



The McAnulty College and
Graduate School of Liberal
Arts, Duquesne University
S2020

PHIL 570-01 “Special
Topics: Kant’s Critique of
Pure Reason (Part II)”
Time: F 11:00-01:40
Place: CH324 (to be
confirmed)

Professor: Jennifer Bates
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Office Hours: TBA

Kant (1724-1804)

Course Description: This course is the second of two courses in the academic year 2019-2020 devoted to a close reading of the *Critique of Pure Reason*. Both courses are taught by Professor Bates. The first course (F2019) took us from the start of the *Critique* through the Schematism, and (hopefully) to the end of the Principles. This second course (S2020) is a close reading of the any remaining Principles we could not finish, through to the end of the *Critique*. The F2019 course was designed as a prerequisite for S2020, but does not commit anyone to taking the spring course. Likewise, you may take this S2020 course without having taken the F2019 one, as long as you are familiar with the *Critique* up to and including the Principles. I hope you will join us in our discussions of this important book.

Kant’s *Critique of Pure Reason* is one of the very best, and very hardest books, ever written in philosophy. Understanding it, especially Kant’s critical “Copernican Revolution in philosophy,” is crucial for making sense of the rest of Kant’s works, as well as for understanding the many post-Kantians (such as Fichte, Schelling, and Hegel); it is also crucial for reading later thinkers in the phenomenological tradition such as Husserl, Heidegger, Sartre, and de Beauvoir. Indeed, Kant’s work is central not only to the Continental Tradition but also to some branches of Anglo-American Analytic philosophy. The *Critique of Pure Reason* has simply had an incredible influence in the development of Western thought since the late 18th c. Therefore, sustained and deep study of it, at some point during one’s life, is recommended for all serious philosophers. It is a bit of good fortune that we are able to devote two consecutive semesters to doing just this.

Course Requirements: Rotation 30% (a rotation is a kind of class participation grade that involves leading class discussion at least once); class presentation 30%; final paper 40%.

This course fulfils the Modern Requirement.