

PHI 600/REL 600: Kant's Critique of Judgment  
Dr. Ahmed Abdel Meguid  
Office Hours: Fr: 11:00-1:00 pm  
512 Hall of Languages  
E-mail: aelsayed@syr.edu  
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### *Kant's Critique of Judgment*

#### Description:

This class is a thoroughly close reading of Kant's third and last major critical work: *The Critique of Judgment*. The course will pay close attention to the historical context of the third *Critique* and its genealogy in Kant's critical and pre-critical writings on the one hand and key 18<sup>th</sup> century debates on logic, metaphysics, epistemology and aesthetics surrounding and influencing Kant's work on the other hand. However, the main focus of the class will be thematic. Kant's theory of judgment is central to the evolution of modern and contemporary positions concerning meaning, fundamentality, conceptualism, nominalism versus realism and empiricism versus idealism. Given this centrality, the class will trace the most influential philosophical reactions to Kant's theses on the main problems raised in every respective part we cover. The course sessions are divided into three parts.

The first part examines the constitution of the first species of judgment in Kant's system: determinant judgment. We will start with Kant's distinction between analytic and synthetic judgments and the division of the latter into *a posteriori* and *a priori* in the *Critique of Pure Reason*. Against this background, we will carefully peruse Kant's distinction between formal and transcendental logic on the one hand the relationship between concepts and intuitions on the other hand, dwelling on their implications for the constitution of determinant judgment. In this respect, we will preliminarily raise the following questions: What is Kant's understanding of predication? What does Kant mean by spontaneity? What is Kant's concept of the 'Unity of Apperception' and how is it related to the problem of individuation? What is the relationship between representation and predication? And what is the difference between a theoretical determinant judgment and a moral determinant judgment?

The second part of the course examines the second species of judgment in Kant's system: reflective judgment. We will start with the distinction Kant makes between reflective and determinant judgment and the semantical problems ensuing from this distinction in both the first (1791) and second (1793) introductions. In this respect, we will look closely at the transformations Kant's definition of the power of judgment undergoes from the first through the third *Critique* and their logical and metaphysical implications. We will then dwell on Kant's qualification of 'purposiveness' as a principle of reflective judgment. Subsequently, and by way of reversing the original order of the third *Critique*, we will turn to its second part on 'Teleological Reflective Judgment.' Among the key questions we will raise are: Why does Kant think that nature needs to be represented as a system and not merely as an aggregate of laws? And how does teleological judgment objectively represent the 'real' purposiveness of nature? How does Kant's notion of teleology compare and/or contrast with Aristotle's and Leibniz's early modern reformulation of it? The concept of teleology raised key problems for Aristotle's theory of predication in the *De Interpretatione* on the one hand and substance theory in the *Metaphysics* on the other hand. Does Kant's relegation of the question of existence enable him to overcome these problems?

The third and final part of the course reverts to the first part of the third *Critique* on 'Aesthetic Reflective Judgment.' We will carefully examine Kant's attempt to resolve the problematic relationship

between the moral, *purely* logical determinant judgment (that constitute the domain of the supersensible) and theoretical judgments (that constitute the domain of experience and knowledge) through aesthetic judgment. Among the main questions we will raise are: Is the 'beautiful' and the 'sublime', the two predicates of aesthetic judgments concepts? What does Kant mean by beauty as a symbol of morality? What does he mean by a symbol? Further why does Kant consider aesthetic judgment the most humanly specific judgment of all the species and sub-species of judgments he identifies? Finally, why does Kant think that aesthetic judgment is the basis of 'common sense' and hence culture?

Among the key figures from whose works we will be reading **short thematic selections** are: Fichte, Schelling, Hegel, Husserl, Habermas, Lotze, Frege, Quine, Davidson, David Lewis, Henry Allison, McDowell, Paul Guyer, Rudolf Makkreel, Eugen Fink and Beatrice Longuenesse.

Required Texts:

1. Kant, Immanuel. *Critique of the Power of Judgment* (trans. Paul Guyer & Eric Mathews). New York: Cambridge University Press, 2001.
2. All secondary readings will be available on Blackboard. All the secondary reading selections will be available online by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017.

(Recommended **but not required** German edition)

Kant, Immanuel. *Kritik Der Urteilkraft: Text und Kommentar* (Hrsg. Manfred Frank & Veronique Zanetti). Tübingen: Suhrkamp Verlag, 1996.

