School of Humanities and Languages

ARTS3360 Philosophy Capstone: Examining Pivotal Texts
Immanuel Kant’s *Critique of Pure Reason* (1781/1787)
Semester 2, 2015

Emanuel Bardou, *Bust of Immanuel Kant* (1798)

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# 1. Course Staff and Contact Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Convenor</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Room</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Phone</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Email</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Consultation Time</strong></td>
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# 2. Course Details

**Units of Credit (UoC)** | 6

**Course Description**  
ARTS3360 Philosophy Capstone is intended as the culmination of an undergraduate major in Philosophy. Over the course of the semester we will focus on a pivotal text in the history of the discipline – Kant’s *Critique of Pure Reason*. This is a work that has profoundly shaped the way that philosophy has come to conceive itself: it remains a point of orientation for both the analytic and continental schools of contemporary philosophy. By coming to an understanding of this work, by adopting a critically informed position in relation to its arguments, methods and questions, students will acquire a better grasp of the past as well as possibilities of the discipline.

**Course Aims**

1. To develop and consolidate students’ understanding of the specific nature of philosophical inquiry, through the close reading of a pivotal text in the discipline
2. To develop students’ appreciation of some of the central concepts of philosophy, such as substance, cause and freedom
3. To develop the academic research skills associated with philosophy in order to prepare students for Honours

**Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Explain and evaluate a central philosophical text
2. Comprehend the arguments for and against a range of philosophical positions
3. Articulate reasons for philosophical positions
4. Communicate complex ideas in a clear and concise manner

**Graduate Attributes**

1. Rigorous in analysis, critique and reflection
2. Capable of effective communication
3. Capable of life-long learning
4. Culturally aware and capable of respecting diversity and acting in socially just/responsible ways
3. Learning and Teaching Rationale

The course is structured around weekly seminar meetings. Every Friday morning for weeks 1-12 we will meet for three hours to work together through the questions and arguments of the set reading. Preparation by reading the set texts is crucial for successful participation in the course. Students are to come to class ready to make meaningful contributions to class discussion. Some questions that we can ask ourselves while reading are: What is the problem that Kant is addressing? How does he go about drawing up a response? What are the advantages and disadvantages of his particular response? How does it fit together with the rest of the work and with other philosophical treatments? We should be willing to run with one another’s ideas, put them to the test, clarify one another’s misgivings, acknowledge the force of one another’s criticisms, etc. Debating the sense of a work with other readers is a valuable means to testing the limitations and advantages of our different points of view. By learning to be critical of ourselves we learn also how to be critical of the tradition in which we find ourselves. By learning to follow through another’s train of thought we learn also how to listen.

4. Teaching Strategies

Friday 9 am – 12 noon, Mathews 125.
The course will be conducted as a seminar, running weeks 1-12.
There will be no class in week 13.
Students are advised to read the set texts for the week before coming to class.
Lecture notes will be posted on Moodle.

5. Course Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Task</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Learning Outcomes Assessed</th>
<th>Graduate Attributes Assessed</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On-line discussion forum</td>
<td>100-300 words/post</td>
<td>5%/post (25% total)</td>
<td>1,2,3,4</td>
<td>1,2,3,4</td>
<td>The Monday of weeks 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class presentation with write-up as critical essay</td>
<td>1,500 words</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>1,2,3,4</td>
<td>1,2,3,4</td>
<td>23 October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final essay</td>
<td>3,000 words</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>1,2,3,4</td>
<td>1,2,3,4</td>
<td>23 October</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On-line discussion forum. Percentage of total mark: 25%
Every student is expected to post contributions to the discussion forum on Moodle. The contributions from the preceding fortnight will be each given a mark (up to 5%) on the Monday of weeks 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11. Topics for the discussion forum will be drawn up in class and posted by the course convenor. You may find that you are able to make a better contribution by responding to someone else’s post rather than to the discussion topic directly. The purpose of the activity is to hone one’s ideas regarding Kant’s text.

Class presentation with write-up as critical essay. Percentage of total mark: 35%.
Due date for write-up as critical essay: 23 October.
Starting in week 3, students will give 20-minute presentations relating to the set reading for the week.
Students who are presenting in the same week must confer in advance so as to avoid treating the exact same passages. The aim of the presentations is to clarify the text – this could entail pointing out problems with Kant’s argument, thereby revealing it to be less clear than it might otherwise have seemed! Each presentation will be followed by questions from the class. By the end of the semester a write-up of the presentation as a critical essay should be submitted via Turnitin. It is a second chance to clarify the position one took during the presentation and to respond to questions raised by the audience for which one may not have had an answer at the time (sometimes one’s best ideas come much later – the French expression “l’esprit de l’escalier” refers to the fitting remark that suggests itself only when one is already out on the landing).

Final essay. Percentage of total mark: 40%. Due date: 23 October.

