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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 first with a thorough knowledge of Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* and of its contemporary cultural significance, particularly regarding science and technology, and second an extended knowledge of Kant's ethics and its contemporary relevance for human rights, ethics and the law, and global justice.

(2) TEXTS

Brittan, *Kant's Theory of Science*, chs. 1-4.

Nussbaum, *Creating Capabilities*, chs. 1, 2, 4, 6, and 7.

Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason* (Cambridge ed.).

Kant, "Theory and Practice" (coursepac).

We will spend roughly two weeks on the introduction to Kant, two weeks on Brittan, five weeks on the *Critique*, two weeks on Nussbaum, and three weeks on "Theory and Practice."

Books on reserve at the Mansfield Library as well as references, links to articles, etc. can be found on Moodle.

(3) Requirements

a. Classroom Participation (two thirds of course grade)

1. Toward the end of every other Tuesday, and on the day of the final, Thursday, May 10, at 8:00 AM, there will be a twenty minute test of three questions on the material covered in the preceding two weeks (not including the material of the Tuesday on which the test is given). You can make up a missed test prior to the next test. Otherwise you receive an F.

The first test is on February 6.

2. You can raise (but not lower) the overall test grade through class participation, asking for clarifications, asking questions of any kind, and offering objections or comments.

b. 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 13. 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 not required. 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 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 or formats.

The paper is due April 24.

Outline due: March 13.

Paper due: April 24.

(4) NOTE

Please let me know if you have a disability so we can provide accommodations.

Office Hours: TR, 10:00-10:30 AM; W, 11:00-11:30 AM; and by appointment in LA 149.

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