Phil 106: Kant

Spring 2007
Tue. and Thurs., 10–11:45am.

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Office hours: Mon. 2–3pm, Tues. 1–2pm, or by appointment.

Teaching Assistant:
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Course Requirements

Section attendance (this is no longer mandatory, but still strongly recommended).
Take-home midterm exam (a choice of essay questions), due Tues., May 15; take-
home final exam (ditto), due Tues., June 12. Students who receive an A- or higher on
the midterm may choose to write a final paper (approximately 8–10 pages) in place
of the final, on a topic to be discussed in advance with the instructor and/or the TA.

Texts


The above text should be available at the Literary Guillotine. Some commentaries
and secondary works are available on reserve at McHenry (see below).

For reasons I will discuss, we will be reading almost exclusively the text of the first
(“A”) edition. Page numbers in both the first and second (“B”) editions are marked
in the margin of Kemp-Smith’s translation. In a few cases you will have to pay careful
attention to piece together what belongs to the A text (for example, there are places
where the B text adds a few paragraphs to the middle of a section—those additional
B-edition paragraphs are not part of the assigned reading).

I have put on reserve the following secondary texts, which you may or may not
find useful: Walsh, *Kant’s Criticism of Metaphysics*; Gardner, *Routledge Philosophy
Guidebook to Kant and the Critique of Pure Reason*; Strawson, *The Bounds of Sense*;
Bennett, *Kant’s Analytic and Kant’s Dialectic*; Allison, *Kant’s Transcendental Ideal-
ism*; Guyer, ed., *Cambridge Companion to Kant*. (The first two on this list have
been highly recommended to me as beginning-level texts, but I haven’t read them
myself as of now; your mileage may vary. The others are somewhat more involved.
Strawson and Bennett are basically anti-Kant—they claim to think that he’s a great
philosopher, but attack and ridicule most of what he actually says—whereas Allison is basically pro-Kant. The *Cambridge Companion* is a collection of essays by various authors. There is plenty of other literature on Kant, of course.)

**Readings**

Tues., Apr. 4: (no reading, first class).


Tues., Apr. 10: **no class**.


**Transcendental Analytic**


Thurs., Apr. 19: Transcendental Deduction, part one (A84–98) (through the end of the “Preliminary Remark”).


Thurs., Apr. 26: Schematism (and various introductory material) (A130–58).

Tues., May 1: Analogies—Introduction and First and Second Analogies (A177–211).


Tues., May 8: Amphiboly (A260–89)

**Transcendental Dialectic**


Tues., May 15: end of the Concepts of Pure Reason, and beginning of the Inferences of Pure Reason (A321–48), and **take-home midterm due.**

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**Transcendental Doctrine of Method (and a bit of the B Preface)**

Thurs., June 7: From the Preface to the Second Edition: Bxxiv (beginning “But, it will be asked”)–Bxxxi (ending “its errors at their very source.”). Canon (A795–831).

Tues., June 12: **take-home final (or final paper) due.**