

## COURSE #

# KANT'S FIRST *CRITIQUE*

## INSTRUCTOR

Alexander Englert

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Time: TBA

Location: TBA

Office Hours: TBA

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a close study of Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*, which is one of the most influential philosophical texts ever written. We'll be considering Kant's attacks on his empiricist and rationalist predecessors, his transcendental theory of experience, his metaphysical view of the natural world, and his account of the limitations on human reason.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

Successful students will master the ability to read, interpret, and explain very difficult philosophical texts by the end of this course. Furthermore, you will gain practice in philosophical writing through multiple analytical papers, as well as a longer research term paper.

## REQUIRED TEXTS

Please purchase, rent, or borrow the following work by Immanuel Kant:

1. Kant, Immanuel. *The Critique of Pure Reason*. Trans. by Norman Kemp Smith.
2. For secondary literature see the comprehensive list below.

This edition, though a bit older and outdated in some phrasing, is an excellent translation that – in my opinion is yet to be superseded. The *Cambridge* edition of Kant's collected works has a new and updated translation with numerous editorial notes, which you can use if you already own a copy.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To successfully pass this course, you will need to complete all of the following requirements:

1. First Short Essay (4-5 pages)	20%
2. Second Short Essay (4-5 pages)	20%
3. Term Paper, Proposal (1 page)	5%
4. Term Paper, Bibliography (1 page)	5%
5. Term Paper, First Draft (8-10 pages)	10%
6. Term Paper, Final Draft (8-10 pages)	25%
7. Attendance/Reading Questions	10%
8. Participation	5%

All assignments must be turned in by their due dates. If they are turned in late, they will lose ½ letter grade for each day that they are tardy. In extenuating circumstances, I will grant extensions –

but the reasons must be good and they must be discussed with me well in advance (or as soon as possible before the deadline).

SHORT PAPERS: There will be two short essays (4-5 pages). Topics will be submitted in advance. See schedule for due dates.

TERM PAPER: The most important assignment in the course will be an 8-10 page term paper. Students will choose their own topic (which must be approved by the instructor). Term papers must engage with both primary and secondary literature. Later in the term, we'll spend some time discussing how to find appropriate and relevant secondary literature for the term papers.

ATTENDANCE/READING QUESTIONS: Daily attendance is required for success in this course. The first two unexcused absences will be forgiven, but each subsequent unexcused absence will affect your grade. See course policies for further details. Every class, each student will submit (at least) one written question about the reading on a note card or piece of paper at the beginning of class. The question(s) should be thoughtful enough to demonstrate that the student has done the reading and has already put some thought into it. I will typically begin class by discussing some of the submitted questions. (Note: I will use these note cards to take attendance. So submit a blank one with your name on it, even if you didn't complete the reading.)

PARTICIPATION: This course is a seminar. Accordingly, all students are expected to contribute to class discussions consistently.

## SCHEDULE

### WEEK 1 – INTRODUCTION & PRELIMINARIES

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|-------|---|
| Day 1 | Kant: Overview, available at <a href="https://www.iep.utm.edu/kantview/">https://www.iep.utm.edu/kantview/</a><br>Clarke/Leibniz Correspondence (on Blackboard, selections)                                 |
| Day 2 | 1772 Letter to Herz (on Blackboard)<br>“Concerning the ultimate ground of the differentiation of directions in space” (2:377-283, on Blackboard)<br>Table of Contents of first <i>Critique</i> (p. ix-xiii) |

### WEEK 2 – PREFACE & INTRODUCTION

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|-------|--|
| Day 3 | Prefaces (Avii-Axxii; Bvii-Bxxxvii)            |
| Day 4 | A-Introduction(A1-A16)/B-Introduction (B1-B24) |

### WEEK 3 – SPACE & TIME

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|-------|--|
| Day 5 | Transcendental Aesthetic (A19/B33-A36/B53) |
| Day 6 | Transcendental Aesthetic (A36/B53-B73)     |

WEEK 4 – THE UNDERSTANDING

- Day 7            Introductions to the Transcendental Logic and Analytic of Concepts  
(A50/B74-A66/B91)
- Day 8            The Metaphysical Deduction (A66/B91-B113)  
**Paper 1 Due! (TurnItIn via Blackboard)**

WEEK 5 – THE TRANSCENDENTAL DEDUCTION

- Day 9            Transcendental Deduction, opening sections (A84/B116-A94/B129)
- Day 10           Transcendental Deduction, A-edition (A95-A130)

WEEK 6 – THE TRANSCENDENTAL DEDUCTION (CONT.)