Requirements:

A. Class Presentation (30% of the grade)

1. You may choose any of the readings we are discussing and prepare a presentation on it for your colleagues.
2. The number of presentations will depend on the number of students in the Seminar.

B. Final paper (50% of the grade)

1. 20-25 pages in length.
2. Essays must be double spaced in 12-pitch font.

C. Class participation (20% of the grade)

Regular attendance and constructive class participation are required.

**Important Note:** A detailed weekly reading schedule will be circulated by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 along with an extensive bibliography of secondary sources classified according to the weekly themes.

Grading System:

A. Letter/Number Grade Conversion Table for This Course:

	B+ 80-84	C+ 65-69	D+ 54-56
A 90-100	B 75-79	C 60-64	D 50-53
A- 85-89	B- 70-74	C- 57-59	

*Weekly Reading Schedule*

**Thursday January 19<sup>th</sup>**

Welcome and General Introduction

- I. Preliminary remarks: 1. The importance of Kant's theory of Judgment from: metaphysics to epistemology. 2. Judgment and the domains of representational semantics.
- II. Determinant theoretical judgment in the First *Critique*: 1. Kant's transcendental critique and the faculty of judgment as neither psychological nor platonic: against empiricism and rationalism. 2. The logical form (categories: formal and transcendental) and the propositional structure of the judgment. 3. The Taxonomy of Judgment.

**Thursday January 26<sup>th</sup>**

Aporiai: 1. The problem of analyticity and syntheticity. 2. Kant's confusing identification of judgment with the understanding and thinking. 3. The problem of spontaneity. 4. Categories and the Form of the Judgment

Readings:

**Primary Sources:** 1. Introductions (A & B; 26 pages); 2. Transcendental aesthetic (Notes); Transcendental logic (8 pages); Transcendental analytic: Book I: The Analytic of concepts (Chapter I: The pure concepts & The 'A' deduction) (44 pages).

**Secondary Sources:** 1. W.V. Quine "Two Dogmas of Empiricism". 2. Part I & II of Allison's *Kant's Transcendental Idealism*. 3. Chapters: 3, 4 & 5 of Sebastian Gardner's *Kant and the Critique of Pure Reason*. 4. Chapters: 1-4 of Beatrice Longuenesse's *Kant and the Capacity to Judge*

**Thursday February 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Aporiai: 1. Judgment, spontaneity and the problematic need for the principles. 2. Judgments, predication and truth value.

**Primary Sources:** 1. Analytic of principles (Introduction; Chapters 1&2; 70 pages)

**Secondary Sources:** 1. Part III of Allison's *Kant's Transcendental Idealism*. 2. Part II & III of Guyer's *Kant and the Claims of Knowledge* 3. Chapters 3, 5 & 6 of Kitcher's *Kant's Transcendental Psychology*

**Thursday February 9<sup>th</sup>**

Aporiai: 1. The judgments of reason and the desire for completeness. 2. Kant's critique of the conceptions of judgment as assertoric propositions.

**Primary Sources:** Transcendental Dialectic (Introduction, Book I & Book II, Chapter I; 60 pages)

**Secondary Sources:** 1. Part IV of Allison's *Kant's Transcendental Idealism* 2. Parts III & IV of Strawson's *The Bounds of Sense*.

### Thursday February 16<sup>th</sup>

Aporiai: 1. Judgment and the irreconcilability of the sensible and super-sensible territories. 2. Reflective versus determinant judgments 3. The logical and metaphysical nature of the determinant versus the reflective judgments

**Primary Sources:** 1. Preface & first and second 'Introductions' to the third *Critique* (83 pages).

**Secondary Sources:** Chapters 2 & 3 of Guyer's *Kant and the Claims of Taste*. Chapters 9 & 10 of Foucault's *The Order of Things*

### Thursday February 23<sup>rd</sup>

Aporiai: 1. Why there is a need to represent nature as a purposive system. 2. What is objective purposiveness? 3. Teleology as a necessary principle *not* a concept and possible fictionalism in Kant's transcendental idealism?

