

Room: H&SS 7077
Times: Tuesday 4:00-6:50
Term: Winter 2014
Office Hours: Monday 1-2 & by appt.

Professor Eric Watkins
Office: H&SS 8062
Office tel: 822-0082
e-mail: ewatkins@ucsd.edu

Phil 215: Kant, Cognition and the Destruction of Metaphysics

Kant is famous for having argued that we cannot have cognition of things in themselves, including the objects of traditional metaphysics, such as God, freedom, and the soul. In this seminar we will investigate Kant's criticisms of metaphysics by first considering his account of cognition (in the Transcendental Aesthetic and Analytic), and then reconstructing some of his specific criticisms of particular metaphysical claims (in the Transcendental Dialectic). We will also consider what attitude one ought to have (rather than cognition) toward the objects of metaphysics (in the Appendix to the Transcendental Dialectic and the Canon of Pure Reason).

Tentative Reading Schedule

- Week 1 Introduction: Kant's Project in the *Critique of Pure Reason*
A and B Prefaces (Avii-Axxii, Bvii-Bxliv) and Introductions (A1-A16, B1-B30)
*Guyer & Wood, Introduction to the *Critique of Pure Reason*, pp. 1-76.
- Week 2 Cognition and Knowledge
Beginning passage from the Transcendental Aesthetic (A19/B33-A22/B36)
Beginning sections of the Transcendental Analytic (A50/B74-A69/B94)
Canon of Pure Reason (A795/B823-A831/B859)
Watkins and Willaschek "Kant on Cognition and Knowledge"
*Chignell "Kant's Concepts of Justification"
- Week 3 Reason and its Ideas
Introduction to the Transcendental Dialectic (A293/B349-A338/B396)
The Antinomy of Pure Reason, Intro. & First and Seventh Section (A405/B432-A420/B448, A497/B525-A507/B535)
Ameriks, "The Critique of Metaphysics: The Structure and Fate of Kant's Dialectic"
Grier, *Kant's Doctrine of Transcendental Illusion*, chapt. 4
- Week 4 Is the Soul a Substance?
1st Paralogism (A341-A351, B406-408)
Ameriks, "The Paralogisms of Pure Reason in the First Edition"
*Proops, "Kant's First Paralogism"
*Ameriks, *Kant's Theory of Mind*, chap. 2, §8
- Week 5 Is the Soul Simple?
2nd Paralogism (A351-361, B408)
Ameriks, *Kant's Theory of Mind*, chap. 2, §§5-7
*Ameriks, *Kant's Theory of Mind*, Postscript "Kant and Mind: Mere Immaterialism," pp. 303-321.
- Week 6 Are there Simples?
2nd Antinomy (A434/B462-A443/B471 & A523/B551-A532/B560)
DePaul, "The Thesis of the Second Antinomy"
**Watkins, "On the Necessity and Nature of Simples"

- Week 7 Are we Free?
 3rd Antinomy (A444/B472-A451/B579, A528/B556-A558/B586)
 Watkins, *Kant and the Metaphysics of Causality*, chapt. 5
 *Watkins, “Kant and the Experience of Freedom”
- Week 8 Does God Exist?
 The Ideal of Pure Reason (A567/B595-A642/B670) (focus on Ont. Argument)
 Proops, “Kant on the Ontological Argument”
 *Wood, *Kant’s Rational Theology*, chapt. 2, §2 (pp. 100-123)
 *Proops, “Kant on the Cosmological Argument”
 **Plantinga, “Kant’s Objection to the Ontological Argument”
- Week 9 Regulative Principles
 Appendix to the Dialectic (A642/B670-A704/B732)
 Grier, Kant’s Doctrine of Transcendental Illusion, chapt. 8
 *Guyer, “Reason and Reflective Judgment: Kant on the Significance of Systematicity” (only §1)
 **Friedman, “The Regulative and the Constitutive”
 **Watkins, “Kant on Infima Species”
- Week 10 Why can we not have cognition of things in themselves?
 The Transcendental Deduction, §22 (B146-B148)
 Strawson, *The Bounds of Sense*, Part IV, Sect. 5, pp. 249-256.
 * Langton, *Kantian Humility*, Ch. 2, pp. 15-47
 *Ameriks, “Kant and Short Arguments to Humility”
 **Watkins and Willaschek, “Kant’s Account of Cognition”
 *indicates recommended reading **indicates further recommended reading

Requirements

I. Short writing assignments. Choose either Option A or Option B.

Option A.

