

Philosophy Board of Study
SUNY/Purchase
Spring 1993

THE CRITICAL PHILOSOPHY OF IMMANUEL KANT: 1724–1804

TEXTS: Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason* [1781¹ = A; 1787² = B], Norman Kemp Smith, tr., London: Macmillan, 1933² (PB: New York: St. Martin's, 1965) [**CPR**].

Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysic of Morals* [1785], H.J. Paton, tr., London: Hutchinson, 1956³ (PB: New York: Harper & Row, 1964) [**GMM**].

Kant, *The Metaphysics of Morals* [1797], Mary Gregor, tr. (PB: Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1991) [**MM**].

Kant, *On History*, L.W. Beck, ed. & tr. (PB: Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1963) [**OH**].

See [Bibliography](#) for further Kant texts and secondary materials.

PREREQUISITES: EITHER History of Philosophy I & II OR permission of instructor.

PURPOSE: To develop a working comprehension of Kant's critical project and its definitive place in the Western concept of 'Culture.'

KANT IN CONTEXT: 'Kultur' vs. 'Civilisation'

1/21 Introductory: On Kant's Completion of a 'Revolution' in Philosophy: Philosophy as Labor (*Arbeit*) as opposed to Activity (*Energie*).

1/25 "What Is Enlightenment?" [1784, in **OH**, 3–10].

"Idea for a Universal History from a Cosmopolitan Point of View" [1784, in **OH**, 11–26].

RECOMMENDED: Norbert Elias, "On the Sociogenesis of the Concepts 'Civilization' and 'Culture,'" in *The History of Manners*, New York: Pantheon, 1978.

**PART ONE: The Critique of Pure Reason (Synthetic Presentation =
Critique of Pure Reason, 1781 & 1787)**

1/28 **CPR**, Prefaces, A [= 1781] vii–xxii, & B [= 1787] vii–xliv.

2/1 **CPR**, Introduction, B 1–30.

RECOMMENDED: L.W. Beck, "Can Kant's Synthetic Judgments Be Made Analytic?" [in both the R.P. Wolff and the M.S. Gram anthologies].

I. The Transcendental Doctrine of Elements

A. Transcendental Aesthetic

2/4 **CPR**, Space and Time (Sections 1–8), B 33–73.

RECOMMENDED: Körner, *Kant*, ch. 2, pp. 33–42.

- 2/8 An Anticipation of Kant's Doctrine of the Mathematical Construction of Intuitions: **CPR**, B 740–766.
RECOMMENDED: Körner, *The Philosophy of Mathematics*, pp. 25–31.
FIRST PAPER DUE: *Either* Topic I: “Why does Kant say that Space and/or Time are Empirically Real and Transcendentally Ideal?” *or* Topic II: An Interpretation of Kant's Sentence [at B 741]: “To *construct* a concept means to exhibit *a priori* the intuition which corresponds to the concept.” (2 pp.)

B. Transcendental Logic

Introduction, Idea of a Transcendental Logic, **CPR**, B 74–88.

1. Transcendental Analytic, Bk. I, Analytic of Concepts

- 2/11 Ch. I, “The Clue to the Discovery of all Pure Concepts of the Understanding” [including the “Metaphysical Deduction,” Section 10], **CPR** (Sections 9–12), B 89–116.
- 2/15 Ch. II, “The Deduction of the Pure Concepts of the Understanding” [including the “Objective Deduction,” Section 14], **CPR** (Sections 13–14), B 116–129.
RECOMMENDED: Vleeschauwer, *Development*, pp. 62–75.
SECOND PAPER DUE: An Analysis of One Paragraph (in context): A 92 = B 124–A 93 = B 126 (“The Objective Deduction,” see A xvii) (2 pp.).
- 2/18 Ch. II (cont., the “First Step” of the “Subjective Deduction”), **CPR** (Sections 15–21), B 129–146.
RECOMMENDED: Henrich, “The Proof-Structure of Kant's Transcendental Deduction” [see bibliography].
- 2/22 Ch. II (cont., the “Second Step” of the “Subjective Deduction”), **CPR** (Sections 22–27), B 146–169.
THIRD PAPER DUE: “On the Two Steps of the Subjective Deduction” (2 pp.).

