

SYLLABUS
Dept. of Philosophy and Religion
Skidmore College

PH 329: Kant
WF 12:20-2:10

Fall, 2012
Prof. Reg Lilly

Course Description

This course will be a careful, critical and **intensive** reading and discussion of several of Kant's primary texts, especially his *Critique of Pure Reason*. We will also be reading from his *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*, *Critique of Practical Reason* and his *Critique of Judgment*. Kant is (in my estimation) both one of the four or five most important philosophers in the history of philosophy *and* one of the most complex and difficult. Comprehension of his work requires immersion in his thematics and fastidious attention to detail. This, however, should not be mistaken for a dogmatic or doctrinaire approach to the material, for Kant's philosophy has been the source or background for some of the great moments of philosophical imagination in the last two centuries of intellectual history, including many critical engagements with his thought. Familiarity with the text should give rise to creative readings. The goal of the class is to foster an informed and imaginative encounter with Kant.

LEARNING GOALS

- Think critically, creatively, and independently
- To learn to formulate question the flow from and illuminate the material
- To learn how to recognize, analyze, construct and criticize complex arguments.
- Become familiar with and learn to use concepts fundamental to modern philosophical thought
- Read, analyze, and apply philosophical texts and their concepts to the construction of a creative and rigorous vision of the material.
- Communicate effectively.
- Become conscious of one's own philosophical premises.

Course Materials

Kant, *The Critique of Pure Reason (CPR)*, tr. Paul Guyer & Allen Wood
Kant, *Basic Writings of Kant (BW)*, ed. Allen Wood
Deleuze, *Kant's Critical Philosophy* (recommended)

Reading Assignments

Sept. 5: Introduction
7: *CPR*, "Prefaces," pp. 99-124 (A vii-A xvii; B vii-B xxxvii-)
12: *CPR*, "Introduction," pp. 127-152 A 1-A16/B 30.
14: *CPR*, "Transcendental Aesthetic," pp. 155-192 (A 19/B 33-B 73);
19: *CPR*, "Transcendental Aesthetic (cont.) & Transcendental Logic," pp. 193-195
(A 50/B74-A 55/B 79), pp. 199-206 (A 65/B 90); pp. 210-214 (A 76/B
102-A 83/B 109)

- 21: CPR, "Transcendental Analytic: Deduction of Pure Concepts of Understanding," pp. 219-234 (A 84/B 116-A 110)
- 26: **Yom Kippur – No Class**
- 28: CPR, "Transcendental Deduction," pp. 245-266 (A 129-B 169)
- Oct. 3: CPR, "Transcendental Analytic of Principles (Schematism)," pp. 267-277 (A131/B 169-A147/B187)
- 5: CPR, "Transcendental Doctrine of Judgment (Phenomenon v. Noumenon)," pp. 354-365 (A 235/B 294-A 260/B315). Transcendental Dialectic, pp. 384-93 (A293/B249-A 309/B 366); "Transcendental Dialectic: Dialectical Inferences," pp. 409-415 (A 338/B 396-A 348/B 406) (**Text Analysis assigned**)
- 10: CPR, "Transcendental Dialectic: Antinomy of Reason," pp. 467-483; 496-503 (A 421/B449-A 443/B471; A 462/B 490-A 484/B 512)
- 12: CPR, "On the Regulative Use of the Ideas of Pure Reason," pp. 590-604 (A 642/B pp. 670-A 668/B 696). (**Explication de texte due**)
- 17: CPR, "The Canon of Pure Reason," pp. 672-690 (A 795/B 823-A 831/B859)
- 19: BW, "Idea for Universal History"; "What is Enlightenment," pp. 117-141.
- 24: BW, "Religion Within the Limits of Reason," pp. 370-394
- 26: **Study Day – No Class**
- 31: BW, "Religion Within the Limits of Reason," pp. 395-413
- Nov. 2: BW, "Fundamental Principles ...," Preface and First Section, pp.145-163
- 7: BW, "Fundamental Principles ...," Second Section, pp. 164-186
- 9: BW, "Fundamental Principles ...," Second Section, pp. 186-202
- 14: BW, "Fundamental Principles ...," Third Section, p. 203-221
- 16: *Critique of Practical Reason (selection)*, handout
- 21: **Thanksgiving – No Class**
- 23: **Thanksgiving – No Class**
- 28: *Critique of Practical Reason (selection)*, handout (cont.) (**Paper proposals due**)
- 30: " " "
- Dec. 5: *Critique of Judgment*, pp. Handout
- 7: " " , pp. Handout
- 12: " " , pp. Handout

Course Requirements

As a seminar discussion and cooperative analysis of the material will be central, and therefore it is imperative that the assigned reading be completed prior to the class. This is not a lecture course, and that means all participants are expected to be engaged and in the explication of the text. Each seminar participant should be prepared to articulate to the class some issue, question or problem that emerged while reading the assigned material.

Accordingly, each participant will be responsible for constructing two "**bridges**" during the semester. A bridge is a transition from one thing to another; it leads both *from* ... and *to* In the case of the present seminar, a bridge is a *Ruckblick* (backward glance) on the material covered in the previous class discussion and a *Vorblick* (preview) into the material to be dealt

with in the current class. Materially speaking, these bridges should be approximately two pages in length and be copied and distributed to class participants *before* class begins (the philosophy department will assist in photocopying). However, bridge-building does not end with a prepared statement but involves helping the class negotiate the materials under discussion through the day's discussion. The bridge should be a 2-3 page text, photocopied before class and distributed.

Bridge:

How would one briefly characterize the previous reading and the present reading for Kant's project?

What are the main points of the previous reading?

What are the pain points of the present reading?

What points are carried over from the former to the latter?

What points are developed further, and what is the nature of the development?

What questions are posed or getting addressed?

Text Analysis: An explication de texte is a close analytic summary of a text. This explication should be approximately 7 pages. Specific directions for this assignment will be forthcoming.

Research Paper: Students are expected to write a research paper on some aspect of Kant is expected of all seminar participants. The paper should be 15 pages in length . Proposals for paper topics must be discussed with and approved by me by **Wednesday, November 21**. Papers on unapproved topics will not be accepted. Further guidelines will be distributed at an appropriate time. This will be due **Monday, December 17 and should be sent to me as an email attachment**.

Grading

Research paper: 50 points

Text Analysis: 20 points

Bridges: 10 points (each)

Class participation: 20 points

Office Hours: WF 8:30-10:00; TH 12:00-2:00, and by appointment (Ladd 218).

Phone: ext. 5406; email: rlilly@skidmore.edu

There are a number of other electronic resources you may find helpful. Try these on the web.

- 1) <http://userpages.bright.net/~jclarke/index.html> (*Outline of Critique of Pure Reason*)
- 2) <http://www.hkbu.edu.hk/~ppp/ksp1/KSPglos.html> (Glossary of Kantian terms)
- 3) <http://www.philosophypages.com/ph/kant.htm>
- 5) <http://www.hkbu.edu.hk/~ppp/Kant.html>