

498B A/607/2

Kant's Critique of Pure Reason

MW 16:15 -17:30

V. Zeman, PR 301, ext.2508

An intensive seminar course. Its main objective is to engage the student in a critical and detailed analysis of Kant's Critique of Pure Reason so as to gain a firm understanding of both the overall structure and the central theses of one of the most important works in the history of philosophy. Also the role of the First Critique in the wider context of Kant's philosophy as well as its importance for the further development of philosophy will be discussed.

Required reading:

Kant, Immanuel

Critique of Pure Reason.

Indianapolis: Hackett, 1996. ISBN 0-87220-257-7

Kuehn, Manfred

Kant: A Biography.

Cambridge: Cambridge U. P., 2001. ISBN 0-521-49704-3

Supplementary reading:

Watkins, Eric (ed.)

Kant's Critique of Pure Reason: Background Source Materials.

Cambridge: Cambridge U.P., 2009. ISBN 978-0-521-78701-7

Recommended reading:

Cassirer, Ernst

Kant's Life and Thought.

New Haven: Yale Univ.Press, 1981. [B 2797 C313](#)

Gardner, S.

Routledge Philosophy Guidebook to Kant and the Critique of Pure Reason.

London: Routledge, 1999. ISBN 0-415-11909-X.

Wood, Allen W.

Kant.

Oxford: Blackwell Publ., 2005. ISBN 0-631-23282-6

Collins, James

Interpreting Modern Philosophy.

Princeton: Princeton U.P., 1975. [B 791 C582](#)

Guyer, Paul (ed.)

The Cambridge Companion to Kant.

Cambridge: Cambridge U.P., 1992. ISBN 0-521-36768-9

Guyer, Paul (ed.)

The Cambridge Companion to Kant and Modern Philosophy.

Cambridge: Cambridge U.P., 2006. ISBN 978 052 182 3036.

Buroker, J. V.

Kant's Critique of Pure Reason: An Introduction.

Cambridge: Cambridge U.P., 2006. ISBN 10-0-521-61825-8

Evaluation:

Precises (7 from 9)

28%

Class Test

22%

Term Paper

50%

Grading scale will be presented in the first class.

List of seminars:

[reading for the week: **Rr** = required, **Rc** = recommended]

- 01**
Sept. 9 Why did Kant write his [Critique of Pure Reason?](#)
a/ the structure and methodology of the course;
b/ philosophy, history of philosophy, Kant's maxims of philosophical thinking
Rr Descartes, [Discourse on Method](#).
- Rc** Collins, [Interpreting Modern Philosophy](#), Ch.V. Kant our contemporary.
- 02**
Sept. 14, 16 The metaphysical foundations of modern science. Kant as a
philosopher and a man of Enlightenment; his phil. development from
a response to his predecessors and their problems (in part.
[Descartes](#), [Hume](#), [Leibniz](#)) to his own system.
Rr Kant, 'What is Enlightenment.'
- Rc** F.C.Beiser, 'Kant's intellectual development: 1746-1781.'
Guyer, [The Camb.Comp.to Kant](#)
- 03**
Sept. 21, 23 [Transcendental aesthetics: intuition, space and time.](#)
Rr Kant's letters to M. Herz: June 7, 1771; February 21, 1772; May 1, 1781.
Kant, [CPR](#), B 1-32;precis: B33-73.
- Rc** Cassirer, [Kant](#), Ch.2.
Kuehn, [Kant](#). Prologue
- 04**
Sept. 28, 30 [Formal and transcendental logic; tables of judgments and categories, transc.](#)
[deduction.](#)
Rr [CPR](#), B 74-129;274-279.
- Rc** Kuehn, [Kant](#). Chapter 5.
- 05**
Oct. 5, 7 [Transcendental deduction \(A\).](#)
Rr [CPR](#), A 95-130 (précis)
- Rc** Cassirer, [Kant](#),Ch.3,parts 1-2
R.P.Wolff,'Comment on D.P.Dryer, "The Transc. Ded. Scrut.",' [The Phil.](#)
[Forum](#),volXIII, N.1, 1981.
- 06**
Oct. 14 [Transcendental deduction \(B\) and schematism.](#)
Rr [CPR](#), B 129-175. (précis)
- Rc** S.Koerner, 'The Impossibility of Transc. Ded.' (in Beck, [Kant Studies](#)
[Today](#)).
E.Schaper, 'Arguing Transc.,'[Kant-Studien](#), vol.63,N.1.
R.Rorty, 'Transc. Argum.'in P.Bieri (ed.), [Transc. Arg.and Science](#). Reidel,
1979.
- 07**
Oct. 19, 21 [Principles of pure understanding.](#)
Rr [CPR](#), B 176-218. (précis)
- Rc** R.E.Butts,'Kant's Schemata as Sem. Rules,' (in Beck, [Kant Studies Today](#)).
L.Chipman, 'Kant's Categories and Their Schematism,' [Kant-Studien](#)
vol.63,No.1.
G.Praus, 'Time, Space, and Schematism,' [The Phil. Forum](#), vol.XIII, No.1,
1981.
- 08**
Oct. 26, 28 [Analogies of experience.](#)
Rr [CPR](#), B 218-265. (précis)
- Rc** G.Buchdahl, 'The Kantian Dynamic of Reason;'
W.A.Suchting, 'Kant's Second Analogy of Experience.'
Both in Beck, [Kant's Studies](#).
M.Friedman, 'Causal laws and the foundations of natural science.'
[Cambridge Companion](#).

