



Advanced Reading Course: Immanuel Kant (7,5 ECTS credits)

Level: 2nd cycle

Discipline: PHILOSOPHY

Course ID: 2017

Admission requirements

General admission requirements for university studies. 60 ECTS credits in philosophy, theology or religious studies.

Educational goals

After completing the course, the student is expected to be able to:

- Critically discuss some of the main themes in Kant's theoretical and practical philosophy in relation to the condition of the human being in the modern world.
- Exhibit a familiarity with key passages of Kant's works in relation to the overall topic of the course.
- Show a familiarity with different approaches to the interpretation of Kant's work, especially as it relates to different approaches regarding the relevance of Kant's philosophy for understanding the human condition in our contemporary society.
- Critically Reflect on the impact of Kant's philosophy in the Western intellectual tradition

Course content

Kant is a classic and yet simultaneously inspiring for tackling philosophical questions in our days. In this course, we will work through some of Kant's central works over one semester, meeting digitally every other week. Taking Kant's essay "What is Enlightenment?" as the starting point, the course will explore Kant's theoretical as well as practical philosophy, more specifically the question of the human being in the modern world as a central topic and red thread. What does "critical thinking" mean? Are there moral principles valid for all human beings or is moral reasoning something relative to cultures? Is there a place for God or religion in philosophical thought? Those are some of the questions that Kant's texts can help us to understand better in order to find our own answers to them. The course will also consider how to deal with some elements in Kant's work that seem to run counter to sensitivities and fundamental values of our contemporary society.

Teaching and examination

Teaching will take place in the form of seminars where primary sources are discussed and read together. Students are expected to prepare readings and actively participate in the discussion, and make one presentation with PowerPoint. This presentation will consist of a short introduction to the work of Kant that we are going to read in a session and/or a summary and presentation of one of Kant's central arguments in the assigned text.

The course will be examined through two written assignments and an oral exam. The first written assignment will be a written version of the oral presentation of one of Kant's texts (3–4 pages, 20% of final grade). The second written assignment will be in the form of an essay of 5–7 pages (50% of final grade). The oral exam (30% of final grade) will combine

- 3–4 questions covering the entire material in the course with
- the critical discussion of the second essay by a classmate with the author of the essay (both are examined)

Course language will be English but written work can also be in German or Swedish.

Bibliography

The English edition of Kant's works we are going to use is:

Kant, Immanuel, *The Collected Works of Immanuel Kant*. Hastings, East Sussex, United Kingdom: Delphi Classics, 2016. (see also <https://www.delphiclassics.com/shop/immanuel-kant/>)

You are also free to read Kant in the language you understand best. Nevertheless you will need to give references to the above edition.

The very best English translation is the *Cambridge Edition of the Works of Immanuel Kant* (General Editors: Paul Guyer and Allen W. Wood), Cambridge University Press (see: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/series/cambridge-edition-of-the-works-of-immanuel-kant/703660AAB7838A41309D7E80AD5C8EEE>)

Swedish translations are published by Thales and Daidalos publishers.

The relevant German edition is the so called «Akademie-Ausgabe» but there are more up-to-date text critical editions, mainly published by Meiner-Verlag. If you want to read Kant in German, the books of Meiner-Verlag are highly recommended. Their texts also refer to the exact pages in the «Akademie-Ausgabe», which is helpful for quoting.

The original «Akademie-Ausgabe» is also fully available online here: <https://korpora.org/kant/>

Reference literature:

Biography:

Kuehn, Manfred (2001): *Kant: A Biography*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

General introduction:

Wood, Allen W. (2005): *Kant*. Blackwell Great Minds. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publ.

Key concepts of Kant's philosophy:

Dudley, Will/Engelhard, Kristina (Eds.) (2014): *Immanuel Kant: Key Concepts*, Routledge: Oxford, New York.

Commentaries and introductions to works of Kant we are going to read in excerpts (more information on access to excerpts will be given before the course starts):

Ameriks, Karl/Höffe, Otfried (Eds.) (2009): *Kant's moral and legal philosophy*. Translated by Nicolas Walker. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Buroker, Jill Vance (2006): *Kant's Critique of Pure Reason: An Introduction*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Fleischacker, Samuel (2013): *What Is Enlightenment?* Oxford: Routledge.

Förster, Eckart: *Immanuel Kant*, in: Oppy, Graham/Trakakis, Nick. N. (Eds.) (2013): *The history of Western philosophy of religion. Vol. 3: Early modern philosophy of religion*. The History of Western Philosophy of Religion, paperback ed., Vols 1-5. London: Routledge, 277-288.

Guyer, Paul/Wood, Allen, W. (2021): *Introducing Kant's Critique of Pure Reason*. Elements in the Philosophy of Immanuel Kant. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Horn, Christoph/Schönecker, Dieter (Eds.) (2008): *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*. Berlin, New York: Walter de Gruyter.

Sensen, Oliver: *Kant*, in: Gaus, Gerald F./D'Agostino, Fred (Eds.). (2013): *The Routledge companion to social and political philosophy*. Routledge philosophy companions. New York: Routledge, 103-113.

Timmermann, Jens: *Kant*, in: Golob, Sacha/Timmermann, Jens (Eds.). (2017): *The Cambridge History of Moral Philosophy*., 1st ed. Cambridge University Press, 394-409.

See also "Kursplaner: allmänna bestämmelser" (Course plans: General rules)

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