

Philosophy G9255
Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*:
Theories of Cognition and the Cognitive Subject

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Goals: *The course has three objectives. We will go through the major sections of the Critique. This should give even newcomers to Kant a sufficient background to teach an undergraduate course on the subject. Second, we will look at some current interpretive controversies and some current attempts to appeal to Kant in contemporary work, so Kant specialists or semi-specialists will be more up-to-date. (The controversies concern transcendental arguments, Kant's views of causation, the theory of transcendental idealism, the critique of the cogito in the Paralogisms and reason's 'demand' for systematicity). Finally, I will present a global account of one aspect of the Critique, its theory of the cognitive subject. In that way, students can see the Critique, not just as a sequence of pieces, but as offering a systematic account of a complex issue—or at least, as trying to fit lots of pieces into a single coherent picture. The three goals should be compatible, because the new interpretive and philosophical work make the text easier to understand and the theory of cognition and the cognizer is a central to much of the text.*

Requirements: a seminar paper. A seminar presentation is strongly recommended. (Students may go beyond the listed topics in choosing a seminar presentation.)

Required Texts:

Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason* (**CPR**).

We will also use a number of papers from Paul Guyer, *The Cambridge Companion to Kant and Modern Philosophy*, Cambridge, 2006. (**CC**). That text can be accessed by going to Cambridge University Press and then to the book in its online edition (which Columbia has available).

Further papers on Course Works (**CW**).

Schedule of Topics and Readings

1. January 25. *Introduction: Kant's Epistemological Project*. **CPR**: Avii-A xxii/ B vii-B xliv, A1/B1 - A16/ B30, **CW**: Kant's letter to Marcus Herz, Feb. 21, 1772, **CC**: Philip Kitcher, "A Priori".
2. February 1. *The Transcendental Aesthetic: The Science of Sensibility*. **CPR** A19/B33-A49/B73, **CW**: Lorne Falkenstein, "Was Kant a Nativist?"
3. February 8. *The Faculty of Inner Sense*. **CW**: "On a Subtlety of the Four Syllogistic Figures" (excerpt), J. N. Tetens, "Inner Sense" (excerpt), **CPR**: A22/B37, B152-54, **CW**: Kant's Anthropology (excerpt), Alex Byrne, "Introspection."
4. February 15. *The Metaphysical Deduction*, **CPR**: A 50/ B 74 - A 83/ B 116, **CW**, Béatrice Longuenesse, "The Divisions of the Transcendental Logic and the Leading Thread," **CC**, "Kant on *A priori* Concepts: The metaphysical deduction of the categories."

5. February 22. *What is a Transcendental Deduction?* **CPR:** A 84/ B117- A95/B129, A782/ B 810- A 794/B822, **CC:** Ralph Walker, "Kant and transcendental arguments", **CW:** Dieter Henrich, "Kant's Notion of a Deduction and the Methodological Background of the Transcendental Deduction," Manfred Kuehn, "The Wolffian Background of Kant's Transcendental Deduction."
6. March 1. *The A Deduction*, **CPR:** A 95-130. **CW:** Wolfgang Carl, "Kant's First Drafts of the Deduction of the Categories," Udo Thiel "Between Wolff and Kant: Merian's Theory of Apperception," Paul Guyer, "Kant's Tactics in the Transcendental Deduction,"
7. March 8. *The B Deduction*. **CPR:** B 129-169, **CW:** Robert Howell, "B-Deduction § 16."
8. March 22. *Overview of the Principles; The Argument of the Second Analogy*. **CPR:** A129B 169- A 162/ B 202; A 176/ B 218- A 218/B 265, B 274-294. **CC:** Arthur Melnick, "Kant's Proofs of Substance and Causation," **CW:** Paul Guyer, "Kant's Second Analogy: Objects, Events, and Causal Laws", Eric Watkins, "Kant's Model of Causality: Causal Powers, Laws, and the Reply to Hume."
9. March 29, *Causation cont'*
10. April 5. *The Phenomenal-Noumenal Distinction*. **CPR:** A 235/ B 294 - A 292/B 349. **CW:** P. F. Strawson, "The Metaphysics of Transcendental Idealism," from *The Bounds of Sense*, Henry Allison, "Introduction," "Transcendental Realism and Transcendental Idealism," *Kant's Transcendental Idealism*, Karl Ameriks, "Kant's Idealism on a Moderate Interpretation."
11. April 12. *Introduction to the Dialectic; The Paralogisms and the Critique of the Cogito*. **CPR:** A293/ B 349- A 405; B 432; **CC:** "Rational Psychology" from *Metaphysik L₁* (mid-70's), *Kant's Lectures on Metaphysics*, Karl Ameriks, "The Critique of Metaphysics: The Structure and Fate of Kant's Dialectic," Tyler Burge, "Kant on Some Aspects of the *Cogito*," Patricia Kitcher, "'I-think as the Destroyer of Rational Psychology.'"
12. April 19. *Inner Sense and Self-Knowledge*. **CW:** Matthew Boyle, "Two Kinds of Self-Knowledge."
13. April 26. *Metaphysical Freedom and Freedom in Thought* **CPR:** A 405/ B 432 - A 565/ B 593, **CC:** Henry Allison, "Kant on Freedom of the Will."
14. May 1. *The Systematicity of Nature and the Psychological Ideal*. **CPR:** A 642/ B 670-A 704/ B 732, **CW:** Hannah Ginsborg, " Kant on the Systematicity and Purposiveness of Nature," Paul Guyer, "Reason and Reflective Judgment: Kant on the Significance of Systematicity,"

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