2. Transcendental Analytic, Bk. II, Analytic of Principles

- 2/25 Introduction and Ch. I, “Schematism,” **CPR**, B 169–187.
- 3/1 Ch. II, “System of all Principles of Pure Understanding,” including the “Axioms of Intuition” and the “Anticipations of Perception,” **CPR**, B 187–218.
- 3/4 Ch. II (cont.), “Analogies of Experience,” **CPR**, B 218–265.
RECOMMENDED: Schrader, “Kant's Theory of Concepts” [in Wolff anthology].
- 3/8 Ch. II (cont.), “Postulates of Empirical Thought” and “Refutation of Idealism,” **CPR**, B 265–294.
FOURTH PAPER DUE: “On the Second Analogy” (3 pp.).
- 3/11 Ch. III, “Phenomena and Noumena” and “Concepts of Reflection,” **CPR**, B 294–349.
RECOMMENDED: Schrader, “The Thing in Itself in Kantian Philosophy” [in Wolff anthology].

3. Transcendental Dialectic, Bk. I, The Concepts of Pure Reason

- 3/15 **CPR**, B 349–396.

4. Transcendental Dialectic, Bk. II, The Dialectical Inferences of Pure Reason

- 3/18 Ch. I, The Paralogisms of Pure Reason, **CPR**, B 396–432.
Ch. II, The Antinomy of Pure Reason, **CPR**, B 432–435; the Third Antinomy, B473–479.
[SPRING BREAK: 3/20–28]
- 3/29 Ch. III, Sect. 4, “The Impossibility of an Ontological Proof of the Existence of God,” B 620–630 [N.B., “*Being* is obviously not a real predicate,” B 626], and Appendix to the Transcendental Dialectic: The Regulative Employment of the Ideas of Pure Reason, **CPR**, B 670–696.

II. Transcendental Doctrine of Method

- 4/1 Ch. I, “The Discipline of Pure Reason” [On mathematical construction], **CPR**, B 735–785.

**PART TWO: The Critique of Practical Reason (in Analytic Presentation =
Groundwork of the Metaphysic of Morals, 1785)**

- 4/5 **GMM**, Preface and Ch. I, “Passage from Ordinary Rational Knowledge of Morality to Philosophical.”
- 4/8 **GMM**, Ch. II, “Passage from Popular Moral Philosophy to a Metaphysic of Morals.”
- 4/12 **GMM**, Ch. III, “Passage from a Metaphysic of Morals to a Critique of Pure Practical Reason.”

PART THREE: The Metaphysics of Morals (= *The Metaphysics of Morals*, 1797)

- 4/15 **MM**, Part One, Metaphysical First Principles of the Doctrine of Right: Preface, Introduction to the Metaphysics of Morals, Introduction to the Doctrine of Right, Division of the Doctrine of Right [**MM**, 35–67].
- 4/19 **MM**, Part One, I. Private Right [**MM**, 68–122].
- 4/22 **MM**, Part One, II. Public Right [**MM**, 123–177].
- 4/26 **MM**, Part Two, Metaphysical First Principles of the Doctrine of Virtue: Preface, Introduction to the Doctrine of Virtue [**MM**, 181–213].
- 4/29 **MM**, Part Two, I. Doctrine of Elements of Ethics, A. On Duties to Oneself as Such [**MM**, 214–242].
- 5/3 **MM**, Part Two, I. Doctrine of Elements of Ethics, B. Duties of Virtue to Others [**MM**, 243–265].
FIFTH PAPER DUE: “Is the Notion of ‘Virtue’ (as a plausible translation of Aristotelian *arete*) Compatible with Kant’s Doctrine of Practical Reason?” (<6 pp.)
- 5/6 **MM**, Part Two, II. Doctrine of the Methods of Ethics [**MM**, 266–279].
- 5/10 Final Examination (with special reference to the idea of will as practical reason and the difference between ‘Kultur’ and ‘civilisation’).

REQUIREMENTS: Attendance at *all* classes; careful preparation of readings for all classes; knowledgeable participation in all classes; periodic short essays; final examination. On style and timeliness of the essays, please consult the handout “[Ten Clues to Better Papers in Philosophy.](#)”