

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
PHIL 3100: Kant and his Legacy

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Winter 2018

Office Hours (MacKinnon 353): Tuesday & Thursday 2:30–3:20

Assignments: In addition to the final exam (50%) you may write **either** two 1250 word essays (25% each) **or** one 2500 word essay (50%) **on Kant's *Grounding for the Metaphysic of Morals***. (1250 or 2500 words are minimum lengths—essays may be longer if justified by the content.) If you choose the two essay option, the first essay should cover pages 1-33, and the second essay pages 33-62. You can also use the first 1250 word essay as a trial run for the 2500 word essay, or you can expunge the grade for your first essay by submitting a 2500 word essay later. If you want preliminary feedback submit something by the first deadline. **All essays must be submitted to the Turnitin dropbox on Couselink.** See the attached Essay Guidelines for due dates.

Final Exam: The final exam will consist of **essay questions** about the works covered in class selected from a list handed out at the final class.

GUIDELINES FOR ESSAYS

Also see “COA Standard Statements” on Courselink.

1. **Deadlines:** All essays must be submitted to the Turnitin dropbox on Courselink. 2500 word essay: Tuesday, March 20th; or two 1250 word essays: first essay Tuesday, February 27th and second essay Tuesday, March 20th. **Label your essays** “First Essay”, “Second Essay” or “Long Essay” because short essays and long essays are graded differently. If it’s a rewrite of your first essay let me know so I can see my original comments. If you’d like feedback on an early draft of the 50% essay let me see it by the first deadline. **For the first deadline** essays can be submitted any time that week (ending Friday) without penalty, but they won’t be accepted after that week. **For the second deadline** late essays will be penalized one mark (out of 100) per day. No essay will be accepted after **9 a.m. the weekday before** the final exam. Students won’t normally be required to answer questions about their essay, but may in some cases. After the last class meeting I’ll email you if any questions arise, so check your email daily since I won’t be able to grade it if I can’t reach you.

2. **Content:** Combine scholarship and creativity, i.e. both attentiveness to the text and a personal response of your own. Your creativity can take the form of considering objections to Kant’s views and how Kant might reply to them; explain why you think Kant can or cannot withstand the criticisms. The more challenging you can make these issues, the better: treating answers as obvious isn’t worth as much as seeing how they are controversial and difficult.

5. **Format:** The five paragraph model you learned in high school was training wheels to teach discipline. People don’t really write essays like that. Just organize your ideas to be as clear as possible. Use double spaced full sized font (12 point). Also use page numbers. 1250 or 2500 words are minimum lengths—**essays may be longer if justified by the content.**

6. **Style:** Use “I” rather than awkward and outdated circumlocutions like “the author.” And use inclusive language like “humankind” instead of “mankind”, “people ... they” instead of “a person ... he.” Other possibilities: “he or she”, “she or he”, “s/he”, etc.

7. **References:** Give references to all information and ideas taken from someone else, even if they aren’t direct quotations. Otherwise it may be plagiarism (when in doubt ask). Listing your sources in a bibliography isn’t enough since it doesn’t show where you make use of them. References should list the **author that you’re citing** first. For example, if you use a book called John Green (editor), *The Philosophy of Kant*, and your reference is to something Kant wrote, it should say, “Kant, Green 12” (**you must give page numbers**), **not** “Green 12”. If you use the latter format I’ll assume you’re citing only a secondary source (what John Green wrote). The bibliography should give the complete title and publication data of the book.

A sample philosophy essay is available on Courselink.