

PHIL 661
18th-Century Philosophy
Topic for 2023: Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*

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The topic of this course is Kant's Critical philosophy, which we'll examine by means of a careful reading of key sections of Kant's *Prolegomena to any future metaphysics* and his *Critique of Pure Reason*. This will be an advanced introduction to Kant's theoretical philosophy. It will be introductory in that it will not presuppose familiarity with the first Critique. It will be advanced in that we will read through the text fairly quickly so that in the last part of the term, we can work our way through some of the recent scholarship.

Text: Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*, Ed. and trans. Allen Wood and Paul Guyer. (Cambridge: CUP, 1997). The text is available at The Word bookstore on Milton. Additional readings will be posted on MyCourses.

Evaluation (with credit to Prof. Leary)

Participation: 8%

You are expected to show up to class on time, having done the readings, and prepared to contribute to the class. If contributing in class will be a problem for you, please let me know and we can arrange an alternative method of assessment.

Reading responses: 12%

You must submit three reading responses throughout the term. Your response should be a reflection on the reading for the upcoming week and must be submitted by 11:59pm on the Tuesday before we discuss the reading in class. Your response may be a clarificatory question about the material, or a critical comment on the reading, or a summary of its key argument.

Final paper proposal: 20%

You will write a 1500-word proposal which will include an introduction to the topic of your final paper, an explanation of the significance of your topic, an outline of your argument and a bibliography. The proposal will be due on March 16 by 11:59pm.

Referee's report on peer's rough draft: 10%

You will exchange rough drafts with a classmate and write a report on the draft. In the first paragraph, you will summarise the author's argument and point out some of its strengths. You will then develop a few critical points—numbered for easy reference—that you think will help the author improve the paper. The drafts will be exchanged on April 2. The report will be due on April 6 by 11:59pm.

Final paper plus revision document: 50%

You will write a final paper of 4000-5000 words; you will include a brief document explaining the changes you made in light of your peer's comments and/or explaining why you decided not to make changes suggested by your peer. A list of possible topics will be provided, but you may

also develop your own, with approval from the instructor. The paper is due on April 13 by 11:59pm.

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/integrity/ for more information).

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.