AS 150.4XX Kant

XX 20XX

Instructor:	Fergus Horan	**Time:**	2x Weekly, TBD
Email:	fhoran3@jh.edu	**Location:**	TBD
Discussion Hours:	TBD	**Term:**	XX 20XX

Course Description

Immanuel Kant (1724-1804) is arguably the most significant philosopher of the enlightenment, and has a towering influence in Western philosophy and beyond. In this course we will study two of his major works, the *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals* and the *Critique of Pure Reason*. We will begin with Kant's ethical theory, before turning to his account of our mind and the natural world. Our focus will be on Kant's unique answer to the question of what our place is in the natural world: that we ourselves partially constitute it, and that if this was not the case, ethics, physics, mathematics, and philosophy would all be impossible.

Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, students will be:

- Able to engage with and compare texts from the early modern period.
- Discuss different interpretations of a philosopher.
- Able to deconstruct and construct philosophical arguments.

Assessment

- **Weekly in-class paragraphs – 10%**

  Every week, we will begin one of our sessions by writing for 10 minutes a brief response to one of the readings.

- **Class participation – 10%**

  Students are expected to participate in class by asking questions, and doing so will lead to a participation grade based on participation across the course.

- **Midterm Exam – 30%**

  The midterm has two parts. The first is a Kant vocabulary quiz; students will have a sheet to practice from. The second is a writing task: students are provided with a paragraph we have read, and are asked to present the argument in premise-conclusion form. They

are then asked to present an objection to a premise, and say how Kant would try to resist the objection.

- **Final Paper, 3000 words – 50%**

  The final assignment is a paper in continuous prose. Prompts will be suggested, but students will also be able to choose their own topics, with approval. **You are expected to meet with either the professor or TA to finalise your essay topics.** No additional reading beyond that set in the course is required.

Academic Integrity

The strength of the university depends on academic and personal integrity. In this course, you must be honest and truthful. For this course, possible ethical violations include plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration on term papers.

Report any violations you witness to the instructor. You may consult the associate dean of student conduct, or designee, by calling the Office of the Dean of Students at 410-516-8208 or via email at studentconduct@jhu.edu.

If you are unsure about whether a particular act counts as plagiarism, please feel free to discuss this with the instructor.

Accommodations

Johns Hopkins University values diversity and inclusion. We are committed to providing welcoming, equitable, and accessible educational experiences for all students. Students with disabilities, including those with psychological conditions, medical conditions, and temporary disabilities, can request accommodations for this course by providing an Accommodation Letter issued by Student Disability Services (SDS). Please request accommodations for this course as early as possible to provide time for effective communication and arrangements.

For further information or to start the process of requesting accommodations, please contact Student Disability Services at Homewood Campus, Shaffer Hall #101, call 410-516-4720, email studentdisabilityservices@jhu.edu, or visit the website: https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/disabilities/.

If you anticipate needing accommodations for religious reasons, including time off for religious holidays, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

You are welcome to bring a person under your care, such as a child, to class on occasional days when your responsibilities require it, for example, if emergency child care is unavailable, or for health needs of a relative.

Anxiety, Stress, and Mental Health

If you are struggling with anxiety, stress, depression, or other mental health-related

concerns, please consider visiting the JHU Counseling Center. If you are concerned about a friend, please encourage that person to seek out their services. The Counseling Center is located at 3003 North Charles Street in Suite S-200 and can be reached at 410-516-8278 and online at http://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/counselingcenter/.

Class Climate

I am committed to creating a classroom environment that values the freedom of speech, diversity of experiences, and perspectives that all students bring. Everyone here has the right to be treated with dignity and respect, while expressing their views. I believe fostering a free and inclusive climate is important because research and my experience show that students who interact with peers who are different from themselves learn new things and experience tangible educational outcomes.

