

Kant - *Critique of Pure Reason*

Term 1 Academic Year 2001-2002

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The following details the topics for each lecture together with the sections of the CPR appropriate to it, and secondary reading. The bibliography and essay questions for the course are given at the end. The edition of the CPR used is the translation by P. Guyer and A. Wood, Cambridge University Press.

The course occupies the autumn term 2001, ten lectures in all, with a fortnightly "back-up" classes.

Lecture 1

Introduction to Kant and the CPR: Kant's problem and project surveyed: the structure of the CPR:

Kant's fundamental concepts.

Prefaces to A and B editions

Prolegomena Introduction

Strawson pp 15-24, 38-42

Gardner ch 1

Ewing pp 1-18

Scruton chs 1-2

Wilkerson Ch 1

Korner pp 13-16

Transcendental Philosophy

The CPR's "Introduction"

Prolegomena Introduction and Preamble

Strawson pp 42-4

Ewing pp 18-27

Gardner chs 2-3

Walker ch 1

Wilkerson pp 9-11

Kemp Smith pp 26-43

Korner pp 17-27

Kemp pp 11-15

Lecture 2

The Transcendental Aesthetic: Space and Time; Transcendental Idealism

CPR Transcendental Aesthetic — especially: §§1-8 (B 33-73)

Prolegomena Part One, Remarks I-III

Kant's Inaugural Dissertation (*Pre-Critical Writings*)

Kant's Letter to Herz (*Pre-Critical Writings* pp 111-118)

Gardner ch 4

Strawson Pt II ch 1

Walker chs 3-5

Wilkerson ch 2

Korner ch 2

Allison chs 1-2, ch 5 esp. pp 98-114

Lecture 3

Transcendental Deduction: The Categories: Synthesis and Apperception

CPR B74-69

Prolegomena §§14-23

Gardner ch 6 pp 115-165

Ewing pp 69-67

Strawson pt II ch 2

Allison ch 7

Guyer "The Transcendental Deduction of the Categories" *Cambridge Companion to Kant*

Kemp pp 23-8

Scruton ch 3

Walker ch 6

Wilkerson pp 45-54

Lecture 4

The Analogies of Experience

CPR B169-265 esp Schematism (B176-87) and the First and Second Analogies (B224-56)

Prolegomena §§26-9

Gardner ch 6 pp 165-183

Ewing ch 4

Allison ch 9

Strawson pt II ch 3

Kemp pp 29-37

Korner pp 80-91

Scruton pp 35-9

Wilkerson ch 4

Walker ch 6

Lecture 5

The Refutation of Idealism; Noumenal Reality

CPR B265-396 esp B274-9; see the footnote in the Preface to the 2nd Ed (Bxxxix-xli) and the

Fourth Paralogism A366-380

Prolegomena §49

Allison ch 14

Strawson pp 125-8

Gardner pp 183-196

Ewing pp 176-187

Wilkerson pp 81-91

Walker pp 110-118

Noumenal Reality

CPR B294-349, esp. A248-260 and B305-315

Gardner ch 6 pp 198-206

Ewing pp 187-198

Allison ch 11

Strawson pt 4

Scruton pp 44-46

Walker ch 8

Lecture 6

Transcendental Idealism

CPR see esp. B40-45, B49-73; B294-315; A366-380; B518-535

Prolegomena pt I remarks I-III, pt II §§28, 36-38; Appendix

Kant Letter to Herz

Allison chs 1-2, 11

Gardner pp 188-196; ch 8

Ewing pp 187-95

Strawson pt 4

Bird "Kant's Transcendental Idealism" in Vesey (ed.) *Idealism Past and Present*

Guyer pt V

Wilkerson ch 9

Lecture 7

The Transcendental Dialectic

CPR The Transcendental Dialectic, from the beginning up to but excluding the Paralogisms
(A293-340/B349-398) esp A293-311/B349-368; A321-140/B377-398; A642-648/B670-676;
A663-682/B691-710

