

PHIL 403 Kant's Political Philosophy

Fall 2013
MW 2:30-3:45 White Hall 101

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Bowden Hall 110
MW: 1-2pm and by appointment

Description: This course examines Kant's political philosophy through the methodological continuities between his Critical System and his short essays on history and politics. By the end of the course, students will have a more holistic and systematic understanding of Kant's so-called minor writings on history and politics. This means that they will come to see these essays not as deliberations on the popular ideas of his day or mere extensions of his moral theory, but as applications of critical philosophy and its method. It is expected that students have some background in and familiarity with Kant's epistemology as well as his moral theory.

Texts:

Students must obtain a copy of Kant: Political Writings, [KPW] Edited by H.S. Reiss, available at Bookstore. (ISBN: 0521398371). Additional readings are available on Library Course Reserves. Students interested in further resources should consult with the professor. You must bring a hard copy of the assigned text(s) to class.

Assignment Schedule

This is subject to change at the discretion of the professor. Please check your email and Blackboard regularly to be updated on what is due each day. The essays are in **KPW** unless noted otherwise.

Kant's Political Philosophy: Context and Method

Week 1

August 28 Wednesday: Syllabus and Introductory lecture on Kant's Political Philosophy

Sep 2 Monday: Labor day - No class

Sep 4 Wednesday: "What is Enlightenment?"

Week 2

September 9 Monday: "What is Enlightenment?," cont'd. "What is Orientation in Thinking?"

September 11 Wednesday: "Orientation," cont'd.

Note: September 12 Thursday at 4:15pm: Lecture by Dr. Lynne Huffer, "Foucault, Ethics, and Return to Nature in Feminism" Room: White Hall 205

Week 3

September 16 Monday: "Orientation," cont'd. Appendix to the Transcendental Dialectic in the *Critique of Pure Reason* [on Library e-reserves]

September 18 Wednesday: Appendix, cont'd.

History & Politics

Week 4

September 23 Monday: “Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Intent”

September 25 Wednesday: “Idea,” cont’d.

Week 5

September 30 Monday: Review of Herder’s *Ideas on the Philosophy of the History of Humankind*“

October 2 Wednesday: “Conjectures on the Beginning of Human History”

Paper 1 due online by 5pm on Friday October 4th

Week 6

October 7 Monday: “Conjectures,” cont’d. “Contest of the Faculties”

October 9 Wednesday: “Contest of the Faculties,” cont’d.

Note: October 10 Thursday at 4:15pm: Lecture by Dr. José Medina, “Racial Insensitivity and Epistemic Responsibility” Room: White Hall 205

Week 7

October 14 Monday: Fall Break – no class.

October 16 Wednesday: “Contest of the Faculties,” cont’d. Catch up day.

Week 8

October 21 Monday: Sections 40 and 82-84 of the *Critique of Judgment* [on Library e-reserve]

October 23 Wednesday: *Critique of Judgment* selections, cont’d. [Note: Short Class – see Blackboard>Assignments for Oct 23]

Morality & Politics

Week 9

October 28 Monday: Selections from *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals* [On Library e-reserve]

October 30 Wednesday: *Grounding*, cont’d.

Week 10

November 4 Monday: *Grounding*, Cont’d.

November 6 Wednesday: “Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch,” cont’d.

Paper 2 due online by 5pm Friday on November 1st

Week 11

November 11 Monday: “Perpetual Peace,” cont’d.

November 13 Wednesday: “Perpetual Peace,” cont’d.

Week 12

November 18 Monday: Selections from *Metaphysics of Morals*

November 20 Wednesday: Selections from *Metaphysics of Morals*

Note: November 21 Thursday at 4:15pm: Lecture by Dr. Cynthia Willet, “Cosmopolitanism Across Species” Room: TBA

Anthropology, Geography, and Politics

Week 13

November 25 Monday: Selections from *Anthropology from a Pragmatic Point of View* [On Library e-reserve]

November 27 Wednesday: NO CLASS – U.S. Thanksgiving Holiday – See Blackboard for what is due next class.

Recommended Reading: *Observations on the Feeling of the Beautiful and the Sublime* [on Library E-reserve]

Week 14

December 2 Monday: Selections from *Physical Geography*, [On Library e-reserve]

December 4 Wednesday: *Physical Geography*, cont'd.

December 9 Monday: Final paper workshop and discussion

*****Final Paper Due Online by 5pm on Wednesday December 18th *****