

FIL 4600/10/20: KANT'S CRITIQUE AND CRITICAL METAPHYSICS

Autumn 2012, University of Oslo

Thursdays, 14–16, Georg Morgenstiernes hus 219, Blindern

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SHORT PLAN

- 1 – 23/8: Introduction: Kant's Critical and Scientific Metaphysics
- 2 – 30/8: Transcendental Idealism
- 3 – 6/9: Kant's Transcendental Method
- 4 – 13/9: Transcendental Aesthetic: Space and Time
- 5 – 20/9: Transcendental Analytic I: Metaphysical Deduction of the Categories
- 6 – 27/9: Analytic II: Transcendental Deduction of the Categories, Part 1
- 7 – 4/10: Analytic III: Transcendental Deduction of the Categories, Part 2
- 8 – 11/10: Analytic IV: Schematism and the Transcendental Principles
- 9 – 18/10: Analytic V: Analogies of Experience
- 10 – 25/10: The Limits of Metaphysics: Phenomena & Noumena
- 11 – 1/11: Transcendental Dialectic I: Ideas of Pure Reason and Transcendental Illusion
- 12 – 8/11: Dialectic II: The Paralogisms of Pure Reason: Soul as a Metaphysical Idea
- 13 – 15/11: Dialectic III: The Ideas as Regulative Principles
- 14 – 22/11: Summary: Demarcating between Scientific and Pseudo-Scientific Metaphysics

Examination: 10th of December.

Deadline for essays: 17th of December in Fronter (see semester pages for further information)

The designated literature is to be read before the respective meeting. Additional literature points to supporting material or to related issues that cannot be taken up in the course. In the examination only the primary literature will be assumed. The supplementary literature is there to help in understanding the primary literature, as well as to serve as extension of knowledge for those whose interest in the topics is not exhausted by the primary literature – there will be no questions about any additional texts, nor will knowledge of them be assumed in assessing the examination.

DETAILED PLAN WITH LITERATURE

1 – 23/8: INTRODUCTION: KANT'S CRITICAL AND SCIENTIFIC METAPHYSICS.

- Scientific method for metaphysics; empiricism and rationalism.
- Necessary conditions of experience; reflection.
- Copernican Revolution and transcendental idealism.
- Analytic/Synthetic; *a priori/a posteriori*.

LITERATURE [27 pages]

1. Preface to the 2nd (B) Edition of the *Critique of Pure Reason*: B vii–xxxvii, to the end of the first paragraph.
2. B-Introduction, Sections I to VI: B 1–24.

(Additional literature: *Prolegomena*, Preface, Ak. 4: 255–264*. Kannisto, Toni: *What is the Significance of the Critique of Pure Reason?* Trial lecture, June 2012.

Available from:

http://uio.academia.edu/ToniKannisto/Talks/90246/What_Is_the_Significance_of_the_Critique_of_Pure_Reason)

*** Pages of *Prolegomena* refer to volume 4 of the Academy Edition of Kant's collected works, *Kants gesammelte Schriften*. The pages will be available as printouts: it is not required to acquire a copy of *Prolegomena*.**

2 – 30/8: TRANSCENDENTAL IDEALISM.

- What is objectivity? Material + form.
- Sensibility and the understanding; blindness and emptiness.
- Realism and idealism; transcendental/formal idealism.
- Thing in itself & appearance.

LITERATURE [35]

1. Criticism of the 4th Paralogism, A-Edition, from A 368 (“By an *idealist*”) till A 373 (last full paragraph).
2. Introduction to the Transcendental Logic, Section I: A 50–52/B 74–76, to the end of the first paragraph.
3. *Prolegomena*, Appendix: 374–375, to the end of last full paragraph.
4. Allison, *Kant's Transcendental Idealism (KTI)*, Chapter 2: 20–49, until section III.

(Additional literature: *KTI*, Chapter 3: 50–73. *Prolegomena*, §13 n. III: 290–294.)

3 – 6/9: KANT'S TRANSCENDENTAL METHOD.

- Reflection: cognitive capacities and their limits and conditions.
- Logic and metaphysics.
- Synthetic *a priori*.
- On transcendental deductions and the limits of logic.

