

PHL 314: Kant

University of Toronto, Winter 2022

Instructor: Prof. Owen Pikkert, owen.pikkert@mail.utoronto.ca
Lecture hours: Mondays 1:00-2:00, Wednesdays 2:00-3:00, IB 379/Zoom
Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 11:00-12:00

Course description

In this course we will read the majority of Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*. Our aim will be to master some of the main ideas and arguments in this book. Topics to be discussed include our knowledge of necessary truths, the nature of space and time, the ordering of appearances according to various categories and principles, our ignorance of ultimate reality, ways in which reason contradicts itself with respect to the soul, the world, and God, and other topics as well.

Logistics

Evaluation. Two tests at 20% each (on Mar 2 and Apr 6), a presentation at 20% (date determined at beginning of semester), a final paper at 30% (due Apr 8), and participation at 10%.

Textbook. Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*. Translated and edited by Paul Guyer and Allen Wood. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998. The U of T bookstore stocks hard copies as well as more affordable [digital copies](#) (scroll all the way down until you see UTM Winter PHL314H5S).

Office hours. Please email the professor at least one day in advance to schedule a session between 11:00 to 12:00 on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Tests. The first test covers the lectures from Jan 19 to Feb 28 (the first three lectures will not be covered, as they are introductory in nature). The second test covers the lectures from Mar 7 to Apr 4. Each test consists of 30 multiple choice questions and three short answer questions, and are 50 minutes long. They are factual in nature, so do not require any original argumentation.

Presentation. The first hour on Mondays will be devoted to student presentations. Each presentation will be on some portion of the *Critique of Pure Reason*; students will have the opportunity at the beginning of the semester to decide which portion they want to focus on. Students will receive full marks if they do all three of the following, half marks if they only do two of the following, and no marks otherwise: (i) present for 15-30 minutes (including any class discussion); (ii) raise at least one prepared question for the class; (iii) show evidence of genuine effort to understand and present the chosen material. Given time constraints, students may choose to only focus on a short section of the assigned reading.

Final paper. The final paper may be on any section of the *Critique of Pure Reason*. It is to be 8 to 12 pages in length (double-spaced), and include both exposition and philosophical critique. The topic of the final paper may be the same as that of the presentation. Late papers will be penalized at 5% for each calendar day, and papers more than one week late will not be accepted. Further instructions will be posted to Quercus well in advance of the deadline.

Participation. Participation marks are gained both via attendance and via active engagement during student presentations and lectures. You are allowed to skip two lectures, no questions asked, before your participation mark is affected.

Extensions. The philosophy department, not your instructor, handles requests for extensions. To request an extension, please follow [these instructions](#). Note that busyness is not an adequate excuse.

Email policy. Only use email for short logistical questions that are not already answered on Quercus. Philosophical and textual questions are best saved for office hours. Emails will typically receive a response within a couple of days.

Lecture recordings and copyright. This course, including your participation, will be recorded on video and will be available to students in the course for viewing remotely and after each session [at least until Jan 31]. The recordings will be available on the Zoom Cloud. To access the recordings, click on "Pages" and then "Recordings". Course videos and materials belong to your instructor, the University, and/or other sources depending on the specific facts of each situation and are protected by copyright. Do not download, copy, or share any course or student materials or videos without the explicit permission of the instructor. For questions about the recording and use of videos in which you appear, please contact your instructor.

Plagiarism detection tool. Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University's plagiarism detection tool for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the tool's reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of this tool are described on the [Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation](#).

Academic integrity

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The University of Toronto's [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the process for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

1. Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
2. Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
3. Making up sources or facts.
4. Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment.

On tests and exams:

1. Using or possessing unauthorized aids.
2. Looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test.
3. Misrepresenting your identity.

In academic work:

1. Falsifying institutional documents or grades.
2. Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.

With regard to remote learning and online courses, UTM wishes to remind students that they are expected to adhere to the [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#) regardless of the course delivery method. By offering students the opportunity to learn remotely, UTM expects that students will maintain the same academic honesty and integrity that they would in a classroom setting. Potential academic offences in a digital context include, but are not limited to:

Remote assessments:

1. Accessing unauthorized resources (search engines, chat rooms, Reddit, etc.) for assessments.
2. Using technological aids (e.g. software) beyond what is listed as permitted in an assessment.
3. Posting test, essay, or exam questions to message boards or social media.
4. Creating, accessing, and sharing assessment questions and answers in virtual "course groups."
5. Working collaboratively, in-person or online, with others on assessments that are expected to be completed individually.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#). If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other [institutional resources](#).

Information security

If you are a citizen of another country, and/or accessing your courses at the University of Toronto from a jurisdiction outside of Canada, then please note that you may be subject to the laws of the country in which you are residing, or any country of which you have citizenship. The University of Toronto has a long-established commitment to freedom of expression, with this right enabled by an environment valuing respect, diversity, and inclusion. In your classes, you may be assigned readings or discuss topics that are against the law in other jurisdictions. You are encouraged to become familiar with any local laws that may apply to you and any potential impact on you if course content and information could be considered illegal, controversial, or politically sensitive. If you have any concerns about these issues, please contact your instructor directly to discuss with them.

Lecture schedule

Jan 10	Introduction	
Jan 12	Leibniz's view of the mind	
Jan 17	Hume's view of the mind	
Jan 19	Overview of Kant's project	106-124
Jan 24	Synthetic a priori judgments	136-152
Jan 26	Space	172-178
Jan 31	Time	178-192
Feb 2	The metaphysical deduction of the categories	193-218
Feb 7	The transcendental deduction of the categories	219-226, 245-266
Feb 9	The mathematization of appearances	278-295
Feb 14	Persistence	295-304
Feb 16	Causation and connectedness	304-326
Feb 28	The external world	326-337
Mar 2	Test 1	
Mar 7	Our ignorance of ultimate reality	354-383
Mar 9	The soul	445-458
Mar 14	The world: spatiotemporal limitation and divisibility	459-483
Mar 16	The world: freedom and a necessary being	484-495
Mar 21	Resolving the conflicts of reason	496-550
Mar 23	God: the ontological argument	551-569
Mar 28	God: the cosmological and teleological arguments	569-589
Mar 30	The regulative use of the ideas of reason	590-623
Apr 4	The canon of pure reason	672-704
Apr 6	Test 2	
Apr 8	Final paper	