PHIL 190: KANT (Spring 2015)
Tuesday, Thursday 10-11:45, Porter 241

Instructor:
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Office Hours: Thursdays, 12:15-2:15 and by appointment

Course Description:
Immanuel Kant (1724-1804) claimed that philosophy came down to four basic questions:

What can I know?
What ought I do?
What may I hope?
What is man?

(Kant, Jäsche Logic)
And his answers to these transformed the trajectory of Western philosophy. From epistemology to metaphysics, ethics to aesthetics, religion to politics, Kant’s writings set a new agenda for how we approach almost every area of philosophy. Endeavoring to avoid both abstruse metaphysics and skepticism, Kant analyzed the nature and limits of ‘pure reason’ in all its various manifestations in the hopes of uncovering a wide range of philosophical truths. This was done not just in the hopes that we would come to better understand things as philosophers, but that we would come to live better lives.

In this course, we will trace the development of Kant’s thought in his so-called ‘critical period’ by looking at the Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics, the Critique of Pure Reason, the Groundwork to the Metaphysics of Morals, the Critique of Practical Reason, and the Critique of the Power of Judgment. We will cover topics in metaphysics, epistemology, morality, and aesthetics.

Reading:
Required texts:
(1) Available for purchase at the Literary Guillotine:
Immanuel Kant, Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics, ed. tr. Gary Hatfield (Cambridge 2004)
this text also includes some of the excerpts from the Critique of Pure Reason
Immanuel Kant, Groundwork to the Metaphysics of Morals, ed. tr. Mary Gregor (Cambridge 1998)
Immanuel Kant, Critique of Judgment, tr. James Meredith (Oxford University Press 2007)

(2) Available on E-Commons:
Immanuel Kant, Critique of Practical Reason, ed. tr. Mary Gregor (Cambridge 1997)

Recommended texts:
-Paul Guyer. Kant (Routledge 2006): this is an introduction to Kant’s philosophy overall
-I have also made recommendations about secondary literature to read throughout the syllabus below, most of which can be found on E-Commons

Requirements:
(1) Regular attendance, participation in class discussion, careful reading of the assigned texts
Note: If you miss more than 50% of our class meetings, you will fail the course
(2) 4 Reading Responses (45%)
- Each reading response should be a 2 page paper in which you select one small passage (e.g., a single paragraph), analyze the passage, and then raise some questions and possible objections to it.
- Reading responses are due on Mondays or Wednesdays by 3 pm and you are to select a passage that we will be reading that week. For example, if you submit your reading response on Monday, you should address a passage we are going to read that Tuesday or if you submit your response on Wednesday, you should address a passage we are going to read for that Thursday.
- You are required to do 1 reading response on the Prolegomena, 1 reading response on the Groundwork or second Critique, 1 reading response on the third Critique; and 1 response on a topic of your choosing. Since your reading responses must address texts we will reading during the upcoming week, your response on the Prolegomena cannot be completed any later than Wednesday, April 22nd and your response on the Groundwork cannot be completed any later than Monday, May 11th. You cannot do two responses in the same week.

(3) Paper Proposal (5%)
- At the beginning of week 9, you are to submit a 1 page paper proposal, in which you state your thesis, give a sketch of the argument you intend to pursue, and outline the organization of your paper.

(4) Final paper (50%)

Course Policies:
Academic Honesty Policy: While students are encouraged to discuss the readings and assignments with one another, students are expected to submit work that is their own and which includes appropriate citations. Cheating and plagiarism is strictly prohibited and students are expected to comply with the University’s Academic Integrity Policy. In the event of plagiarism, students will (a) be reported to the Academic Tribunal, (b) receive a failing grade on that assignment, and (c) may receive a failing grade for the course.

Late Policy: Students will be deducted a partial letter grade for every day an assignment is late, e.g., if the paper would originally have received an A, after one day late, it will receive an A-, two days, a B+, three days, a B, etc.

