

Course Description

This course will offer a comprehensive introduction to Kant's "transcendental philosophy" on the basis of the last Critique, the *Critique of Judgment* (1790), which we will read in selections from its two parts, the Critique of Aesthetic Judgment and the Critique of Teleological Judgment. In this fundamental work Kant proposes the new idea of "reflective judgment," offers his critical and transcendental theory of aesthetic experience, and importantly connects this theory with a transcendental account of the epistemology of the life sciences. We will address issues such as Kant's idea of *aesthetic* experience in its difference from the Transcendental Aesthetic of the first *Critique*, the relation between the judgment of the beautiful and the judgment of the sublime, the role that the concept of "life" plays in connecting aesthetic and teleological judgment, the transcendental nature of the concept of "purpose" and Kant's critique of metaphysical teleology.

The basis of the course will be a close reading of the text (selection from all parts of the book). The format of the course includes lecture, class discussion, and student presentation. Objectives of the course are to learn close reading and discussion of philosophical texts, analysis of complex philosophical ideas, and an insight in the historicity of philosophical discourse.

Required Texts

- I. Kant, *Critique of Judgment*, tr. W. Pluhar, Hackett (preferred translation but others are acceptable as well).
- A. Nuzzo, *Kant and the Unity of Reason*, Purdue University Press, 2005.

Assignments

1. *Midterm exam and Final paper* (30% of final grade each). Final paper: 7-10pp., **due M May 20**. No late papers accepted.
 2. *Protocol* (10% of final grade). You are responsible for 2-3 *protocols* (depending on class size) in which you will present briefly what we discussed in the previous class (1 page typewritten summary in a coherent narrative, not an outline). At the beginning of each class you should give a copy of the protocol to all participants. The protocol is to be read by the student at the beginning of class.
 3. *Oral Presentation* (20% of final grade). You are responsible for an oral presentation on an assigned portion of the readings. In your presentation you should offer a critical exposition of the material to be discussed and formulate **at least three major questions** for discussion. A copy of the presentation is to be turned in to me **before** class (3-4 pages). When you are in charge of a presentation you are expected to make yourself understandable to the whole class (not read mechanically from a manuscript) and to stimulate discussion. The presentation is evaluated according to (a) the student's capacity of presenting the material to the class and (b) his/her capacity of raising critical questions.
 4. *Attendance and participation* (10% of final grade). Attendance is required with two exceptions. Coming to class late or leaving early will count as absence. In exceptional cases, if you need to come late or leave early you should previously talk to me. Active and informed participation to class discussion is counted as an essential element toward the final grade.
 5. *Plagiarism* and any form of cheating will not be tolerated. Anyone caught plagiarizing will fail the course.
- All assignments must be completed in order to pass the course. Once you sign up for a protocol/presentation for a given date you commit yourself for that date. **Failure to present on that date results in an F grade for that assignment.** You are responsible for keeping copies of your assignments and for checking your progress with me. All the above items are subject to change for educational reasons.

Schedule

- Week 1 MW Jan. 28, 30:** Organization of course. *Critique of Judgment* Preface (Pluhar tr. pp. 3-8).
- Week 2 MW Feb. 4, 6:** *CJ Introduction* §§I-IV (Pluhar tr. pp. 3-20). *Unity of Reason*, Ch.5-8.
- Week 3 MW Feb. 11, 13:** *Introduction* §§V-IX (pp. 20-38). *Unity of Reason*, Ch.5-8.
- Week 4 W Feb. 20:** Analytic: Quality, Quantity of judg. of taste §§1-9 (pp. 43-64). *Unity of Reason*, Ch. 9.
- Week 5 MW Feb 25, 27:** Analytic: §§1-9 (pp. 43-64). **W Presentation 1:** §9 (pp. 61-64).
- Week 6 MW March 4, 6:** Analytic: Relation, Modality judg. of taste §§10-22 (pp. 64-90). **W Pres. 2:** §§16-17 (76-84)
- Week 7 MW March 11, 13:** Sublime §§23-29 (pp. 97-126). **Pres. 3:** §§28-29 (119-126) (Nature as Might).
- Week 8 MW March 18, 20:** **M Review; W Midterm.**
- Week 9 W April 3:** Deduction; *Sensus Communis*, §§30-40 (pp. 141-162). *Unity of Reason*, Ch. 10.
- Week 10 MW April 8, 10:** Deduction; *Sensus Communis*, §§30-40 (pp. 141-162). **W Pres. 4:** §§40, 20-22.
- Week 11 MW April 15, 17:** Art, Genius §§43-49 (170-188). **W Pres. 5:** §§47-49 (176-188) (Genius and Taste).
- Week 12 MW April 22, 24:** Dialectic §§55-60 (209-232). **W Pres. 6:** §§59-60 (Beauty Symbol of Morality). *Unity of Reason*, Ch. 11.
- Week 13 MW April 29, May 1:** Analytic Teleological Judg. §§61-64 (235-251). *Unity of Reason*, Ch. 12. **W Pres. 7:** §§63-64 (244-251) (natural things as natural purposes)
- Week 14 MW May 6, 8:** Analytic Tel. §§65-68 (pp. 251-264); **W Pres. 8:** §§67-68 (257-264) (teleology and natural science).
- Week 15 MW May 13,15:** Review
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