

PROVISIONAL COURSE OUTLINE this course outline gives an accurate idea of the content and structure of the course, but some details may change in the final and binding version of the course outline, which will be made available at the beginning of the second term.

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Office Hours: TBD

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This course provides an introduction to the *Critique of Pure Reason*, one of the central texts in the history of philosophy. Its guiding theme is Kant's attempt to vindicate the idea that metaphysics provides us with a special kind of non-empirical knowledge. Kant is convinced (i) that any genuinely philosophical knowledge is metaphysical knowledge; (ii) that the very possibility of such knowledge is called into doubt by prevalent conceptions of the human mind (such as those of Descartes, Locke, Leibniz, and Hume); and (iii) that assuaging this doubt (and thus vindicating metaphysical knowledge) requires a careful analysis of human cognitive capacities. In this course we study the account of our cognitive capacities that Kant proposes and ask whether he succeeds in vindicating metaphysical knowledge. In particular, we consider Kant's claim that the two most basic capacities, sense-perception and conceptual thought, are distinct in nature and yet are required to cooperate in a particular way if there is to be any knowledge at all. In considering this claim we will discuss the following topics: spatial representation; concepts; the relation between empirical knowledge and a priori knowledge; self-consciousness; causality; idealism; and free will. The focus will be on a close study of Kant's text.

This course has three main objectives. By successfully completing this course you will

(i) acquire knowledge of Kant's central views in metaphy

		<p><u>Recommended:</u> Markus Kohl, “Kant on Determinism and the Categorical Imperative”</p>
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Students are expected to attend class and come prepared to discuss the assigned readings. Handouts I use for lecturing will be made available on the course website. However, these will be elaborated upon in class, so downloading the handouts is no substitute for coming to class. They do, however, give you a sense of what was discussed if you have to miss class. You do not generally need to inform me if you have to miss class.

The use of handouts is for your own learning only. You are not permitted to distribute them to others or make them available on the internet (e.g. by posting them to a social media). Doing so constitutes a violation of copyright.

It is crucial to your success in this course that you take good lecture notes. Research shows that taking good notes helps your learning. By taking your own notes (and this does *not* mean copying the lecture word for word) you process the material more thoroughly than you otherwise would and you make later reviewing easier for yourself. A good way of taking notes is to annotate handouts.

I hold regular office hours so that students may drop in and ask questions about the course material. I encourage you to make use of these. I especially encourage you to come to office hours if there is something you don't understand or if you are struggling in the course.

The function of office hours is not, however, for me to repeat to you a lecture you have missed. If you ask me to do this, I will tell you to obtain a set of lecture notes from another student. If