**Primary Sources:** 1. Analytic of teleological judgment. **Secondary Sources:** 1. Geiger, I., 2003. "Is the Assumption of a Systematic Whole of Empirical Concepts a Necessary Condition of Knowledge?" *Kant-Studien*, 94: 273–298. 2009. 2. Geiger, I "Is Teleological Judgement (Still) Necessary? Kant's Arguments in the Analytic and in the Dialectic of Teleological Judgement," *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, 17(3): 533–566. 3. Grinsborg, H, 2001. "Kant on Understanding Organisms as Natural Purposes," *Kant and the Sciences*, E. Watkins (ed.), Oxford: Oxford University Press. 4. Breitenbach, A., 2006. "Mechanical explanation of nature and its limits in Kant's Critique of judgment," *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science (Part C)*, 37(4): 694–711. 5. Breitenbach, A, 2008. "Two Views on Nature: A Solution to Kant's Antinomy of Mechanism and Teleology," *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, 16 (2): 351–369. – 6. Breitenbach, A, 2009. "Teleology in Biology: A Kantian Approach," *Kant Yearbook*, 1: 31–56. 7. Breitenbach, A, 2014. "Biological Purposiveness and Analogical Reflection," in Goy and Watkins (eds.) 2014.

### Thursday March 2<sup>nd</sup>

Aporiai: 1. Kantian transcendental teleology versus classical metaphysical teleology.

**Primary Sources:** 1. Dialectic of teleological judgment. 2. Appendix (Sections: 79-84; 87-91)

**Secondary Sources:** Parts I, II, III (especially sections 28-34) of Husserl's *Crisis of the European Sciences*

### Thursday March 9<sup>th</sup>

Aporiai: 1. How is beauty not a concept. 2. The moral feeling versus the disinterested aesthetic feeling of pleasure. 3. Aesthetic imagination

**Primary Sources:** Analytic of the beautiful (First & second moments; 25 pages)

**Secondary Sources:** 1. Part III of Ameriks's *Interpreting Kant's Critiques*. 2. Ameriks, K., 1982. "How to Save Kant's Deduction of Taste," *Journal of Value Inquiry*, 16: 295–302. 3. Ameriks, K, 1983. "Kant and the Objectivity of Taste," *British Journal of Aesthetics*, 23: 3–17. 4. Ameriks, K, 1998. "New Views on Kant's Judgment of Taste," in Parret (1998). 5. Ameriks, K, 2000. "Taste, Conceptuality and Objectivity," *Kant Actuel*, F. Duscheneau, G. LaFrance and C. Piché (eds.), Montréal/Paris: Bellarmin/Vrin; reprinted as chapter 14 of Ameriks (2003). 6.

### Thursday March 16<sup>th</sup>

**Spring Break: No Classes**

**Thursday March 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Aporiai: 1. Beauty, morality and inter-subjectivity. 2. Common sense and culture

**Primary Sources:** Analytic of the beautiful (Third & fourth moments; 36 pages)

**Secondary Sources:** Parts II & III of Makkreel's *Imagination and Interpretation in Kant*.

**Thursday March 30<sup>th</sup>**

Aporiai: 1. The sublime and the reverse relationship between morality (reason) and the senses.

**Primary Sources:** 1. Analytic of the sublime (44 pages).

**Secondary Sources:** 1. Clewis, R., 2010. "A Case for Kantian Artistic Sublimity: A Response to Abaci," *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*, 68(2): 167–170. 2. Chapters 2-4 of Clewis's *The Kantian Sublime*. 3. Selections from Lyotard's *Lessons on the Analytic of the Sublime*

**Thursday April 6<sup>th</sup>**

Aporiai: 1. Culture, history and artistic expression.

**Primary Sources:** 1. Deduction of pure aesthetic judgments (70 pages).

**Secondary Sources:** Chapters 7-12 of Guyers' *Kant and the Claims of Taste*

**Thursday April 13<sup>th</sup>**

Aporiai: 1. Symbolic expression and the paradox of the relationship between the sensible and supersensible.

**Primary Sources:** 1. Dialectic of aesthetic judgment (21 pages)

**Secondary Sources:** Selections from Heidegger's *Nietzsche Lectures* and Dilthey's *Poetry and Experience* and the *Formation of the Historical World in the Human Sciences*

**Thursday April 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Class Presentations**

**Thursday April 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Class Presentations**

**Final Paper Due Date TBA**