

MAJOR AUTHORS: KANT

PHL 301-01

Spring 2007

Pr. R. Valgenti

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will investigate the philosophy of Immanuel Kant and the scope of his “critical project.” In particular, we will examine the philosophical method Kant employs in his three major works – the *Critique of Pure Reason*, the *Critique of Practical Reason*, and the *Critique of Judgment* – in order to combat what he identifies as dogmatism and skepticism in traditional attempts at metaphysics. This critical method takes shape in a series of “deductions” and “antinomies” in each of the works, allowing him to overcome the limitations of his rationalist and empiricist predecessors.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason* (NK Smith translation). Palgrave Macmillan. ISBN: 978-1-4039-1195-7

Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Practical Reason*. Hackett Publishing Company. ISBN: 978-0-87220-617-5

Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Judgment*. Hackett Publishing Company. ISBN: 978-0-87220-025-8

CLASS PROCEDURES

This class will be conducted in the manner of an upper-level philosophy seminar, with each member of the class expected to be prepared and participate during every session. Given the difficulty and length of our readings, we will begin our discussions with an overview of the broad scope of the section we are reading for a particular session, and then turn to a close examination of the text, re-reading difficult passages and raising questions of context, meaning, terminology, etc. Throughout the semester I will provide extensive notes that will help to “fill in the blanks” when we skip over sections that are not included in our assigned reading. We will begin each class session with a “protocol” – a summary of the prior session’s main points, issues, and unresolved questions.

EVALUATION

Protocols (5% each): each student will be required to submit 3 protocols during the semester (you will sign up for the day you are responsible). Approx. 500 words, typed.

Close-readings (15% each): throughout the semester you will submit a close-reading or exegesis of a passage of your choosing from the reading.

Final Paper (40%): you are required to submit a final research paper on a topic of your choosing from the course. The paper should address one major problem in the text, review some interpretations of the problem, and offer an argument for an interpretation or answer. Approx. 2500 words.

WHAT SHOULD YOU AVOID?

Academic Dishonesty: Any student who submits plagiarized work will fail the course and be subject to the penalties outlined in LVC’s Academic Honesty Policy found on pages 113-114 of the Student Handbook.

WHAT IF YOU GET LOST OR JUST NEED SOME DIRECTION?

Office Hours: M, W, F 10-11am HUM 307D ext. 6132
T 1-2pm

If at any time during the quarter you are in need of extra help, have special learning needs, or just have some questions about the course material, please come to my office hours. If you cannot make my regular office hours, please set up an appointment with me. The best way to do that is to speak to me before or after class, or to email me with at least two days notice. Contact me via email: valgenti@lvc.edu

READING SCHEDULE FOR KANT

- 1/16 “What is Orientation in Thinking?” (handout)
Critique of Pure Reason (CPR): First Preface Avii-Axii
- 1/23 *CPR*: Second Preface Bvii-Bxliv
CPR: Introduction A1/B1-A16/B30
- 1/30 *CPR*: “Transcendental Aesthetic” A19/B33-A49/B73
- 2/6 *CPR*: “Transcendental Analytic” A50/B74-A95/B129
- 2/13 *CPR*: “Transcendental Deduction (B)” B130-B169
(Close Reading #1)
- 2/20 *CPR*: “Refutation of Idealism” B275-B294
“...Phenomena and Noumena” B296/A236-A260/B315
“Amphiboly...” A260/B316-A292/B349
- 2/27 *CPR*: “Transcendental Dialectic” A293/B350-A338/B396
- Spring Break
- 3/13 *CPR*: “The Antinomy of Pure Reason” A406/B433-A460/B488
(Close Reading #2 -- Individual Presentations on each of the 4 antinomies)
- 3/20 *CPR*: “The Ideal of Pure Reason” A568/B596-A620/B648
- 3/27 *Critique of Practical Reason* 1-77
- 4/3 *CPrR*, 77-137
- 4/10 *CPrR*, 137-186
(Close Reading #3)
- 4/17 *Critique of Judgment*: “First Introduction”, 385-441
- 4/24 *Critique of Judgment*: “Analytic of Teleological Judgment,” 233-264
(Final Essay Abstract Due)
- 5/1 *Critique of Judgment*: “Dialectic of Teleological Judgment,” 265-300

Final essay is due during exam week.