- Day 11           Transcendental Deduction, B-edition (B129-B146)
- Day 12           Transcendental Deduction, B-edition (B146-B169)

WEEK 7 – SCHEMATISM AND ANALYTIC OF PRINCIPLES

- Day 13           Introductions to Analytic of Principles and System of Principles  
(A130/B169-A136/B175, A148/B187-A162/B202)  
Schematism (A137/B176-A147/B187)
- Day 14           Axioms of Intuition and Anticipations of Perception (A161/B202-  
A176/B218)

WEEK 8 – ANALOGIES OF EXPERIENCE

- Day 15           Introduction and First Analogy (A176/B218-A189/B232)
- Day 16           Hume, *Enquiry*, Section IV, Inductive Skepticism (on Blackboard)  
Second Analogy (A189/B232-A211/B256)  
**Paper 2 Due! (TurnItIn via Blackboard)**

WEEK 9 – PHENOMENA, NOUMENA, AND THE EXTERNAL WORLD

- Day 17           Fourth Paralogism (A-edition) (A366-A380)  
Refutation of Idealism (B-edition) (B274-B279; see also footnote in Preface  
at Bxxxix-Bxli)
- Day 18           Phenomena and Noumena (A235/B294-A260/B315)

WEEK 10 – TRANSCENDENTAL DIALECTIC

Day 19            Introductions (A293/B249-A338/B396)  
**Term Paper Proposals due!**

Day 20            First Paralogism (A-edition) (A341/B399-A351)

WEEK 11 – ANTINOMIAL CONFLICTS OF REASON

Day 21            First and Second Antinomies (A426/B454-A443/B471; A491/B519-  
A497/B525; A516/B543-A532/B560)  
**Bibliographies due!**

Day 22            Third Antinomy (A444/B472-BA451/B479; A532/B560-A558/B586)

WEEK 12 – THE TRANSCENDENTAL IDEAL

Day 23            The Transcendental Ideal and the Ontological Proof (A567/B595-  
A602/B630)

Day 24            The Cosmological and Physico-Theological Proofs (A603/B631-  
A642/B670)

WEEK 13 – APPENDIX AND EMPLOYMENT OF REGULATIVE PRINCIPLES

Day 25            Appendix to the Transcendental Dialectic (A642/B670-A668/B696)

Day 26            The Final Purpose of the Natural Dialectic (A669/B697-A704/B732)

WEEK 14 – TRANSCENDENTAL DOCTRINE OF METHOD

Day 27            Introduction to Transcendental Doctrine of Method (A707/B735-  
A712/B740)

Day 28            Canon of Pure Reason (A795/B823-A831/B859)

WEEK 15 – TERM PAPER CONFERENCES

Day 29            One-on-one term paper conferences

Day 30            One-on-one term paper conferences

WEEK 16 – FINAL EXAMINATION PERIOD

**Term Papers Due! TBA**

## HELPFUL SECONDARY LITERATURE

Here are some good books about Kant's metaphysics and epistemology. You might want to start with some of these when you begin research for your term paper.

### Kant's Project and the Work as a Whole

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- Lucy Allais, *Manifest Reality: Kant's Idealism and his Realism*
- Henry Allison, *Kant's Transcendental Idealism: An Interpretation and Defense*
- Karl Ameriks, *Kant's Theory of the Mind*
- Richard Aquila, *Representational Mind*
- Graham Bird, *The Revolutionary Kant*
- Arthur Collins, *Possible Experience*
- Eckart Förster, *The 25 Years of Philosophy* (especially Chapters 1-3, pp. 17-74)
- Paul Guyer, *Kant and the Claims of Knowledge*
- Jay Rosenberg, *Assessing Kant*
- Wilfrid Sellars, *Science and Metaphysics*
- Norman Kemp Smith, *A Commentary to Kant's Critique of Pure Reason*
- P.F. Strawson, *The Bounds of Sense*
- James Van Cleve, *Problems From Kant*

