PHILOSOPHY 290: KANT’S CRITIQUE OF THE POWER OF JUDGMENT
Spring 2016
Mondays 3:30-6:30, Humanities 1, Room 400

Instructor
Prof. Samantha Matherne
Email: smathern@ucsc.edu
Office Hours: Mondays, 1:30-3:30 pm and by appointment (Cowell Annex A101)

Description:
In a letter to Karl Reinhold in 1786-7, Kant wrote,

I am now at work on the critique of taste, and I have discovered a new sort of a priori principles, different from those heretofore observed… although I thought it impossible to find such principles, the analysis of the… faculties of the human mind allowed me to discover something systematic, which has given me ample material at which to marvel and if possible to explore, sufficient to last me for the rest of my life.

With these words, Kant’s critical project takes a dramatic turn. Just five years before in the first edition of the first Critique (1781), Kant had argued that an analysis of taste belongs to empirical, not transcendental philosophy. By 1786, however, having discovered that there are a priori principles of taste after all, Kant’s Critical Philosophy takes a dramatic turn, as he undertakes a new Critique in which he offers a transcendental account of taste. The result of this efforts were Kant’s third and final Critique, the Critique of the Power of Judgment.

In many ways, the third Critique serves as the capstone of Kant’s Critical project. Whereas in the first Critique, he had investigated theoretical reason and nature and in the second Critique, he had focused on practical reason and freedom, the question remained: how can the ‘great chasm’ between nature and freedom be overcome? In the third Critique, Kant intends to solve this problem with an analysis of the power of judgment, a mental capacity he argues is capable of spanning this gulf. However, in order to explain how the power of judgment can do this, Kant’s analysis takes a perhaps surprising turn as he devotes half of the book to aesthetics and the other half to biology. Yet, by Kant’s lights, the judgments involved in aesthetics and teleology shed light on the nature of the power of judgment more generally and its special principle, the principle of purposiveness, which he thinks serves as the key to our understanding of how nature, after all, is suited to our freedom.

In this course, we will read the entirety of the third Critique. Our aim will be to understand Kant’s conception of the nature of the power of judgment in general, the specific manifestations of this power in aesthetic and teleological judgments, and the principles that govern the power of judgment, as well as his methodology, i.e., how his analysis of aesthetic and teleological judgment relate to one another and to his overall project in the third Critique.

Texts:
Required:

Recommended Background Reading:
- Ernst Cassirer, Kant’s Life and Thought: Ch. 6 (1983)

**Course Requirements**

1. **Attendance and Participation**
   Everyone is expected to come to class having thoroughly read the material and everyone is expected to participate, either by asking questions or making a contribution to discussion.

2. **Two Reading Responses**
   In the course of the term, you are to write two 2-page, double-spaced reading responses on a single passage (i.e., a paragraph or a page) from the text we are reading that week. In this response you are to analyze the passage, then raise some questions and possible objections to it. Reading responses are due by 3pm on Sundays for the reading for the upcoming Monday, e.g., if you are writing about the assignment for Monday, April 11th, the response is due at 3pm on April 10th. You are to post these on the discussion forum on e-commons for our course and everyone is expected to read what the others have posted prior to class on Monday. You are to do one reading response during weeks 2-5 and one reading response during weeks 6-10.

3. **Paper Proposal**
   At the end of week 9, you are to submit a 1-2 page paper proposal by email, 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**
   By Wednesday, June 8th, you are to submit a final paper (approximately 5000-6000 words) by email.

**Course Policies:**

Academic Honesty: 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.

**Schedule (subject to revision)**

**Week One:**
March 28th: KU, Preface and Introduction (pp. 55-83)

**Recommended:**

1 http://www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic_integrity
Week Two:
April 4th: KU, Analytic of the Beautiful (pp. 89-127)

Recommended:

Week Three:
April 11th: KU, Analytic of the Sublime (pp. 128-159)

Recommended:
--Henry Allison, Kant’s Theory of Taste: Ch. 13 (2001)

Week Four:
April 18th: KU, Deduction of Taste (pp. 160-182)

Recommended:
--Henry Allison, Kant’s Theory of Taste. Ch. 8 (2001)
--Karl Ameriks, “How to Save Kant’s Deduction of Taste as Objective,” in Interpreting Kant’s Critiques (2003)

Week Five:
April 25th: KU, Doctrine of Fine Arts (pp. 182-212) and the Antinomy of Taste (pp. 213-230)

Recommended:
--Paul Guyer, Kant and the Claims of Taste. Chs. 10 and 12 (1997)
--Matherne, “The Inclusive Interpretation of Kant’s Aesthetic Ideas” (2012)

Week Six:
May 2nd: KU, Analytic of the Teleological Power of Judgment (pp. 233-25)
Recommended:
--Peter McLaughlin, *Kant’s Critique of Teleology in Biological Explanation*: Ch. 1 (1990)

Week Seven:
May 9th: KU, Dialectic of the Teleological Power of Judgment (pp. 257-284)

Recommended:

Week Eight:
May 16th: KU, Methodology of the Teleological Power of Judgment (pp. 285-313)

Recommended:

Week Nine:
May 23rd: KU, Moral Proof of God’s Existence (pp. 313-346)

Recommended:

Week Ten:
May 30th: No Class
Final Paper Due Wednesday, June 8th