Prolegomena §§31, 33, 35, 40-45, 56-60

Ewing pp 199-201

Korner pp 105-111

Gardner ch 7

Strawson pp 155-161

Ameriks 'The Critique of Metaphysics' in Guyer *Cambridge Companion to Kant*

Lecture 8

Paralogisms and The Antinomies

CPR A341-405, B399-432

Prolegomena §§46-9

Gardner pp 225-255

Allison pp 278-286

Strawson pp 162-169

Ameriks chs 2-6

Ewing pp 201-208

Korner pp 111-113

The Antinomies

CPR A406-567/B432-595 esp A405-461/B432-489 and A497-507/B525-535

Prolegomena §§50-54

Allison ch 3

Gardner pp 243-267

Ewing pp 218-219

Korner pp 117-118

Strawson pp 175-206

Guyer ch 18

Lecture 9

The Ideal of Pure Reason

CPR the Fourth Antinomy A452-461/B480-489 and its Solution A559-565/B587-593, and The Ideal of Pure Reason A567-642/B595-670

Gardner pp 264-266

Ewing pp 241-254

Korner pp 118-122

Walker ch 12

Strawson pp 207-221

Lecture 10 Review and Discussion

BIBLIOGRAPHY

See the bibliography and notes in S. Gardner *Kant*. ** = essential * = highly recommended.

Kant:

***Critique of Pure Reason* trans and ed. Guyer and Wood CUP

***Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics*

**Selected Pre-Critical Writings* trans. Kerford and Walford

Standard German edition (the *Akademie* or Prussian edition):

Kants gesammelte Schriften ed. Koniglich Preussischen Akademie der Wissenschaften (Berlin 1900).

Introductory books:

*S. Gardner *Kant*

*S. Gardner 'Kant' in Grayling (ed.) *Philosophy 2: Further Through the Subject*

E. Cassirer *Kant's Life and Thought*

J. Kemp *The Philosophy of Kant*

S. Korner *Kant*

*R. Scruton *Kant*

Commentaries:

A. C. Ewing *A Short Commentary to Kant's 'Critique of Pure Reason'*

T. E. Wilkerson *Kant's 'Critique of Pure Reason'*

Advanced Studies:

*H. E. Allison *Kant's Transcendental Idealism: An Interpretation and Defence*

P. Guyer *Kant and the Claims of Knowledge*

*P. F. Strawson *The Bounds of Sense*

R. Walker *Kant*

Collections of Papers:

L. W. Beck (ed.) *Kant's Studies Today*

L. W. Beck (ed.) *Kant's Theory of Knowledge*

E. Forster (ed.) *Kant's Transcendental Deductions*

**P. Guyer (ed.) *The Cambridge Companion to Kant*

T. Penelhum & J. Macintosh (eds.) *The First Critique*

R. Walker (ed.) *Kant on Pure Reason*

R. P. Wolff (ed.) *Kant: A Collection of Critical Essays (Pt I)*

A. Wood (ed.) *Self and Nature in Kant's Philosophy*

ESSAYS

The essay topics follow the chronology of the lecture course.

— State and evaluate Kant's claim that there are synthetic a priori judgments.

— What does Kant mean by claiming that space and time are (a) priori and (b) intuitions? Assess his argument.

— What is the aim of the Transcendental Deduction? Does it succeed?

- Expound and discuss Kant's concepts of (a) synthesis and (b) the transcendental unity of apperception.
 - To what degree are you persuaded by Kant's arguments in the Analogies for the principles of substance and causality?
 - Discuss Kant's claim that the understanding 'is itself the lawgiver of nature' (A126)
 - Does Kant succeed in refuting scepticism about the external world?
 - Explain and critically discuss Kant on the concept of the noumenon.
 - Explain and evaluate the connections Kant draws among (a) thing in itself (b) transcendental object (c) noumenon.
 - Is the doctrine of transcendental idealism coherent?
 - Critically assess Kant's notion of 'transcendental illusion'.
 - What is the distinction between 'ideas of reason' and 'pure concepts of the understanding'?
- What does Kant mean by distinguishing between their 'regulative' rather than 'constitutive' role?
- What use does Kant make of the principle that if the 'conditioned' is given, so too is the 'unconditioned' given?
 - According to Kant, what are the limits to knowledge of the self?
 - Explain and discuss Kant's differences from Descartes and Hume on the self.
 - How good are Kant's criticisms of cosmology in the Antinomy? Is he justified in claiming that the Antinomy provides an 'indirect proof' of transcendental idealism?
 - Critically discuss Kant's account of human freedom.
 - Does Kant show that theoretical reason gives no grounds for belief in the existence of a deity?
