

Jason Potter

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Web Site: <http://philophizer.com/index.html> (Please note: all handouts, along with lecture notes, reading and lecture schedule/plan, and this syllabus are available at this web site or on the Canvas site.)

Office Hours Now: 2:45 P.M.-4:30 P.M. M-W-F; Muenzinger D-120.

II. Texts

- A. Critique of Pure Reason (CPR), by Immanuel Kant; tr. Paul Guyer and Allen W. Wood, Cambridge University Press (available at the bookstore)
- B. Prolegomena to any Future Metaphysics (PFM), by Immanuel Kant; tr. by Paul Carus, rev. by J. Ellington (available on the Canvas Site under “Readings”)
- C. A Companion to Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason (CCPR) by Matthew C. Altman, Westview Press. (available for download as a scanned document soon from the Canvas Site under “Readings”)
- D. Selections from Wayne Waxman’s *Kant’s Anatomy of the Intelligent Mind*. (Available through the Canvas Site under “Readings”)

III. Assignments and Grading

- A. Kant is a thinker of extreme difficulty, and comprehension is attainable only after several readings. To benefit from the lectures, students should read and analyze the assigned texts beforehand.
- B. Class participation is welcome and can only benefit your grade. You can miss 3 classes without penalty, but classes missed thereafter will reduce your grade.
- C. A 10-page paper worth 50% of your grade will be due at the beginning of the 15th week of classes (December 14). Topics will be distributed before the end of the 4th week. Drafts of this paper will be welcome 2-4 weeks before this due date and will be returned no later than Sunday, November 26 with my comments and suggestions added to them.
- D. A series of reading reaction papers will be due at regular intervals (see lecture/reading topics schedule below) over the course of the semester and combine for the other 50% of your grade.

IV. Background

- A. Familiarity with such major early modern thinkers as Descartes, Leibniz, Locke, Berkeley, and Hume will be a substantial advantage.
- B. Secondary literature on Kant is generally as difficult as Kant himself. See me for recommendations if you have special needs or interests. Two good general introductions you might wish to consult are: Lewis W. Beck, *Early German Philosophy*, and Ernst Cassirer, *Kant’s Life and Work*.

V. Immanuel Kant

- generally acknowledged to be the most important and influential philosopher since ancient Greece, and considered by many the greatest of philosopher of all time.
- wrote primarily in German, occasionally in Latin
- made significant contributions in virtually every area of philosophy, including: metaphysics and epistemology; ethics and morality; politics, society, and law; aesthetics; rational theology; philosophy of physics; philosophy of education; philosophy of history
- was expert in the physical sciences and mathematics; among the most learned men of his time
- 1724-1804; spent entire life in Königsberg, the capital of the province of East Prussia (a detached eastern outpost of the Kingdom of Prussia, later part of Germany, presently in Russia); was physically slight of stature and sickly; shy and solitary, not given to emotional display, but personally agreeable; widely admired and respected even before he published the Critique of Pure Reason; a true man of the Age of Enlightenment (Aufklärung)
- born poor, lost parents while still young, educated under the auspices of the Pietist religious sect (a passionate protestant movement which Kant soon turned against; he never thereafter practiced a religion)
- after study at the university in Königsberg, did brief stints as a live-in tutor, then held a series of posts at the Königsberg university, becoming professor only in 1770 (having turned down several offers because they would have obliged him to move from Königsberg)

- lived a very secluded life: never married, never traveled, avoided controversy and publicity, restricted his social activities to a small circle of friends, fame (which came late in life) rarely intruded on his peace (Königsberg was very out of the way); amused himself with reading, walks, card-playing, and conversation
- Prussia then ruled by Frederick the Great (d. 1786), whose less tolerant successors pressured Kant to be less outspoken on politically and religiously sensitive matters during the 1790s; during the Seven Years War (1756-63), Königsberg was briefly occupied by Russian troops
- Kant’s masterpiece is the *Critique of Pure Reason* (1781; rev. 1787); other major writings include: *Inaugural Dissertation on the Sensible and Intelligible World* (1770); *Prolegomena to any Future Metaphysics* (1783); *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals* (1785); *Metaphysical First Principles of Natural Science* (1786); *Critique of Practical Reason* (1788); *Critique of Judgement* (1790); *Religion within the limits of mere Reason* (1792); *Metaphysics of Morals* (1797)

