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PHL 464.01: Kant

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KANT

(1) INTENT OF THE COURSE

The intent of the course is to provide students with a thorough knowledge of Kant's Critique of Pure Reason and of its philosophical and cultural contexts. In addition students' knowledge of Kantian ethics will be extended into Kant's social and international ethics.

(2) TEXTS

Brittan, Kant's Theory of Science (coursepac)

Kant, Critique of Pure Reason (Cambridge ed.)

Kant, On the Proverb (coursepac)

(3) TEXTS ON RESERVE IN THE MANSFIELD LIBRARY

Cambridge Companion to Kant

Gram, ed., Kant: Disputed Questions

Höffe, Immanuel Kant

Wolff, ed., Kant: A Collection of Critical Essays

Kleingeld, "The Problematic Status of Gender-Neutral Language" (also on ERes)

Zoeller, "Main Developments in Recent Scholarship on the Critique of Pure Reason" (also on ERes)

We will read the Critique from January 24 till roughly April 11 and On the Proverb from April 13 through May 6. On the Wednesdays of February 2 through April 13, we will use the first part of each session to discuss one chapter each of Kant's Theory of Science.

(4) REQUIREMENTS

a. Classroom Participation (one third of course grade)

It will be your obligation to show through participation in the classroom discussion that you are keeping up with the reading assignments and are in command of the material presented in class. In particular, everyone is to take careful notes and, when called on, to present, on the basis of those notes, a ten-minute summary of the preceding session's main points. It will be my obligation to make everyone feel welcome and encouraged to participate.

b. In-Class Examinations (one third of course grade)

There will be three in-class examinations on February 23, March 28, and on the day of the final, Thursday, May 12 at 10:10 am. Each exam will count for a ninth of the course grade and consist of four course content questions and one essay question on the course material of the preceding third of the semester.

c. Term Paper (one third of course grade)

The term paper should confront a topic of personal and general significance with appropriate themes in Kant, the goal being the mutual illumination of that topic and of Kant's thought. Please formulate a topic of your own and submit an outline by March 30. I will be glad to assist in the selection and formulation of the topic.

Undergraduates should aim at a paper of roughly 2500 words (10 pp.). Secondary material is neither required nor encouraged. The emphasis must be on independent reflection.

Graduates should write a paper of about 3000 words (12 pp.). Here too the emphasis is on original reflection. But there should also be consideration of at least some pieces of Kant scholarship: one or more books, chapters of a book, or articles. An oral report on that piece should be given in class. The report should be about ten minutes in length, giving an exposition and critique of the author's thesis.

The paper must be double-spaced, paginated, paper-clipped, the notes at the end of the paper; no outline or bibliography. Follow any of the standard styles and formats.

Outline due: March 28

Paper due: April 27

(5) NOTE

Office Hours: MW 8:10-9:10 or by appointment in LA 149.

Phone and messages: 243-2792

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If you have a disability, please let me know so that we can provide accommodations.