Kant’s Philosophy of Religion

Instructor: Lawrence Pasternack
Email: LRP@okstate.edu (note: I rarely check voicemail, email is the best way to contact me)
Office Hours: T, TH 12:30pm-1:45pm, and by appointment

Required Texts
• Immanuel Kant, Critique of Pure Reason, trans. Paul Guyer and Allen Wood (Cambridge)
• Immanuel Kant, Critique of Practical Reason, trans. Mary Gregor (Cambridge)
• Immanuel Kant, Religion and Rational Theology, trans. Wood and diGiovanni (Cambridge)
Handouts for:
• Immanuel Kant, Prolegomena for any Future Metaphysics, trans. Hatfield (Cambridge)
• Immanuel Kant, Critique of Judgment, trans. Guyer and Matthews (Cambridge)

Recommended Texts
• Henry Allison, Kant’s Transcendental Idealism
• Fredrick Copleston, A History of Philosophy, Vol. 6
• Lawrence Pasternack, Kant on Religion within the Boundaries of Mere Reason
• Stephen Palmquist, Comprehensive Commentary on Religion within...
• Lawrence Pasternack, SEP: Kant’s Philosophy of Religion
• Allen Wood, Kant’s Moral Religion
• Further recommendations upon request

Course Outline
Until recently, Kant’s positive philosophy of religion has been viewed as both incompatible with the epistemic strictures of Transcendental Idealism as well as internally inconsistent. That, at least, has been the dominant view within Anglophone scholarship on Kant up until the past few years. It is the purpose of this course to explore Kant’s philosophy of religion, evaluating it with regards to its internal consistency and compatibility with Transcendental Idealism.

We will begin with an overview of Transcendental Idealism before moving into Kant’s critique of the traditional proofs for God’s existence. From there, we will explore such topics as: Deism, Theism and the regulative role of God within Kant’s conception of nature, the relationship between Kant’s ethics and his philosophy of religion (especially in relation to his doctrine of the highest good), his moral argument(s) for religious belief, the problem of evil, and the philosophical theology articulated in his Religion within the Boundaries of Mere Reason (original sin, grace, atonement, providence, ecclesiology, etc).
PHIL 5210

Schedule of Readings & Assignments

Jan. 16th  
*CPR*  Preface  
Bxxix-Bxxxiv

Jan. 16th  
*CPR*  Transcendental Analytic: Phenomena and Noumena  
A235/B294-A260/B315

Jan 21st  
*CPR*  Ideal of Pure Reason, Ontological Argument  
A567/B595-A602/B630

Jan 23rd  
*CPR*  Cosmological and Physico-Theological Arguments  
A603/B631-A630/B658

Jan 28th  
*CPR*  From Transcendental to Natural Theology  
A631/B659-A642/B670, A669/B697-A689/B717

Jan 30th  
*CPR*  From Transcendental to Natural Theology  

Feb 4th  
*CPR*  Belief/Faith, the Highest Good, Moral Argument  
A820/B848-A831/B859, A804/B832-A819/B847

Feb 6th  
*CPR*  Belief/Faith, the Highest Good, Moral Argument  
A820/B848-A831/B859, A804

Feb 11th  
*CprR*  Moral Argument, Postulates  
5:110-5:119, 5:122-134

Feb 13th  
*CprR*  Moral Argument, Postulates  
5:110-5:119, 5:122-134

Feb 18th  
*CprR*  Religious Cognition and Free Assent  
5:134-5:146

Feb 20th  
*CprR*  Religious Cognition and Free Assent  
5:134-5:146

Feb 25th  
*CJ*  The Moral Argument and the Righteous Atheist  

Feb 27th  
*MT*  Kant’s Theodicy  
8:255-8:271
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March 3rd  Overflow
March 5th  Overflow
March 10th Review
March 12th Test #1

Mar 24th  Rel  First and Second Preface  6:3-6:14
Mar 26th  Rel  Part One: Original Sin  6:19-6:44
Mar 26th  Rel  Part One: Original Sin  6:19-6:44
Mar 31st  Rel  Part One: Grace  6:44-6:53
April 2nd  Rel  Part Two: Christology and Justification  6:54-6:84
April 7th  Rel  Part Two: Christology and Justification  6:54-6:84
April 9th  Rel  Part Two: Miracles  6:84-6:89
April 14th  Rel  Part Three: Evil, Society and the Ethical Community  6:93-6:109
April 16th  Rel  Part Three: Religion and History  6:109-6:137
April 21st  Rel  Part Three: Holy Mysteries  6:137-6:147
April 23rd  Rel  Part Four: Ecclesiology  6:151-6:202
April 28th Overflow/Review
April 30th Test #2
Assignments

Tests 200 points
- there will be two tests
- tests will be weighed equally
- tests will be composed of short to mid length questions (i.e. a few sentences to a few paragraphs)

• Abstract for Term Paper  Due no later than April 23rd  50 Points
  - The abstract should be 2-3 pages (500-750 words) in length. A bibliography of secondary sources suitable to the chosen topic should be attached to the abstract. The bibliography should include at least four books (indicating specific chapters or page ranges) or articles not included among the assigned or recommended readings. You may wish to consult with me and are EXPECTED to make use of the Philosopher’s Index to develop your bibliography. It is also STRONGLY recommended that you discuss your topic with me prior to submitting the abstract.
  - I will return the abstract to you within a week of receiving it. If major changes are suggested, you will be asked to submit a new abstract.

• Term Paper  May 6th  250 Points
  - You may choose the topic, but I will offer suggestions if requested.
  - The paper should be 15-20 pages (4000-6000 words) in length.

Total: 500 points

Grading Scale (for final grades): A=450-500, B=400-449, C=350-399, D=300-349, F=0-299

Policies
• Attendance will be checked at the beginning of class. There is no direct penalty for poor attendance; however, good attendance (and participation) may be considered when calculating borderline final grades. If you come late to class, it is your responsibility to notify me after class. If you need to leave early, see me before class.
• Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the University’s policy on academic honesty and scrupulously abide by it. The two most common forms of academic misconduct/dishonesty are cheating and plagiarism. Cheating is the use or attempted use of unauthorized materials during a test (or similar assignment) or the copying or attempted copying from another student’s test (or similar assignment). Plagiarism is the use of unacknowledged materials as part of an essay (or similar assignment). Most often, plagiarism takes the form of copying verbatim or near verbatim material from the Internet or published sources and presenting that material without suitable citation of its source. The University’s policy offers the instructor considerable latitude in the determination of punishment; be warned that I believe that the most stringent disciplinary action is almost always warranted.
• Official University Policies can be found in the “Oklahoma State University Student Rights and Responsibilities Governing Student Behavior” and the “Oklahoma State University Syllabus Attachment”