

## PHIL 789R - Topics in Philosophy: Provincializing Kant

Huseinzadegan, Fri 1:00PM - 4:00 PM, Bowden Hall 216

### Content:

Toward the end of his career, Immanuel Kant writes that the three questions that summarize both his philosophical system and the field of philosophy in the cosmopolitan sense—"What can I know?, What ought I to do?, and What may I hope?"—all refer to anthropology, namely to the question, "What is the human being?". Taking this last question as our point of departure, this seminar will investigate Kant's philosophico-political anthropology by situating it in the context of European modernity/coloniality and "philosophy in the cosmopolitan sense." Our orientation will, thus, be one of provincializing Kant.

Main themes and focal questions include: the role of teleology in history and culture; the meaning and legacies of both the *humanitas/anthropos* distinction and the culture/race/ethnicity complex; the emergence of anthropology as a colonial discourse; gender, race, and sexuality in the European Enlightenment; and how to read Kant for and in the present. We will read the relevant texts by Kant, together with writings on the question of the human being and culture from feminist, critical philosophy of race, as well as post- and decolonial perspectives and methodologies.

### Texts:

Chakrabarty, Dipesh. *Provincializing Europe*

Dussel, Enrique. *The Invention of the Americas and the Myth of Modernity* [full text available online]

Foucault, Michel. *Introduction to Kant's Anthropology*

--. Selections from *The Order of Things*

--. "What is Enlightenment?"

--. "What is Critique?"

Kant, Immanuel. *Observations on the Feeling of the Beautiful and the Sublime*

--. "Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Aim"

--. "What is Enlightenment?"

--. "Toward Perpetual Peace"

--. Selections from *The Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*

--. "On the Use of Teleological Principles"

--. Selections from *The Critique of Judgment*

--. Selections from *Anthropology from a Pragmatic Point of View*

--. Selections from *Physical Geography*

Mbembe, Achille. *Critique of Black Reason*

McClintock, Anne. *Imperial Leather: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the Colonial Contest*

Narayan, Uma. *Dislocating Cultures: Identities, Traditions, and Third World Feminisms*

Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty, *A Critique of Postcolonial Reason*

Additional Essays and Selections by: Anthony Kwame Appiah, Robert Bernasconi, Homi Bhabha, Aimé Césaire, Alix Cohen, Enrique Dussel, Emanuel Chukwudi Eze, Patrick Frierson, Robert Loudon, María Lugones, Jennifer Mensch, Walter Mignolo, Charles Mills, Nelson Maldonado-Torres, Inder Marwah, Anibal Quijano, Sonia Sikka, Robert Young, Holly Wilson, Sylvia Wynter, John Zammuto, and others {to be finalized according to seminar participants' interests and made available on Canvas}.