

Tentative Course outline

Philosophy 3vv3

KANT

Fall 2016

Instructor: Dr. Brigitte Sassen

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BSB 120

Tu 12:30 – 2:20

We 12:30 – 1:20

course web site: <http://avenue.mcmaster.ca/>

In his course we will study Kant's theoretical philosophy by reading portions of his first major critical work, the *Critique of Pure Reason* (1781, 1787). We will consider both Kant's epistemology and his metaphysics (as articulated in the Transcendental Analytics of the *CPR*), as well as his critique of traditional metaphysics to be found in the Transcendental Dialectic.

The course meets twice a week, once for two hours (Tuesday 12:30 - 2:20), once for one hour (Wednesday 12:30 – 1:20). It will be conducted in lecture/seminar format. The Wednesday class and the first hour on Tuesday will generally be devoted to lectures, the second hour on Tuesday to discussion. A series of reading questions is available on the course schedule, and in the second hour on Tuesdays, these questions will be discussed along with additional questions students may wish to ask. Participation in the Tuesday class is verified by way of written answers students give to an assigned question at the beginning of class and is worth 10% of the course grade. Other requirements include three papers in the course of the term (20% each for a total of 60%), and the final exam (30%) to be written during the exam period. In addition, students are expected to complete a bibliography. Bibliographies are not graded, but failure to complete it by the due date will mean a 5% reduction of the final grade. The papers typically address a question selected from the reading questions posted for a given week and are due on the Tuesday in the week for which the question was posted. Students are free to choose when to complete these papers with the following proviso: paper 1 must be submitted by Sept. 27, paper 2 between Oct. 4 and Nov. 1, and paper 3 between Nov. 8 and Nov. 29. All must be submitted to the drop box on the class web site by 11:30 am on the day a given paper is due. They must be in either word format, in .rtf, or in .pdf. Note that the web site checks for plagiarism. Students may choose to complete more than the required 3 papers. If they do, the better grade for papers submitted in a given period counts. Students are not expected to complete a major paper, but they do have to complete a bibliography for such a paper (due Nov. 22).

TEXT:

- Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, tr. Norman Kemp Smith. Palgrave MacMillan, 2007. (*CPR*)

REQUIREMENTS:

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|----------------------|-----|
| •3 papers (20% each) | 60% |
| •participation | 10% |
| •final exam | 30% |

Late submissions will generally not be accepted unless there is a documented reason.
Fine print:

E-mail policy:

All e-mail communication is governed by the policy of the Faculty of Humanities. The Faculty specifies that all email communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University email account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. Instructors will delete emails that do not originate from a McMaster email account.

COURSE EVALUATIONS WILL BE DONE NEAR THE END OF THE TERM.

STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO KEEP A COPY OF ALL SUBMITTED WORK FOR THEIR OWN RECORDS.

THIS OUTLINE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE GIVEN SUFFICIENT NOTICE.

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

POLICY ON ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/univsec/policy/AcademicIntegrity.pdf>.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained. Ideas that are not your own need to be referenced. This includes ideas and citations of material appearing in journal articles, books, public presentations or on the internet. A slight change in wording does not make an idea your own, and merely providing a reference for material taken verbatim (but not in cited form) is not sufficient.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.