FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
Department of Religious Studies  
REL 4461 U01 Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason:  
The Transcendental Analytic  
Fall 2016

Instructor: Mr. Daniel Alvarez  
Office Hours:  DM 403A TW 2-3 p.m.  
Class Days & Times:  MWF, 11:00-11:50 a.m.  
Class Room: DM 323  
alvarezd@fiu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION  
This course examines a specific topic in the philosophy of religion, such as faith and reason,  
religious experience, or an important thinker. It may be repeated with permission of the instructor.  
For Fall 2016 the topic is: Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason, the “Transcendental Analytic” (the first half of the CPR and related texts). For Spring 2017 the topic is: the “Transcendental Dialectic” (the second half of the CPR).

TEXTBOOKS  

Selections from Kant’s pre-Critical writings, Descartes’ Meditations, Leibniz’s philosophical writings,  
John Locke’s An Essay Concerning Human Understanding, David Hume’s Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding, among others, will be posted on Blackboard.

INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES AND COURSE STRUCTURE  
In the Fall semester we will attempt a close reading of (roughly) the first half of the CPR (up to page 296 of the Kemp Smith translations, plus the “Paralogisms of Pure Reason” in the “Transcendental Dialectic.”

To put Kant’s view in context we must begin at the fountainhead of all modern philosophy, and  
Kantian epistemology in particular, Descartes’ Meditations on First Philosophy (1641, roughly the first three Meditations), since these set the agenda that Kant, among others, will try to further and whose problems he will attempt to solve. We will also briefly look at David Hume’s attempt to provide a fatal blow to all metaphysical thinking, in direct response to Descartes’ epistemology (and Locke’s and Berkeley’s), as articulated in his empiricist and skeptical theory of knowledge, which exercised an enormous influence on Kant’s mature thought. Next to Hume, select texts from Leibniz’s vast corpus will also be discussed since Kant’s CPR can be understood as a synthesis of (Leibnizian) rationalism and (Humean) empiricism.

The course does not presuppose any knowledge of Kant’s philosophy, but the importance of Kant for philosophy (Analytic and Continental) and the study or religion (and modern thought in general) far outweighs the sacrifice we will have to make to attain a rudimentary understand one of the greatest and most influential philosophical texts of all time. Kant’s theoretical philosophy has influenced the thought of all subsequent philosophers and philosophies, including natural scientists (I personally examined the copy of Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason owned and inscribed by Niels Bohr, one of the founders of Quantum Mechanics), social scientists (like Emile Durkheim, who acknowledges Kant’s influence on his interpretation of religion in The Elementary Forms of Religious Life). From Frege to Husserl and Heidegger, and from Hans Reichenbach and the early Logical Positivists to W. V. Quine and Hilary Putnam, the influence of Kant is pervasive. In the field of
religion, whether theological or philosophical, the work of Schleiermacher, Hegel, and Albrecht Ritschl, and Rudolf Otto, and Rudolph Bultmann, to mention only the most prominent names, cannot be understood apart from Kant. Perhaps the field in which Kant’s philosophy exerts the greatest influence today is ethics. John Rawls, the great Harvard ethicist and arguably the most influential ethical thinker of the second half of the 20th century, owes much to Kant (witness his “Kantian Constructivism in Moral Theory”).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES
1. A Research Paper, 12-15 pages (60% of grade).

2. Two (2) Class Presentations (based on the reading assignment for each week): Two (2) pages, orally delivered in class, 40% of final grade.

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COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1
M Introduction: Syllabus, Requirements, Textbooks, Overview of course.

W The Cartesian Project and its Failure
Recommended Reading: Descartes, Meditation I-III, 12-36.

F Reaction to the Failure of Cartesian Epistemology: Leibnizian Rationalism

Week 2
M LABOR DAY (NO CLASSES)

W Reaction to the Failure of Cartesian Epistemology: Humean Empiricism
Recommended Reading: Selections from David Hume, Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding, John Locke, An Essay Concerning Human Understanding; George Berkeley, Principles of Human Knowledge and Three Dialogues Concerning Hylas and Philonous.

F Kant before The Critique of Pure Reason: The Pre-Critical Kant
Recommended Reading: Kant, selections from the Inaugural Dissertation of 1770 (“On the Form and Principles of the Sensible and Intelligible World”) and Correspondence.

Week 3
Kritik der Reinen Vernunft (1781 [A] and 1787 [B])
M Kant, CPR: Prefaces to 1st and 2nd editions; (7-37).
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<td>Kant, CPR: “Transcendental Aesthetic” (65-91).</td>
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<td>Presentation on the “Schematism”: _________________________________</td>
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<td>Kant, “Analogy of Experience” (208-238).</td>
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F  Presentation on 2nd Analogy: ________________________________

Week 11
M  Kant, “Refutation of Idealism” (244-247); “Refutation of Idealism” in *Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics*.
W  Continued.
F  Presentation on “Refutations”: ________________________________

Week 12
M  Kant, “Distinction of all Objects into Phenomena and Noumena” (257-275).
W  Continued.
F  Continued.