LITERATURE [25]

1. B-Introduction, IV–VI: B 10–24.
2. *Prolegomena*, §§ 1–5: 265–280.
3. The System of the Principles, first & second section: A 150–158/B 189–197.
4. The Discipline of Pure Reason, Fourth Section: A 781–794/B 810–822.

(Additional literature: The rest of the Discipline of Pure Reason, –A 708/B 736.)

4 – 13/9: TRANSCENDENTAL AESTHETIC: SPACE & TIME.

- Receptivity and affection.
- Space and time as pure intuitions and forms of sensibility.
- The ideality of space and time: transcendental idealism.
- Geometry and arithmetic as grounded on space and time.

LITERATURE [21]

1. 2nd edition Transcendental Aesthetic, B 33–73.

(Additional literature: *KTI*, Chapter 5: 97–132. Aesthetic of the first edition of the *Critique. Prolegomena*, §§ 6–13, 280–294.)

5 – 20/9: TRANSCENDENTAL ANALYTIC I: METAPHYSICAL DEDUCTION OF THE CATEGORIES.

- General and transcendental logic. Formal and material truth.
- Forms and functions of judgments.
- From logical forms of judgments to ontological forms of objects.
- The categories as pure concepts of the understanding.

LITERATURE [22]

1. Introduction to the Analytic: A 50–64/B 74–88.
2. The Analytic of Concepts: A 65–84/B 90–116.

(Additional literature: *KTI*, Chapter 6: 133–156. *Prolegomena*, §§ 21–22: 302–304; or §§ 14–23: 294–306.)

6 – 27/9: ANALYTIC II: TRANSCENDENTAL DEDUCTION OF THE CATEGORIES, PART 1.

- Deduction as the legitimation of the application of the categories.
- Consciousness and the “I think”: apperception.
- Analysis & synthesis: synthetic unity of apperception.
- Judgment and objective validity.

LITERATURE [15]

1. B-Deduction, §§ 13–20, B 116–143.

(Additional literature: *KTI*, Chapter 7, sections I & II: 159–185.)

7 – 4/10: ANALYTIC III: TRANSCENDENTAL DEDUCTION, PART 2.

- Thinking of objects vs. cognition, i.e., how is the deduction still incomplete?
- Imagination as a mediator between concepts and intuition.
- Apperception vs. inner sense: cognition of self.
- Apprehension and empirical intuition.

LITERATURE [13]

1. B-Deduction, §§ 21–27, B 144–169.

(Additional literature: *KTI*, rest of Chapter 7: 185–201. A-Deduction, A 95–130.)

8 – 11/10: ANALYTIC IV: SCHEMATISM AND THE TRANSCENDENTAL PRINCIPLES.

- *That* the categories apply vs. *how* the categories apply.
- Schemata as time-determinations and as mediators of pure concepts and appearances.
- Objective vs. logical significance: on the so-called unschematised categories.
- The supreme principles of analytic and synthetic judgments.
- Mathematical and dynamical categories and their principles.

LITERATURE [21]

1. Analytic of Principles, A 130–136/B 169–175.
2. Schematism, A 137–147/B 176–187.
3. System of Principles, A 148–162/B 187–202, till the Axioms of Intuition.
4. General Note on the System of Principles: B 288–294.

(Additional literature: *KTI*, Chapter 8: 202–228. Axioms of Intuition: A 162–166/B 202–207. Anticipations of Perception: A 166–176/B 207–218. Postulates of Empirical Thinking in General: A 218–235/B 265–287.)

9 – 18/10: ANALYTIC V: ANALOGIES OF EXPERIENCE.

- Kant *contra* Hume?
- Unity of the three analogies.
- Substance as the ground of alteration and temporal sequence.
- Causality as the ground of temporal order.
- Every-event some-cause vs. same-event same-cause principle.
- The principle of sufficient reason.