### Space and Time

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- Lucy Allais, "Transcendental Idealism and the Transcendental Aesthetic: Reading the *Critique of Pure Reason* Forward," (in *Kant's 'Critique of Pure Reason': A Critical Guide*, pp. 46-63)
- Michela Massimi, "Kant on the Ideality of Space and the Argument from Spinozism" (in *Kant's 'Critique of Pure Reason': A Critical Guide*, pp. 64-82)
- Lisa Shabel, "The Transcendental Aesthetic" (in *The Cambridge Companion to Kant's 'Critique of Pure Reason'*, pp. 93-117)

### The Transcendental Deduction

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- Henry Allison, *Kant's Transcendental Deduction: An Analytical-Historical Commentary*
- Dieter Henrich, "Kant's Notion of a Deduction and the Methodological Background of the First *Critique*" (in *Kant's Transcendental Deductions*, pp. 29-46)
- Dieter Henrich, "Identity and Objectivity: An Inquiry into Kant's Transcendental Deduction" (in *The Unity of Reason*, pp. 123-208)
- Patricia Kitcher, *Kant's Thinker*
- Patricia Kitcher, *Kant's Transcendental Psychology*
- Beatrice Longuenesse, *Kant on the Human Standpoint* (especially Part I, Chapters 1-3, pp. 17-80)

### Analytic/Judgment/Phenomena and Noumena

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- Jonathan Bennett, *Kant's Analytic*
- Dina Emundts, "The Refutation of Idealism and the Distinction between Phenomena and Noumena" (in *The Cambridge Companion to Kant's 'Critique of Pure Reason'*, pp. 168-189)
- Rae Langton, *Kantian Humility*
- Beatrice Longuenesse, *Kant and the Capacity to Judge*
- Robert Paul Wolff, *Kant's Theory of Mental Activity: A Commentary on the Transcendental Analytic of Kant's 'Critique of Pure Reason'*

## The Analogies

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- Arthur Melnick, *Kant's Analogies of Experience*
- Eric Watkins, *The Metaphysics of Causality*

## Antinomies/Transcendental Ideal/Canon

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- Sadik Al-Azm, *The Origins of Kant's Arguments in the Antinomies*
- Jonathan Bennett, *Kant's Dialectic*
- Beatrice Longuenesse, "The transcendental ideal, and the unity of the critical system" (in *Kant on the Human Standpoint*, pp. 211-235)
- A.W. Moore, "The Transcendental Doctrine of Method" (in *The Cambridge Companion to Kant's Critique of Pure Reason*, pp. 310-326)
- Frederick Rauscher, "The Appendix to the Dialectic and the Canon of Pure Reason: The Positive Role of Reason" (in *The Cambridge Companion to Kant's Critique of Pure Reason*, pp. 290-309)

## COURSE POLICIES

**ELECTRONICS:** No electronics may be used in class unless otherwise noted. This includes laptops, tablets, phones, etc.

**OFFICE HOURS:** I encourage you to come and meet with me during my office hour. Philosophy requires much reflection and dialogue. Should my office hour be inconvenient for you, please get in touch with me and we will be able to find a time that works for us both. Also, please come by and discuss your papers as you plan them.

**CONDUCT:** It is always important to show respect to your fellow human beings, especially those with whom you disagree. Do not interrupt each other; do not make others feel small; etc. Be a mensch!

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Attendance is mandatory. The first two unexcused absences will not count against the attendance portion of the grade, but each subsequent absence will lead to a -.5% decrease. Students more than a couple minutes late to class will be marked late. (If you arrive after attendance has been taken, it is your responsibility to let me know at the end of class that you are present, otherwise it will count as an absence.) Three late attendances will count as one absence.

**EXCUSED ABSENCES:** Absences will be excused only for documented medical emergencies, or extreme documented family emergencies. Here are some examples of things that will not count as excused absences: "Traffic was bad and I had trouble finding a parking spot"; "I had to work"; "I had a dentist appointment"; "I was out of town with my family."

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** There is a zero tolerance policy regarding violations of the university's academic integrity policy. Violations will be prosecuted to the fullest extent. It is the responsibility of the student to be familiar with the academic integrity policy. Please turn in your own work – everyone will be happier in the end. If you have questions or are concerned that something you are doing constitutes plagiarism, please contact me and we will work it out.

**DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS:** If you require special accommodations because of a disability, please get in touch with JHU's Student Disability Services: [studentdisabilityservices@jhu.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@jhu.edu).