

**PHI 794 – Reading Seminar IV : Kant
Bishop’s University**

Prof. Bruce Gilbert
Divinity 28
819-822-9600 x2075
bgilbert@ubishops.ca

T/Th 1pm
Mac125F
Bishop’s University
Winter, 2013

Kant articulates the necessary conditions without which no human experience would be possible. We tend to think that we learn from experience, but Kant makes an extraordinarily powerful argument that learning itself and, indeed, *all experience* is made possible by the *a priori* structure of rationality that literally gives us a world and an experience of ourselves. This “transcendental” or “critical” philosophy argues not only for the *necessity* of reason and freedom, but also articulates their limits. In this course we will study first his most famous work, the *Critique of Pure Reason*, and move on from there to articulate the key to his moral philosophy, the “categorical imperative”. The course will conclude with a study of Kant’s great studies of the beautiful and the sublime from the *Critique of Judgement*.

Texts, all by Immanuel Kant,

Critique of Pure Reason
Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals
Metaphysics of Morals (optional)
Excerpts from the *Critique of Judgement*

Evaluation

Three Seminars		= 20%
Four Seminar Questions	4 x 2.5%	= 10%
Three Essays		
One each on Ethics and Aesthetics	2x20%	=40%
<i>Critique of Pure Reason</i>		=30%

Students may miss one class without penalty, after which 3% is deducted per missed class.

January

8 Kant and the Transcendental Argument

Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals

10 Second Section, 19-32.

15 Second Section, 32-48

Critique of Pure Reason

17 Introduction B, 136-152

22 Transcendental Aesthetic, 172-178

24 Transcendental Aesthetic, 178-192

29 Transcendental Analytic, 201-218

31 no class

February

5 Transcendental Analytic, A Deduction, 219-231

7 Transcendental Analytic, A Deduction, 228-244

12 Transcendental Analytic, B Deduction, 245-254

14 Transcendental Analytic, B Deduction, 254-266

19 Refutation of Idealism, 326-337

21 Phenomena and Noumena, 354-366

26 Transcendental Dialectic, Third Antinomy, 484-489

28 The Ideal of Pure Reason, 551-563

March

4-8 Reading Week

12 The Ideal of Pure Reason, 563-578

14 The Ideal of Pure Reason, 578-589

19 Regulative Use of the Idea of Reason, 590-604

21 Transcendental Doctrine of Method, The Canon of Reason, 676-691

Critique of Judgment

26 “Analytic of the Beautiful”, *Critique of Judgment*, 43-64

28 “Analytic of the Beautiful”, *Critique of Judgment*, 64-90

April

2 “Analytic of the Sublime”, *Critique of Judgment*, 97-117.

4 “Analytic of the Sublime”: *Critique of Judgment*, 119-140