VI. Lecture Topics, Related Readings and Reaction Papers

- Weeks 1-4: Introduction to Kant’s transcendental philosophy, Prefaces to CPR and PFM and Introduction to CPR and Preamble to PFM (**Reaction Paper [RP] #1 Due September 28 by 11:59 pm in Canvas**) (**Note: for First Week, read only A-Edition of the CPR’s Preface and Introduction; read the B Edition version of the Preface and Introduction for Second and Third Weeks!!**)
- Weeks 5-7: Transcendental aesthetic including transcendental idealism, CPR A19-49/B33-73, A367-A380, A712-38/B740-66, and PFM, part I; for overview, read my Lecture #3 (**RP #2 Due October 6 by 11:59 in Canvas**)
- Weeks 8-9: First, read the handout “Kant’s Theory of Perception and Appearance” available under Lectures and Handouts page of the course website; next read Chapter 3 of Waxman “Anatomy of the Intelligent Mind”; then read my Lecture #4 (**RP #3 Due October 20 by 11:59 in Canvas [extended to November 5]**)
- Weeks 10&11: Transcendental logic through the metaphysical deduction of the categories, CPR A50-83/B74-116, and PFM §21 and §39; then read my Lecture #5 (**RP #4 Due November 10 by 11:59 in Canvas**)
- Week 12: The A-edition transcendental deduction of the categories + critique of rational psychology, CPR A84-130, A339-366, A381-405; then read my Lecture #6 (**RP #5 Due November 17 by 11:59 in Canvas**)
- Week 13: The B-edition revision of the transcendental deduction and the paralogisms, CPR B129-69, B406-31, PFM §§14-20 (**RP #6 Due November 24 by 11:59 in Canvas**)
- Week 14: FALL BREAK. But there still is reading: Transcendental judgment –the schematism of the categories, CPR A130-147/B169-87 (**RP#7 due Dec. 1**)
- Week 15: The system of principles of pure understanding through the Anticipations of Perception, CPR A148-76/B187-218, PFM §§21a-24. (**RP#8 [OPTIONAL] Due Dec. 8**)
- Week 16: The Analogies of Experience – the refutation of Hume, CPR A176-218/B218-65, A758-69/B786-97, PFM §§25-38 ((**RP #9 [OPTIONAL] The same is true of RP #10, which would have been on the readings listed below under “If possible:....”**)
- If possible: The Refutation of Idealism in Detail—the refutation of Descartes’ *problematic idealism*, CPR A218-235/B265-294 and A367-380 (4th Paralogism A-Ed.).

Disability Statement

If you have specific physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities and require accommodations, please let me know early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to the Disability Services Office in Willard 322 (phone 303-492-8671).

One Last Thing

Since I find it very helpful to speak with each of you at least once, there will be required, short (10-minute) meetings during office hours the first three weeks of the semester to discuss your progress. I will bring a sign-up sheet with me to class during the first week so you can arrange a time and date that suits you. Don’t put this

off too long, or we will have a buffalo stampede that will make all of us grumpy.

Campus Policies and Resources

Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote, or online. Failure to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, marital status, political affiliation, or political philosophy.

For more information, see the [classroom behavior policy](#), the [Student Code of Conduct](#), and the [Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance](#).

Accommodation for Disabilities, Temporary Medical Conditions, and Medical Isolation

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](#). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or DSinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) on the Disability Services website.

If you have a temporary illness, injury or required medical isolation for which you require adjustment, just let me know what kind of adjustment (approval for absences from class, extensions on assignments for which the due dates are not workable given the illness, injury, or medical isolation involved). Privacy rules prohibit teachers to require knowledge of the *exact nature* of such illness, injury, or medical situation as a condition of providing accommodation. You are therefore *not required* to share that information with me.

Preferred Student Names and Pronouns

CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information doesn't always align with how they identify. Students may update their preferred names and pronouns via the student portal; those preferred names and pronouns are listed on instructors' class rosters. In the absence of such updates, the name that appears on the class roster is the student's legal name.

Honor Code

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the [Honor Code](#). Violations of the Honor Code may include but are not limited to: plagiarism (including use of paper writing services or technology [such as essay bots]), cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. Understanding the course's syllabus is a vital part in adhering to the Honor Code.

All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution: StudentConduct@colorado.edu. Students found responsible for violating the [Honor Code](#) will be assigned resolution outcomes from the Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution as well as be subject to

academic sanctions from the faculty member. Visit [Honor Code](#) for more information on the academic integrity policy.

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation

CU Boulder is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. University policy prohibits [protected-class](#) discrimination and harassment, sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner abuse (dating or domestic violence), stalking, and related retaliation by or against members of our community on- and off-campus. The Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) addresses these concerns, and individuals who have been subjected to misconduct can contact OIEC at 303-492-2127 or email CUreport@colorado.edu. Information about university policies, [reporting options](#), and [support resources](#) including confidential services can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and graduate instructors must inform OIEC when they are made aware of incidents related to these policies regardless of when or where something occurred. This is to ensure that individuals impacted receive outreach from OIEC about resolution options and support resources. To learn more about reporting and support for a variety of concerns, visit the [Don't Ignore It page](#).

Religious Accommodations

Campus policy requires faculty to provide reasonable accommodations for students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Please communicate the need for a religious accommodation in a timely manner (at least one week prior to the holiday/observance involved).

See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

Mental Health and Wellness.

The University of Colorado Boulder is committed to the well-being of all students. If you are struggling with personal stressors, mental health or substance use concerns that are impacting academic or daily life, please contact [Counseling and Psychiatric Services \(CAPS\)](#) located in C4C or call (303) 492-2277, 24/7.

Free and unlimited telehealth is also available through [Academic Live Care](#). The Academic Live Care site also provides information about additional wellness services on campus that are available to students.