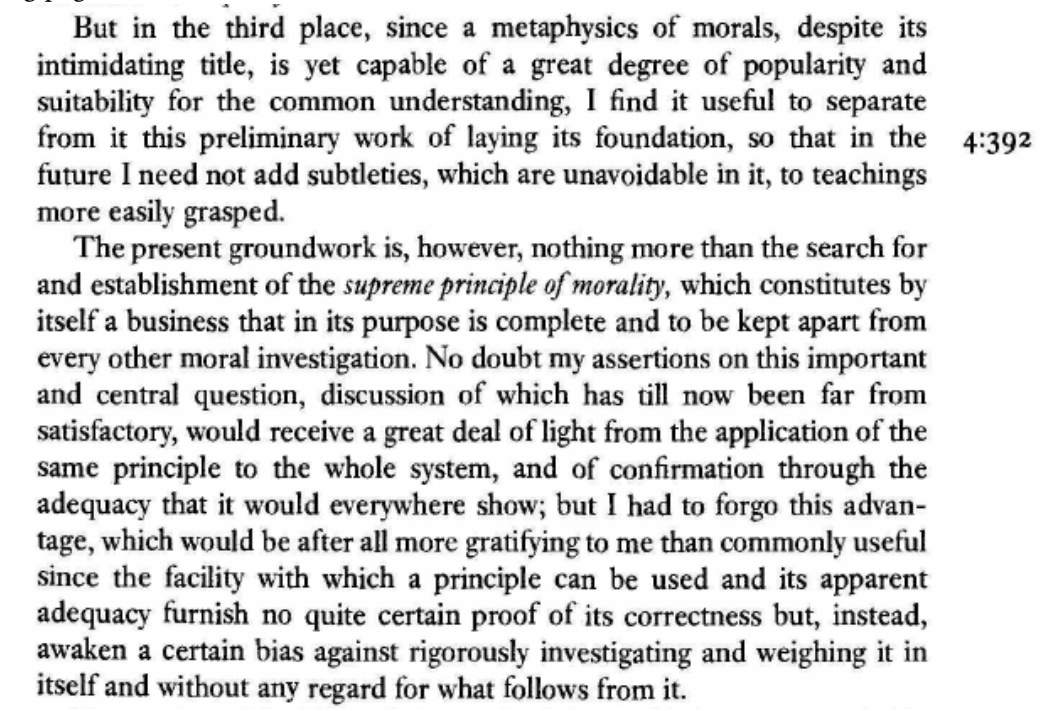
If you ever have concerns in this course about harassment, discrimination, or any unequal treatment, or if you seek accommodations or resources, I invite you to share directly with the instructor. I promise that we will take your communication seriously and seek mutually acceptable resolutions and accommodations. Reporting will never impact your course grade. You may also share concerns with the department chair, Steven Gross, sgross11@jh.edu; the Director of Undergraduate Studies, Hilary Bok, hbok@jh.edu; the Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusion, Darlene Saporu, dsaporu@jhu.edu; or the Office of Institutional Equity, oie@jhu.edu.

In handling reports, people will protect your privacy as much as possible, but faculty and staff are required to officially report information for some cases, e.g. sexual harassment.

AS 150.4XX Kant

Schedule and Readings

IMPORTANT: We are working from the Cambridge editions of Kant. They are available through the liberary at the following links: *Groundwork* and *Critique*. You *must* use these texts and cite them using the inline German pagination. For example, if you had the following page:



But in the third place, since a metaphysics of morals, despite its intimidating title, is yet capable of a great degree of popularity and suitability for the common understanding, I find it useful to separate from it this preliminary work of laying its foundation, so that in the future I need not add subtleties, which are unavoidable in it, to teachings more easily grasped. 4:392

The present groundwork is, however, nothing more than the search for and establishment of the *supreme principle of morality*, which constitutes by itself a business that in its purpose is complete and to be kept apart from every other moral investigation. No doubt my assertions on this important and central question, discussion of which has till now been far from satisfactory, would receive a great deal of light from the application of the same principle to the whole system, and of confirmation through the adequacy that it would everywhere show; but I had to forgo this advantage, which would be after all more gratifying to me than commonly useful since the facility with which a principle can be used and its apparent adequacy furnish no quite certain proof of its correctness but, instead, awaken a certain bias against rigorously investigating and weighing it in itself and without any regard for what follows from it.

You should quote Kant by writing, for example "The present groundwork is, however, nothing more than the search for and establishment of the *supreme principle of morality*, which constitutes by itself a business that in its purpose is complete and to be kept apart from every other moral investigation" (4:392).

The *Critique of Pure Reason* has two editions: A (1781) and B (1787). Both are presented in the Cambridge edition, but we are in general sticking to the B edition.

We meet twice weekly: if there is only one reading listed, that is the material for the entire week. Students are expected to have completed this reading before class, so that they can engage in writing and discussing their responses to the paper.

Part I: Morality and Idealism

1. *Groundwork* Preface and §1

1. *Groundwork* 4:385-4:405

2. *Groundwork* §2

1. 4:406-4:425

3. *Groundwork* §2

1. 4:425-4:445

4. *Groundwork* §3

1. 4:446-4:463

5. B Preface and Introduction to the *Critique*

1. *Critique of Pure Reason* Bvii-Bxliv
2. B1-30

6. The Transcendental Aesthetic

1. B33-58
2. B58-73

Part II: Nature and the Mind

7. Introducing the Understanding

1. **MIDTERM EXAM.**
2. B74-86, B91-116

8. The Deduction in A

1. A84-110
2. A110-130

9. The Deduction in B

1. B129-143
2. B144-169

10. Kant on Substance and Soul

1. The First Analogy, B224-232
2. The First Paralogism, B399-413

11. Defending Causality

1. The Second Analogy, B232-256

12. Freedom and Determinism

1. The Antinomy of Pure Reason, B432-435, Third Conflict of the Transcendental Ideas, B472-9
2. Rsolution of the cosmological idea of the totality of the derivation of occurrences in the world from their causes, B560-586

13. Idealism Revisited

1. On the ground of the distinction of all objects into *phenomena* and *noumena*, B294-315
2. Refutation of idealism, B274-279