Possible essay topics:
1) Synthetic a priori judgement
2) Space and time as a priori intuitions
3) The task and challenges of the deduction of the categories
4) Schematism
5) Causality
6) Self and substance
7) Freedom
8) The thing in itself
9) The transcendental unity of apperception
10) Transcendental illusion and metaphysics
11) The Idea of the world
12) Kant’s refutation of one or more of the proofs of God’s existence

These are only some of the topics that the *Critique of Pure Reason* broaches. Students should feel free to address other issues raised by the book. Students are furthermore encouraged to consult the course convenor with regard to the more precise framing of their essay topic. Finding out just what angle you want to take might not be immediately apparent and require some debating of options. Coming up with your own topic and angle is a good preparation for further study in philosophy. Your essay must be accompanied by a scholarly apparatus that identifies those passages in Kant which support your reading. You must also situate your reading in relationship to the secondary literature on your chosen topic.

**Rationale for Essays**
Successful completion of the essay will help you to develop a number of the attributes that UNSW expects of its graduates, most notably scholarly methods, critical thinking, independent learning and effective communication skills.

**Assessment Rubric/Essay Standards**

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<tr>
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<th>HD</th>
<th>DN</th>
<th>CR</th>
<th>PS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exposition of issues</strong></td>
<td>Conveys in a coherent manner a clear and profound comprehension of the issues.</td>
<td>Conveys in a coherent manner a clear comprehension of the issues.</td>
<td>Conveys in a coherent manner a comprehension of the issues.</td>
<td>Conveys a comprehension of the issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Analysis</strong></td>
<td>Exhibits skills associated with the philosophical analysis of texts.</td>
<td>Exhibits skills associated with the philosophical analysis of texts.</td>
<td>Exhibits some skills associated with the philosophical</td>
<td>Exhibits some reflection on the issues covered.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Disciplinary conventions</strong></td>
<td>Demonstrates detailed attention to and successful execution of a wide range of conventions particular to the academic essay in philosophy, including organisation, content, presentation, referencing, formatting and stylistic choices.</td>
<td>Demonstrates consistent use of important conventions particular to the academic essay in philosophy, including organisation, content, presentation, referencing, formatting and stylistic choices.</td>
<td>Follows expectations appropriate to philosophy and the academic essay for basic organisation, content, and presentation.</td>
<td>Attempts to use a consistent system for basic organisation and presentation.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Citations and quotations</strong></td>
<td>Demonstrates critically reflective use of relevant sources to advance argument.</td>
<td>Demonstrates reflective use of relevant sources to support position.</td>
<td>Demonstrates an attempt to use relevant sources to support position.</td>
<td>Demonstrates an attempt to use sources to support ideas in the essay.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Syntax, punctuation and vocabulary</strong></td>
<td>Uses graceful language that communicates meaning with clarity and fluency and is virtually error-free.</td>
<td>Uses straightforward language that generally conveys meaning to readers. The language in the essay has few errors.</td>
<td>Uses language that generally conveys meaning to readers with clarity, although writing may include some errors.</td>
<td>Uses language that sometimes impedes meaning because of errors in usage.</td>
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**Please Note:** The Arts and Social Sciences Protocols and Guidelines state:

A student who attends less than 80% of the classes/activities and has not submitted appropriate supporting documentation to the Course Authority to explain their absence may be awarded a grade of UF (Unsatisfactory Fail).

The Attendance Guidelines can be found in full at: [https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/Protocols-Guidelines/](https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/Protocols-Guidelines/)

**Grades**

All results are reviewed at the end of each semester and may be adjusted to ensure equitable marking across the School.

The proportion of marks lying in each grading range is determined not by any formula or quota system, but by the way that students respond to assessment tasks and how well they...
meet the objectives of the course. Nevertheless, since higher grades imply performance that is well above average, the number of distinctions and high distinctions awarded in a typical course is relatively small. At the other extreme, on average 6.1% of students do not meet minimum standards and a little more (8.6%) in first year courses. For more information on the grading categories see: https://student.unsw.edu.au/grades

Submission of Assessment Tasks

All written work must be uploaded by the assigned date and time via Turnitin on the Moodle page for this course.

Assignments must be submitted before 4:00 pm on the due date. Assignments received after this time will be marked as having been received late.

Late Submission of Assignments

The Arts and Social Sciences late submissions guidelines state the following:

- An assessed task is deemed late if it is submitted after the specified time and date as set out in the course Learning Management System (LMS).
- The late penalty is the loss of 3% of the total possible marks for the task for each day or part thereof the work is late.
- Work submitted 14 days after the due date will be marked and feedback provided but no mark will be recorded. If the work would have received a pass mark but for the lateness and the work is a compulsory course component, a student will be deemed to have met that requirement. This does not apply to a task that is assessed but no mark is awarded.
- Work submitted 21 days after the due date will not be accepted for marking or feedback and will receive no mark or grade. If the assessment task is a compulsory component of the course, a student will automatically fail the course.

The Late Submissions Guidelines can be found in full at: https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/Protocols-Guidelines/

The penalty may not apply where students are able to provide documentary evidence of illness or serious misadventure. Time pressure resulting from undertaking assignments for other courses does not constitute an acceptable excuse for lateness.

