

# Introduction to Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*

PHIL 4351: Great Philosophers (CRN 16062) / PHIL 5351: World Historical Philosophers (CRN 16119)

Thursday, 4:30-7:20 PM, Liberal Arts 207

Professor Marc A. Moffett

Email: [mamoffett@utep.edu](mailto:mamoffett@utep.edu)

Office Hours: By appointment

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## DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to the *Critique of Pure Reason*, one of the central texts in the history of Western philosophy. Its guiding theme is Kant's attempt to vindicate the idea that metaphysics provides us with a special kind of non-empirical knowledge. In this work, Kant articulates his "transcendental idealism" and seeks to show a way to resolve the problems with both British empiricism and Continental rationalism. 'Sapere aude!'

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## COURSE OBJECTIVES, MATERIALS & EVALUATION

**Objectives:** In order to fully appreciate Kant's monumental work, it will be important to read it carefully and to try to understand why Kant argues as he does. This is no small task given the vast differences in language and culture that separate us. Thus, apart from providing you with an understanding of a philosophical masterpiece, this course will help you learn to read and reason with far greater care.

**Materials Required:** With the exception of the relatively inexpensive translation of the *Critique*, I have tried to provide you with material for this course at no expense. Please take the time to read all required material!

- Kant, Immanuel. 1998. *Critique of Pure Reason*. Translated and edited by Paul Guyer & Alan W. Wood. Cambridge University Press: New York, NY.
- Online course packet of supplemental readings. I will post these as references as we go through the semester

### Evaluation:

**Three Short 1-2 Page Interpretive Essays (100 points each; 300 points total):** These essays will be based on the readings. You may choose to write on any topic covered in the course material.

**One Research Essay (500 points):** Undergraduates: At least 6 pages; Graduates: At least 10 pages.

- Note: All essays should have 10-12 point font and 1" margins. You will need cite your sources. Please use APA (author, date) style.
- Assignments must be submitted via the Assignments tab on the left sidebar on Blackboard.

**Class Attendance and Participation (200 points total):**

**Total Possible Points for Course: 1000**

**Grading scale**

| <b>A</b>      | <b>B</b>       | <b>C</b>       | <b>D</b>       | <b>F</b>                       |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>≥89.5%</b> | <b>≥79.5%</b>  | <b>≥69.5%</b>  | <b>≥59.5%</b>  | <b>&lt;59.5% (percentages)</b> |
| <b>≥900</b>   | <b>899-700</b> | <b>799-700</b> | <b>699-600</b> | <b>≤599 (points)</b>           |

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**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Integrity is a concern for everyone. By joining the UTEP community every student agrees to abide by the scholastic dishonesty policy ([available here](#)). Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable to another person.

**Cheating:**

- Copying from the test paper of another student
- Communicating with another student during a test
- Giving or seeking aid from another student during a test
- Possession and/or use of unauthorized materials during tests (i.e. Crib notes, class notes, books, etc)
- Substituting for another person to take a test, falsifying research data, reports, academic work offered for credit

**Plagiarism**

- Using someone's work in your assignments without the proper citations
- Submitting the same paper or assignment from a different course, without direct permission of instructors

**Collusion**

- Unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments

**Assigned Reading**

|                |          | <u>date</u>  | <u>pages</u> | <u>text/topic</u>  |
|----------------|----------|--------------|--------------|--|
| <b>Week 1</b>  | <b>W</b> | <b>8/24</b>  |              | Introduction and Philosophical Background                                |
| <b>Week 2</b>  | <b>W</b> | <b>8/31</b>  | 99-105       | Preface A  |
|                |          |              | 106-124      | Preface B  |
|                |          |              | 672-690      | The Canon of Pure Reason   |
|                |          |              | 127-135      | Introduction A   |
|                |          |              | 136-152      | Introduction B   |
| <b>Week 3</b>  | <b>W</b> | <b>9/7</b>   | 155-171      | Transcendental Aesthetic A   |
|                |          |              | 172-192      | Transcendental Aesthetic B   |
|                |          |              | 193-218      | On the Clue to the Discovery   |
| <b>Week 4</b>  | <b>W</b> | <b>9/14</b>  | 219-244      | Transcendental Deduction A   |
|                |          |              | 245-266      | Transcendental Deduction B   |
| <b>Week 5</b>  | <b>W</b> | <b>9/21</b>  | 267-294      | Schematism<br><b>[First Short Essay Due by 11:59 PM]</b>                 |
|                |          |              | 295-321      | Analogies of Experience  |
| <b>Week 6</b>  | <b>W</b> | <b>9/28</b>  | 321-337      | Refutation of Idealism   |
|                |          |              | 338-384      | Phenomena and Noumena<br>Amphiboly of the Concepts of Reflection         |
| <b>Week 7</b>  | <b>W</b> | <b>10/5</b>  | 384-410      | Transcendental Dialectic   |
|                |          |              | 411-458      | Paralogisms of Pure Reason   |
| <b>Week 8</b>  | <b>W</b> | <b>10/12</b> | 459-495      | The Antinomy of Pure Reason  |
|                |          |              | 496-519      | Critical Decision<br><b>[Second Short Essay Due by 11:59 PM]</b>         |
| <b>Week 9</b>  | <b>W</b> | <b>10/19</b> | 520-550      | Resolution of the Antinomy   |
|                |          |              | 551-569      | The Ideal of Pure Reason<br>On the Impossibility of an Ontological Proof |
| <b>Week 10</b> | <b>W</b> | <b>10/26</b> | 569-589      | Critique of Speculative Theology   |
|                |          |              | 590-623      | Appendix to the Transcendental Dialectic                                 |

|                |          |              |         |  |
|----------------|----------|--------------|---------|--|
| <b>Week 11</b> | <b>W</b> | <b>11/2</b>  | 627-671 | Transcendental Doctrine of Method<br>Discipline of Pure Reason |
|                |          |              | 691-704 | Architectonic of Pure Reason History of Pure Reason            |
| <b>Week 12</b> | <b>W</b> | <b>11/9</b>  |         | Catch-up   |
| <b>Week 13</b> | <b>W</b> | <b>11/16</b> |         | Catch-up<br><b>[Third Short Essay Due by 11:59 PM]</b>         |
| <b>Week 14</b> | <b>W</b> | <b>11/23</b> |         | Catch-up   |
| <b>Week 15</b> | <b>W</b> | <b>11/30</b> |         | Catch-up   |
|                | <b>W</b> | <b>12/7</b>  |         | Final Paper Due by 11:59 pm                                    |