- 09
Nov. 2, 4 [Phenomena and noumena.](#)
Class Test
Rr CPR, B 265-294; CPR, B 294-315. (précis)
Rc Kuehn, Kant. Chapter 6.
 G.Schrader, 'The Thing in Itself in Kantian Phil.,' in R.P.Wolff, Kant, p.172-8.
 S.J.Al-Azm, 'Kant's Concept of the Noumenon,' Dialogue, March 68, p.516-520.
- 10
Nov. 9, 11 [Transcendental illusion and transcendental ideas.](#)
Rr CPR, B 349-396. (précis)
Rc K.Ameriks, 'The critique of metaphysics.' Cambridge Companion.
 H.Heimsoeth, 'Metaphysical Motives in the Dev. of Crit. Idealism,' in
 M.S.Gram, Kant: Disputed Questions.
- 11
Nov. 2, 4 [Paralogisms in B edition and transcendental antithetic.](#)
Rr CPR, B 432-489; CPR, B 544-593. (précis)
Rc S.J.Al-Azm, The Origin of Kant's Arguments in the Antinomies Oxford:
 Clarendon P., 1972.
 M.S.Gram, 'Kant's First Antinomy,' in Beck, Kant Studies.
- 12
Nov. 23, 25 [Transcendental ideal. The regulative employment of the ideas of pure reason.](#)
Rr CPR, B670-732. (précis)
Rc S.G.French, 'Kant's Const.-Reg.Distinction,' in Beck, Kant Studies Today.
- 13
Nov. 30, Dec. 2 [Transcendental Idealism - Kant, post-Kantians.](#)
Rr Collins, Interpreting Modern Philosophy, Ch.V. Kant our contemporary.
Rc Cassirer, Kant, Ch.4.
- 14
Dec. 7,8 [Neo-Kantianism and contemporary returns to Kant.](#)
Term paper due.
Rr M. Friedman, Dynamics of Reason. In particular Part Two, Ch.1. ISBN
 1575862921

Please note: In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

Possible topics for your final papers.

You can take one of the three following routes:

- 1/ select topic contained in one of the books listed above but supplement it with additional literature;
- 2/ check Kant-Studien for an interesting topic (and appropriate bibliography);
- 3/ make your choice from the following list of suggested topics:

- 01 Davos dispute between Cassirer and Heidegger.
- 02 Poincaré's criticism of Kant's conception of mathematics.
- 03 Husserl's criticism of Kant's concept of transcendental philosophy.
- 04 Method of philosophy and/vs. method of science; draw comparison between Kant and logical empiricism.
- 05 C. I. Lewis' epistemology and Kant.
- 06 Can transcendental be a posteriori (Joe Margolis)?
- 07 Hegel's criticism of Kant's trans. deduction.
- 08 The role of transcendental object=x and trans. subject=x in transc. philosophy.
- 09 Heidegger's re-interpretation of Kant's theory of experience
- 10 Did Kant answer Hume?
- 11 Schopenhauer's "simplification" of Kant's schematism.
- 12 Heisenberg's criticism of Kant's concept of causality.
- 13 Vaihinger's philosophy of as if.
- 14 Can thing in itself be removed from Kant's transcendental philosophy?
- 15 Cassirer's re-interpretation of the relation between intuition and concept.

However, whichever way you choose, supply me with a one page long outline before the end of October!
Rule of thumb for avoiding plagiarism charge: do not copy, paraphrase or translate anything from anywhere without saying from where you obtained it!

Don't smile at my advice, the advice of a dreamer, who warns you against Kantians, Fichteans, and nature philosophers. ... Thought precedes the deed as lightning precedes thunder. ... German thunder is of course truly German; it is not very nimble but rumbles along rather slowly. It will come, though. ... and a play will be performed in Germany compared with which the French Revolution might seem merely an innocent idyll.
Heinrich Heine in 1834