

**PHIL 415 001**  
***The Philosophy of Immanuel Kant (Winter 2021, Term 2)***  
**Syllabus**

**Lectures**            Mon, Wed, Fri: 10:00-10:50  
**Instructor**        Dr. Anders Kraal (anders.kraal@ubc.ca).  
**Office hours:**    TBA

**Course description**

Kant is often considered the greatest of modern Western philosophers, and his *Critique of Pure Reason* (1781) is often considered his most important contribution to philosophy. We pursue a careful study of some central themes in this book, focusing on what Kant says in answer to what he considers the three central questions of philosophy: *What can we know? What ought we do? What can we hope for?* We also take a look at Kant's much shorter and more popular book *Critique of Practical Reason*.

**Required texts**

Kant: *Critique of Pure Reason*, trans. J. Meiklejohn (Dover edition).  
Kant: *Critique of Practical Reason*, trans. J. Meiklejohn (Dover edition).

**Course requirements**

There will be two in-class exams and one take-home assignment. Each of these is worth 20% of the final grade. The course will conclude with a final exam, worth 40% of the final grade. For dates, see the schedule at the end of this document.

In the assignment you will be asked to write a 3-4 page text. Unless special permission is granted, assignments are due in class (email attachments not accepted), and late assignments handed in past the deadline will not be accepted. Missed in-class exams will be assigned a grade point of 0. The final exam will be held in December during UBC's final examinations period. Information about the exact date, time and location will be announced in due course. A missed final exam will be assigned a grade point of 0 unless an explanation is provided that is acceptable by the standards of the UBC Academic Calendar (in which case there will be opportunity for a make-up exam).

**Marking scale**

90-100%: A+	76-79%: B+	64-67%: C+	50-54%: D
85-89%: A	72-75%: B	60-63%: C	0-49%: F
80-84%: A-	68-71%: B-	55-59%: C-	

**Learning outcomes**

At the end of the course the student will be expected to (1) be familiar with some main ideas and arguments in Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* and *Critique of Practical Reason*; (2) be able to provide critical reflection on the aforementioned ideas and arguments; and (3) have basic knowledge of how Kant's book has influenced subsequent philosophy.

### **Missed-lecture policy**

If you miss a lecture you won't be able to recover the content of the lecture by emailing the Instructor or the TA asking for a repeat of the lecture via email or going to them during office hours for this purpose. If you anticipate missing lectures, you are strongly encouraged to find a classmate early in the course who is willing to share notes with you.

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism, which is intellectual theft, occurs where an individual submits or presents the oral or written work of another person as his or her own. Scholarship quite properly rests upon examining and referring to the thoughts and writings of others. However, when another person's words (i.e. phrases, sentences, or paragraphs), ideas, or entire works are used, the author must be acknowledged in the text, in footnotes, in endnotes, or in another accepted form of academic citation. Where direct quotations are made, they must be clearly delineated (for example, within quotation marks or separately indented). Failure to provide proper attribution is plagiarism because it represents someone else's work as one's own. Plagiarism should not occur in submitted drafts or final works. A student who seeks assistance from a tutor or other scholastic aids must ensure that the work submitted is the student's own. Students are responsible for ensuring that any work submitted does not constitute plagiarism. Students who are in any doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism should consult their instructor before handing in any assignments. See also <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/Vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,959>

### **UBC values and policies**

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious and cultural observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions. Details of the policies and how to access support are available here (<https://senate.ubc.ca/policiesresources-support-student-success>)

## **Tentative schedule**

### ***January: Preface, Introduction, and Transcendental Aesthetic of the Critique of Pure Reason***

*We study how Kant lays out his project, and seeks to explain how experience is made possible by a priori intuitions of space and time. We conclude with an in-class exam on Jan 27.*

### ***February: Transcendental Analytic and Antimonies of the Critique of Pure Reason***

*We study how Kant seeks to infer the existence of twelve a priori concepts in the mind, and how he argued that they adequately apply to empirical experience. We have an in-class exam on Feb 14. A paper assignment is posted on Canvas on Feb 16 and is due the following week.*

### ***March: Critique of Practical Reason***

*We look at Kant's concluding views on a moral or existential "need" to move beyond knowledge to things that cannot be known but still believed in and hoped for.*

*\*December: Final exam (exact date and location TBA)*