1. Two short papers (4 pages): Before Monday of Week 5, write a first short paper devoted to reconstructing Kant’s analysis of the argument of the First or Second Paralogism, noting the main alternative interpretations of that analysis. It should not take secondary literature into account. Before Monday of Week 8, write a second short paper devoted to reconstructing Kant’s analysis of either the Second Antinomy or the Ontological Argument.

Option B.

1. One short paper (4 pages): Before Monday of Week 5, write a short paper devoted to reconstructing Kant’s analysis of the argument of the First or Second Paralogism, noting the main alternative interpretations of that analysis. It should not take secondary literature into account.

2. One book review (1000 words): Choose one book from the list below, and write a 1000-word book review. Devote two thirds of the review to stating what the book’s main thesis and argument is and one third to a respectful but critical interpretive take on it. It is due by Monday of Week 8.

Both the short papers and the book review will be distributed to the class.

II. One term paper (15 –18 pages): Approval of term paper topics is required before the end of Week 8. The term paper is due on Thursday of finals week (March 20).

III. Class participation: Active participation in every class is required of all students.

Text:

Kant, Immanuel, *Critique of Pure Reason*, P. Guyer & A. Wood (eds. and transl), New York: Cambridge University Press, 1998.

(It is of course fine to use a German edition instead, preferably the one from Felix Meiner.)

All other readings will be distributed electronically.

Book Review Books:

Karl Ameriks, *Kant's Theory of Mind*, 2nd edition, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2000.

Jonathan Bennett, *Kant's Dialectic*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1974.

Michelle Grier, *Kant's Doctrine of Transcendental Illusion*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001.

Bibliography

Ameriks, Karl, "Kant and Short Arguments to Humility," in *Interpreting Kant's Critiques*: Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2003, ch. 5, pp. 135-157.

-----, "The Critique of Metaphysics: The Structure and Fate of Kant's Dialectic" in *The Cambridge Companion to Kant and Modern Philosophy*, ed. P. Guyer (Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 2006), 269-302.

-----, "The Paralogisms of Pure Reason in the First Edition," in *Immanuel Kant: Kritik der reinen Vernunft*, ed. G. Mohr and M. Willaschek (Berlin: Akademie Verlag, 1998), 369-88.

Chignell, Andrew, "Kant's Concepts of Justification," *Nous* 41 (2007): 33-63.

DePaul, Michael, "The Thesis of the Second Antinomy," *History of Philosophy Quarterly* 1 (1984): 445-52.

Friedman, Michael, "The Regulative and the Constitutive," *The Southern Journal of Philosophy* 30 (1992): 73-102.

Guyer, Paul, "Reason and Reflective Judgment: Kant on the Significance of Systematicity," *Nous* 24 (1990): 17-43.

Langton, Rae, *Kantian Humility*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.

Plantinga, Alvin, "Kant's Objection to the Ontological Argument," *Journal of Philosophy* 63 (1966): 537-46.

Proops, Ian, "Kant's First Paralogism," *The Philosophical Review* 119 (2010): 449-495.

-----, "Kant on the Ontological Argument," *Nous* (2013): 1-27.

-----, "Kant on the Cosmological Argument" (unpublished manuscript)

Strawson, Peter, *The Bounds of Sense*, New York: Routledge, 1966.

Watkins, Eric, and Willaschek, Marcus "Kant on Cognition and Knowledge" (unpublished manuscript)

-----, "Kant's Account of Cognition" (unpublished manuscript)

Watkins, Eric, *Kant and the Metaphysics of Causality*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005.

-----, "On the Necessity and Nature of Simples: Leibniz, Wolff, Baumgarten, and the pre-Critical Kant," *Oxford Studies in Early Modern Philosophy* 3 (2006): 261-314.

-----, "Kant on Infima Species" in *Kant und die Philosophie in weltbürgerlicher Absicht*, ed. C. La Rocca, Berlin: de Gruyter, 2013, Vol. V, pp. 283-294.

-----, "Kant and the Experience of Freedom" (unpublished manuscript).

Wood, Allen, *Kant's Rational Theology*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1978.