Schedule (subject to change):
Week 1
March 31: Introduction: Kant's model of the mind
- Distributed in class: excerpts from the Critique of Pure Reason: Introduction to Transcendental Logic (A50/B74-A52/B76) and the ‘Stepladder’ (Stufenleiter) (A320/B3767)

April 2: NO CLASS

Week 2
April 7: Prolegomena Preface, Preamble and General Questions, §§1-5 (pp. 5-31) and Critique of Pure Reason Introduction (A10/B24-A13/B27) (pp. 154-5)

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1 http://www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic_integrity
Recommended:
-R. Lanier Anderson, “The Introduction to the Critique: Framing the Question” in The Cambridge Companion to Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason

April 9: Prolegomena Main Transcendental Question First Part §§6-13, including Notes I and II (pp. 32-45) and Critique of Pure Reason Transcendental Aesthetic §1 (A19/B33-A22/B36) (pp. 156-1580)

Recommended:

Week 3
April 14: Prolegomena Main Transcendental Question Second Part §§14-21 (pp. 46-55)

April 16: Prolegomena Main Transcendental Question Second Part §§21a-39 (pp. 55-)

Week 4
April 21: Prolegomena Main Transcendental Question Third Part §§40-56 (pp. 79-101) and Critique of Pure Reason excerpt from the Dialectic (A426-430/B454-456) (pp. 192-3)

Recommended:
-Karl Ameriks, “The Critique of Metaphysics: The Structure and Fate of Kant’s Dialectic,” in The Cambridge Companion to Kant and Modern Philosophy
-Michelle Grier, “Kant’s Critique of Metaphysics.” Online at Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (plato.Stanford.edu/entries/kant-metaphysics/)

April 23: Prolegomena Main Transcendental Question Third Part §§57-60 and Solution to the General Question of the Prolegomena (pp. 102-122)

Week 5
April 28: Groundwork Preface and First Section (pp. 3-20)

Recommended:
-Christine Korsgaard’s “Introduction” to the Groundwork (pp. ix-xxxvi)
-Thomas Hill “Is a Good Will Overrated?” in Human Welfare and Moral Worth

April 30: Groundwork Second Section (pp. 21-39)

Recommended:
-Christine Korsgaard, “Kant’s Formula of Universal Law” in Creating the Kingdom of Ends

Week 6
May 5: Groundwork Second Section (pp. 39-55)

Recommended:
-Barbara Herman, “Mutual Aid and Respect for Persons” in Practice of Moral Judgment

May 7: Groundwork Third Section (pp. 56-72)
Week 7
May 12: Excerpts from the Critique of Practical Reason (pp. 12-37) -- posted on e-commons

Recommended:

May 14: Critique of Judgment, Preface and Introduction (pp. 3-32)

Recommended:
-Paul Guyer “Kant’s Principles of Reflecting Judgment” in Kant’s Critique of the Power of Judgment: Critical Essays
-Henry Allison, “Reflective Judgment and the Purposiveness of Nature,” Chapter 1 of Kant’s Theory of Taste

Week 8
May 19: Critique of Judgment, First and Second Moment of Taste (pp. 35-51)

May 21: Critique of Judgment, Third and Fourth Moment of Taste (pp. 51-71)

Recommended:
-Eva Schaper “Free and Dependent Beauty” in Kant’s Critique of the Power of Judgment: Critical Essays

Week 9
May 26: Critique of Judgment, Analytic of the Sublime §§23-29 and General Remark (pp. 75-100)

May 28: Critique of Judgment, The Deduction and Our Interest in the Beautiful §§37-42 (pp. 119-132)

Week 10
June 2: Critique of Judgment, The Doctrine of Fine Art §§43-50 (pp. 132-148)

Recommended:
-Brigitte Sassen, “Artistic Genius and the Question of Creativity” in Kant’s Critique of the Power of Judgment, Critical Essays

June 4: The System of Fine Arts and Beauty as the Symbol of Morality §§51-3, 59 (pp. 149-159, 178-182)
Recommended:
-Paul Guyer, “Aesthetics and Morality,” Chapter 11 of Kant and the Claims of Taste
-Ted Cohen, “Why Beauty is the Symbol of Morality” in Essays in Kant’s Aesthetics, ed. Cohen and Guyer

Final Paper due Thursday, June 11 at 5pm by email