

KANT AND HIS LEGACY

Code and section: PHIL*3100*01

Term: Winter 2023

Instructor: John Russon

Method of Delivery:

This course will meet in person, Mondays 2:30-5:20

Course Synopsis:

In the *Critique of Pure Reason* of 1781, Immanuel Kant introduced a new method that effected a revolution in philosophy that he himself compared to the Copernican Revolution in astronomy that defined the modern scientific perspective. His distinctive method of describing experience to determine its conditions of possibility builds on the methods of Early Modern Philosophers such as Descartes and Hume, and it is this method that essentially defines the mainstream tradition of continental European philosophy of the 19th- and 20th-Centuries. We will study this method and its implications through a substantial study of the *Critique of Pure Reason* as a whole, and then in its further development in Heidegger's *Being and Time*. With the *Critique of Pure Reason*, our study will be primarily epistemological, focusing on understanding the nature of experience and our knowledge of the external. With *Being and Time*, our study will be primarily existential, focusing more broadly on the various dimensions of meaning in a human life, most notably the emotional, interpersonal and moral sides of our experience and on the issue of what it takes to live a meaningful life. These works by Kant and Heidegger are among the most technical and demanding works in our philosophical tradition, and competence in working with these texts is crucial to developing the skills and insights that will allow you to engage in more serious work in the discipline.

Required Textbooks:

Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, [trans. Kemp-Smith] (Palgrave Macmillan)

Heidegger, *Being and Time*, [trans. Macquarrie and Robinson] (Harper)

NOTE: The bookstore will have only limited copies of these books, so I recommend that you acquire them independently (i.e., online) before the semester starts.

Disclaimer:

** Please note: This is a preliminary web course outline only. The Philosophy Department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.*