

PHIL 682 Philosophical Authors: Immanuel Kant's *Critique of Judgment*
Spring 2010
Dr. Kristi Sweet

Contact Information

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Office hours: T/Th 9:30-11:00; 1:00-2:15

Required Text

Immanuel Kant, *Critique of the Power of Judgment*, Cambridge Edition of the Works of Immanuel Kant, (NY: Cambridge University Press, 2001)

Course Description

This course will examine Kant's *Critique of the Power of Judgment*. The third *Critique* stands as the final and purportedly unifying text in Kant's critical project, and has long been a source of debate, inspiration, and even frustration for readers of Kant. In class we will keep in mind some issues that emerge in the field of Kant studies, such as the role of the third *Critique* in Kant's system, and the unity of the two separate parts—the aesthetic and teleological—of the text itself. Within this framework, the course will focus on the substantive philosophical questions that Kant's text raises. These concerns form a constellation of themes pertaining to the experience of human freedom, the place of humanity in nature, artistic and natural beauty, and the purposiveness of the natural world.

Course Objectives

Our class will focus mainly on understanding and explicating Kant's text, its problems, suggestions, and limitations. We will also engage in reading contemporary secondary literature that has grown up around certain issues in the text. These include issues such as the role of imagination, Kant's theory of reflection, nature and morality, and Kant's concerns with the practice of science. Students should come away from the course not only with a good understanding of Kant's third *Critique*, but also the contemporary landscape of literature that surrounds it.

Course Requirements

Students will be expected to write two text summaries (five pages) over the course of the semester. These will be 20% of your grade each. The first text summary should treat a section from the "Critique of Aesthetic Judgment," and the second should treat the "Critique of Teleological Judgment." Students must also write a final paper (15-20 pages), which can be on any topic from the third *Critique*.

Recommended Commentaries

There are two commentaries that I think are extremely helpful for reading the third *Critique*. The first is John Zammito's *The Genesis of Kant's Critique of Judgment*, which traces the historical development of the entire text. The second is Angelica Nuzzo's *Kant and the Unity of Reason*, which provides a substantial commentary on the Aesthetic, and a shorter, but still excellent, commentary on the rest of the text. These are both on reserve at Evans Library.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities, in Cain Hall or call 845-1637.

Academic Integrity Statements: Aggie Honor Code

“An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do.”

Upon accepting admission to Texas A&M University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning, and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor System. Students will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the TAMU community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor System. For additional information, please visit: <http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor/>

Course Readings

The secondary literature will be made available in the department work room for students to photocopy, as will the selections from other texts.

January 19	Introduction to the course
January 21	The problem of nature and freedom in Kant's practical philosophy Selections from the second <i>Critique</i> Recommended background reading: Selections from Nuzzo's <i>The Unity of Reason</i> (Chapters 1 & 2, available electronically through the library)
January 26-28	Introduction to Kant's project Preface and Introduction, pp. 55-83
February 2, 4, 9, 11, 16	Judgments of Taste Analytic of the Beautiful, pp. 89-127 Sections V-VIII of First Introduction, pp. 15-32 Secondary literature: Gasché, "Transcendentalism in Play" Allison, "Pleasure and Harmony in Kant's Theory of Taste" Ginsborg, "On the Key to Kant's Critique of Taste" Henrich, "Kant's Explanation of Aesthetic Judgment"
February 18-23	The Deduction* Deduction of Pure Aesthetic Judgments, pp. 160-182 Please note that we will be proceeding out of order here. This is to insure that we read the sections on art and genius prior to the Southern study group of the North American Kant Society (see below) as there will be a couple of presentations addressing that part of the third <i>Critique</i> .

February 25- March 2	<p>Art and Genius</p> <p>Sections §43 “On art in general” through the “Remark,” pp. 182-212</p> <p>Secondary literature: Makkreel, “On Sublimity, Genius and the Explication of Aesthetic Ideas” Kneller, “The Power of Imaginative Freedom” Sassen, “Artistic Genius and the Question of Creativity” Zuidevaart, “Aesthetic Ideas and the Role of Art in Kant’s Ethical Hermeneutics”</p>
March 4	No class
March 5-6	<p>Southern study group of the North American Kant Society at Texas A&M University</p> <p>Students will be expected to attend at least some of this conference. Three invited speakers will be presenting work on the third <i>Critique</i>. I will distribute flyers with all of the relevant information.</p>
March 9	Art and Genius (continued)
March 11	<p>The Antinomy and Beauty as the Symbol of Morality</p> <p>The Dialectic of the Aesthetic Power of Judgment, pp. 213-225</p> <p>Secondary literature: Guyer, “The Symbols of Freedom in Kant’s Aesthetics” Kemal, “The Practical Postulate of Freedom and Beauty as a Symbol of Morality”</p>
March 16-18	Spring Break
March 22-25	<p>The Sublime</p> <p>The Analytic of the Sublime, pp. 128-159 “On the incentives of pure practical reason” from the second <i>Critique</i></p>

March 30
April 6-8

Teleology
(No class April 1)

Analytic of the Teleological Power of Judgment, pp. 233-255

Secondary literature:

Zuckert, "The Problem: The Unity of the Diverse"

Guyer, "Reason and Reflective Judgment: Kant on the Significance of Systematicity"

April 13-15

Purposiveness in nature

Dialectic of the Teleological Power of Judgment, pp. 257-284

April 20-22

Humanity's place in nature

Methodology of the Teleological Power of Judgment, pp. 285-313

April 27-29

On the moral proof of the existence of God

Methodology of the Teleological Power of Judgment, pp. 313-346