Kant’s Philosophy of Religion  
Corona Virus Revision

Instructor: Lawrence Pasternack, Ph.D.  
Office: https://zoom.us/j/6429890177  
Email: LRP@okstate.edu  
(note: I rarely check voicemail, email is the best way to contact me)  
Office Hours: T, TH 12:30-1:45pm and by appointment  
For office hours, if you do not see me on screen, please email me.

How We Meet  
For the rest of the semester, we will meet via Zoom Teleconferencing:  Tues/Thurs 3:30pm-4:45pm.  
The URL for the class is: https://zoom.us/j/6429890177

You might be prompted to download software if you are using a PC or MAC.

Once the screen opens, note the “mute” and the “start/stop” video icons on the bottom left. Please select un-mute and start video. If you do not have internet access, a webcam, or for other reasons are unable to participate via Zoom, please contact me. If this does not work out, we will find an alternative.

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 Palmaquist, 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).
### Schedule of Readings & Assignments

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<td>Jan. 16&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Transcendental Analytic: Phenomena and Noumena</td>
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<td>Jan 30&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>Moral Argument, Postulates</td>
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<td>Religious Cognition and Free Assent</td>
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<td>Feb 27&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Kant’s Theodicy</td>
<td>8:255-8:271</td>
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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  
- 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)
- tests will be take-home and submitted via Canvas

• Abstract for Term Paper  *Due no later than April 23rd*  
  - 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.
  - Abstract to be submitted via Canvas

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

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”