Week 13
M  Kant, “Amphiboly of the Concepts of Reflection” (276-296).
W  Continued:
F  Presentation on “Phenomena/Noumena”: ________________________________

Week 14
W  Continued.
F  **THANKSGIVING BREAK (NO CLASSES)**

Week 15
M  Kant, “Paralogisms” in B (368-383).
W  Continued.
F  Presentation on 4th Paralogism in A: ________________________________
SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books with * (asterisk) should be consulted when preparing class presentations and research papers.

*Norman Kemp Smith, *Commentary to Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason*

   Although published in 1923, it continues to be an indispensable resource in Kant scholarship.

P. F. Strawson, *The Bounds of Sense*

   Idiosyncratic but nevertheless original essay on the *Critique*

*Arthur Melnick, *Kant’s Analogies of Experience*

   The best commentary on the Analogies of Experience. Period.

Arthur Melnick, *Space and Time in Kant*

*Paul Guyer, *Kant and the Claims of Knowledge*

   Next to Allison’s, the most important book on the *Critique of Pure Reason* of the late 20th century.

Paul Guyer, *Kant*

*Henry Allison, *Kant’s Transcendental Idealism: An Interpretation and Defense*

Henry Allison, *Kant’s Transcendental Deduction: An Analytical and Historical Commentary*

   Published in 2015! A massive exegetical analysis of the Transcendental Deduction of the Categories in both editions of the CPR.

Sadiq Al-Azam, *The Origins of Kant’s Argument in the Antinomies*

   Considered by Allison the best treatment of Kant’s Antinomies

*A. C. Ewing, *A short Commentary on Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason*

   Older (1937) and brief but considered a reliable interpretation of the *Critique* as whole

Heidegger, *Kant and the Problem of Metaphysics*

   Highly respected by Kant scholars, even those hostile to Heidegger

*A. J. Paton, *Kant’s Metaphysics of Experience*

   Older (1936) but still an invaluable resource
T. D. Weldon, *An introduction to Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason*

Brief and older (1945) but considered important

Gottfried Martin, *Kant’s Metaphysics and Theory of Science*

*W. H. Walsh, *Kant’s Criticism of Metaphysics*

*Robert Paul Wolff, *Kant’s Theory of Mental Activity*

Graham Bird, *Kant’s Theory of Knowledge*

Michael Friedman, *Kant and the Exact Sciences*

Eckhart Förster, *Kant’s Final Synthesis: An Essay on the Opus Postumum*

Eckhart Forster, editor, *Kant’s Transcendental Deduction: The Three ‘Critiques’ and the Opus Postumum*

Gordon Brittan, *Kant’s Theory of Science*

C. D. Broad, *Kant*

Jonathan Bennett, *Kant’s Analytic*

Jonathan Bennett, *Kant’s Dialectic*

Gilles Deleuze, *Kant’s Critical Philosophy*

Jill Vance Buroker, *Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason: An Introduction*

Allen Wood, *Kant*

J. N. Findlay, *Kant and the Transcendental Object*

Gerd Buchdahl, *Kant and the Dynamics of Reason*

Karl Ameriks, *Kant’s Theory of Mind: An Analysis of the Paralogisms of Pure Reason*

Lawrence J. Kaye, *Kant’s Transcendental Deduction of the Categories: Unity, Representation, and Apperception*

Thomas C. Vinci, *Space, Geometry, and Kant’s Transcendental Deduction: The 17th & 18th Century Background*

Gerd Buchdahl, *Metaphysics and the Philosophy of Science*

Wolfgang von Leyden, *17th Century Metaphysics*

Anthony Kenny, *Descartes: A Study of his Philosophy*
Margaret Wilson, *Descartes*

Harry Frankfurt, *Demons, Dreamers, and Madmen: The Defense of Reason in Descartes’ Meditations*

Bernard Williams, *Descartes: The Project of Pure Inquiry*

G. H. R. Parkinson, *Logic and Reality in Leibniz’s Metaphysics*

Gottfried Martin, *Leibniz Logic & Metaphysics*

C. D. Broad, *Leibniz*

Norman Kemp Smith, *The Philosophy of David Hume*

Barry Stroud, *Hume*

Anthony Flew, *Hume’s Philosophy of Belief*

John Passmore, *Hume’s Intentions*

Additional Secondary Literature

*Stanford Online Encyclopedia of Philosophy*

Paul Edwards, editor, *Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (8 volumes)

JSTOR (online database of journal articles)

*Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*

*Wikipedia*

Bibliography of the most recent secondary literature up to 2006 in Paul Guyer’s *Kant*

FIU Library research database has link to many full text articles, including access to JSTOR