes)

Professor: Dr. Reed Winegar

Office Location: Collins Hall B25

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Office Hours: TBD

Course Location: Collins Philosophy Conference Room

Course Time: Tuesday 11:00-1:00

Course Description: This course is dedicated to Immanuel Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*. The *Critique of Pure Reason* ranks amongst the most important texts of western philosophy and introduced the philosophical movement known as German Idealism. Through a careful reading of Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*, the course will examine such issues as (1) the possibility of synthetic *a priori* cognition, (2) the possibility of mathematical knowledge, (3) the possibility of metaphysical knowledge, (4) transcendental idealism, (5) knowledge of the external world, (6) the nature of scientific enquiry, (7) Kant's views regarding the soul, free will, and God, and (8) the relationship between theoretical philosophical and moral philosophy.

Course Readings: The following course readings are available for purchase at the Fordham Bookstore. All other course readings will be available on the course's Blackboard webpage. Please feel free to check with the instructor if you would prefer to use alternate editions of any of the texts.

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

Guyer, Paul (ed.). *The Cambridge Companion to Kant's Critique of Pure Reason*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Kant, Immanuel. *Critique of Pure Reason*, edited by Paul Guyer and Allen W. Wood. Cambridge: Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997.

—. *Theoretical Philosophy after 1781*, edited by Henry E. Allison and Peter Heath. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Kitcher, Patricia (ed.). *Kant's Critique of Pure Reason: Critical Essays*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 1998.

General Course Expectations

- Students are expected to be prompt and to attend all classes.
- Students must complete each day's assigned readings prior to class so that we can discuss the readings together in class. Students should also bring a copy of the day's reading to each class meeting.

- In case of an excused absence (such as absence due to illness), the instructor reserves the right to request documentation that confirms the reason for the absence (e.g., a doctor's note that confirms the student's illness). Following Fordham University policy, no more than two excused absences are allowed over the course of the semester.
- Comments and questions in class are highly encouraged; we are all interested in hearing everyone else's ideas!
- All students must abide by Fordham University's code of academic integrity as outlined in the Student Handbook.
- Please turn off all cell phones prior to class; texting is prohibited. In general, laptops are not allowed in class, but please feel free to speak with the instructor if there is a reason why you need to use a laptop in class.

Assignments and Grading:

Active Class Participation – 5%

In-class presentation – 15%

Mid-Term Paper (5-7 pages) - 20%

Term Paper (15-20 pages, double-spaced, 12 point font, standard margins) - 60%

Further details regarding assignments and grading:

Each student is required to make an in-class presentation. Each student is encouraged (although not required) to pick a topic for the class presentation that might be of interest for the term paper. Presentations should aim to outline a main issue from the text, to orient the class in relation to the secondary literature on that issue, and to promote the entire class' evaluation of the issue. Students should meet with the instructor during office hours prior to the presentation to discuss their plans. A clear, well-formatted handout should accompany the presentation; a copy of this handout needs to be emailed to the instructor by 5pm the Sunday prior to the presentation.

Each student must submit a 5-7 page mid-term paper and a 15-20 page term paper. The term paper can be a significantly revised and expanded version of the mid-term paper. Students must submit paper and electronic copies of the papers. A late paper will lose 1/3 of a letter grade for each day that it is late. If a paper is late due to serious illness, then the instructor reserves the right to require a doctor's note to confirm that the student was ill.

All papers and handouts should follow the reference guidelines in a standard citation manual, such as *MLA* or the *Chicago Manual of Style*.

The following resources offer helpful advice for writing philosophy papers:

- Lipton, Peter. "Writing Philosophy."
<http://www.hps.cam.ac.uk/research/wp.html>
- Martinich, A.P. *Philosophical Writing: An Introduction*, third edition. Oxford:

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- Blackwell, 2005.
- Pryor, James. "Guidelines on Writing a Philosophy Paper."
<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html>

Course Schedule: TBD