LITERATURE [25]

1. The B-Edition Analogies of Experience: B 218–265.

(Additional literature: *KTI*, Chapter 9, 229–274. Especially on the 2nd analogy: 229–236 & 246–260. Prolegomena, §§ 26–30: from 309 (last beginning paragraph) till 313. Eric Watkins, *Kant and the Metaphysics of Causality* (Cambridge 2005), Chapter 3: 185–229.)

10 – 25/10: THE LIMITS OF METAPHYSICS. PHENOMENA & NOUMENA.

- Positive vs. negative sense of noumenon: boundary concept.
- Logical vs. transcendental reflection. Concepts and objects.
- Intellectualization & sensitivization: insufficiency of traditional rationalism and empiricism.

LITERATURE [23]

1. B-Edition Phenomena/Noumena: A 235–60/B 294–315.
2. Appendix (Amphiboly): A 260–281/B 316–338, till the end of first paragraph.
(Additional literature: Amphiboly to the end (–A 292/B 349). A-Edition Phenomena/Noumena.)

11 – 1/11: TRANSCENDENTAL DIALECTIC I: IDEAS OF PURE REASON AND TRANSCENDENTAL ILLUSION.

- Illusion and error.
- Unavoidability of illusion.
- Reason as the seat of illusion: principles of pure reason.
- Soul, world, and God as ideas of totality.
- Inferences of pure reason as ground of the ideas.

LITERATURE [25]

1. Introduction to the Transcendental Dialectic: A 293–338/B 349–396.
2. The Dialectical Inferences of Pure Reason: A 338–340/B 396–398.

(Additional literature: Michelle Grier, *Kant's Doctrine of Transcendental Illusion* (Cambridge 2001): Chapter 4: 101–142. *KTI*, Chapter 11: 307–332. *Prolegomena*, §§ 40–45, 327–333.)

12 – 8/11: DIALECTIC II: THE PARALOGISMS OF PURE REASON.

- Paralogism as a transcendental fallacy.
- The “I think” of apperception vs. soul as the “I” that thinks.
- Difference between A- and B-Paralogisms.
- Logical validity vs. objective insufficiency: why the paralogisms are transcendental yet not logical fallacies.
- Analytic and synthetic method: impossibility of determining soul.

LITERATURE [25]

- The Paralogisms, section common to A & B editions: A 341–348/B 399–406.
- A-edition Paralogisms, 1st and 2nd paralogism: A 348–361.
- B-edition Paralogisms: B 406–432.

(Additional literature: *KTI*, Chapter 12: 333–356. *Prolegomena*, §§ 46–49: 333–337. On Antinomies and Ideal, see e.g. *Prolegomena*, §§ 50–55, 338–348; *KTI*, Chapters 13 & 14.)

13 – 15/11: DIALECTIC III: THE IDEAS AS REGULATIVE PRINCIPLES.

- Constitutive and regulative principles.
- Object proper vs. “object in the idea.”
- Inevitability of illusion = necessity of the ideas as directing our scientific activity.
- Deduction of the ideas of pure reason – sense to be made?

LITERATURE [22]

1. Transcendental Dialectic, First Book, Section II: A 329/B 385–6.
2. Appendix to the Dialectic, Regulative Use: A 642–668/B 670–696.
3. Appendix, Final Aim: A 669–682/B 697–710, to the end of 1st paragraph.

(Additional literature: The Final Aim chapter till the end. *Prolegomena*, §§ 56–60, 348–365. *KTI*, Chapter 15: 423–448.)

14 – 22/11: SUMMARY. DEMARCATING BETWEEN SCIENTIFIC AND PSEUDO-SCIENTIFIC METAPHYSICS.

LITERATURE [26]

1. Transcendental Doctrine of Method: A 707–708/B 735–736.
2. The Discipline of Pure Reason: A 708–726/B 736–754, till the end of the paragraph.
3. The Discipline of Pure Reason with regard to its polemical use: A 738–769/B 766–797.

(Additional literature: the rest of the Discipline of Pure Reason. A very good summary of Kant's overall project is also his (unfinished) essay, *What Real Progress Has Metaphysics Made in Germany Since the Time of Leibniz and Wolff?* (1793/1804), found in Academy Edition vol. 20 and in *Theoretical Philosophy after 1781*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.)