6. Extension of Time for Submission of Assessment Tasks

The Arts and Social Sciences Extension Guidelines apply to all assessed tasks regardless of whether or not a grade is awarded, except the following:

1. any form of test/examination/assessed activity undertaken during regular class contact hours
2. any task specifically identified by the Course Authority (the academic in charge of the course) in the Course Outline or Learning Management System (LMS), for example, Moodle, as not available for extension requests.

The complete Arts and Social Sciences Extension Guidelines can be read here.

If you wish to request an extension for submission of an assessment task you need to do so via myUNSW using the Special Consideration section. You will need to submit documentary evidence in support of your request.
A student who missed an assessment activity held within class contact hours should apply for Special Consideration via myUNSW.

7. Attendance

The Arts and Social Sciences Attendance Guidelines state the following:

- A student is expected to attend all class contact hours for a face-to-face or blended course and complete all activities for a blended or fully online course.
- If a student is unable to attend all classes for a course due to timetable clashes, the student must complete the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences Permitted Timetable Clash form (see information at Item 8 below). A student unable to attend lectures in a course conducted by the School of Education can apply for “Permission to Participate in Lectures Online”.
- Where practical, a student’s attendance will be recorded. Individual course outlines/LMS will set out the conditions under which attendance will be measured.
- A student who arrives more than 15 minutes late may be penalised for non-attendance. If such a penalty is imposed, the student must be informed verbally at the end of class and advised in writing within 24 hours.
- If a student experiences illness, misadventure or other occurrence that makes absence from a class/activity unavoidable, or expects to be absent from a forthcoming class/activity, they should seek permission from the Course Authority, and where applicable, should be accompanied by an original or certified copy of a medical certificate or other form of appropriate evidence.
- Reserve members of the Australian Defence Force who require absences of more than two weeks due to full-time service may be provided an exemption. The student may also be permitted to discontinue enrolment without academic or financial penalty.
- If a Course Authority rejects a student’s request for absence from a class or activity the student must be advised in writing of the grounds for the rejection.
- A Course Authority may excuse a student from classes or activities for up to one month. However, they may assign additional and/or alternative tasks to ensure compliance.
- A Course Authority considering the granting of absence must be satisfied a student will still be able to meet the course’s learning outcomes and/or volume of learning.
- A student seeking approval to be absent for more than one month must apply in writing to the Dean and provide all original or certified supporting documentation.
- The Dean will only grant such a request after consultation with the Course Authority to ensure that measures can be organised that will allow the student to meet the course’s learning outcomes and volume of learning.
- **A student who attends less than 80% of the classes/activities and has not submitted appropriate supporting documentation to the Course Authority to explain their absence may be awarded a final grade of UF (Unsatisfactory Fail).**
- A student who has submitted the appropriate documentation but attends less than 66% of the classes/activities will be asked by the Course Authority to apply to discontinue the course without failure rather than be awarded a final grade of UF. The final decision as to whether a student can be withdrawn without fail is made by Student Administration and Records.
Students who falsify their attendance or falsify attendance on behalf of another student will be dealt with under the Student Misconduct Policy.

8. Class Clash

Students who are enrolled in an Arts and Social Sciences program (single or dual) and have an unavoidable timetable clash can apply for permissible timetable clash by completing an online application form. Students must meet the rules and conditions in order to apply for permissible clash. The rules and conditions can be accessed online in full at: https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/media/FASSFile/Permissible_Clash_Rules.pdf

For students who are enrolled in a non-Arts and Social Sciences program, they must seek advice from their home faculty on permissible clash approval.

9. Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is presenting someone else’s thoughts or work as your own. It can take many forms, from not having appropriate academic referencing to deliberate cheating.

In many cases plagiarism is the result of inexperience about academic conventions. The University has resources and information to assist you to avoid plagiarism.

The Learning Centre assists students with understanding academic integrity and how to not plagiarise. Information is available on their website: https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism/. They also hold workshops and can help students one-on-one.

If plagiarism is found in your work when you are in first year, your lecturer will offer you assistance to improve your academic skills. They may ask you to look at some online resources, attend the Learning Centre, or sometimes resubmit your work with the problem fixed. However, more serious instances in first year, such as stealing another student’s work or paying someone to do your work, may be investigated under the Student Misconduct Procedures.

Repeated plagiarism (even in first year), plagiarism after first year, or serious instances, may also be investigated under the Student Misconduct Procedures. The penalties under the procedures can include a reduction in marks, failing a course or for the most serious matters (like plagiarism in an Honours thesis) or even suspension from the university. The Student Misconduct Procedures are available here: http://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/studentmisconductprocedures.pdf

10. Course Schedule

To view course timetable, please visit: http://www.timetable.unsw.edu.au/

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seminar Date</th>
<th>Set Reading from the Critique of Pure Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31 July</td>
<td>Prefaces to First and Second Editions, Avii-xxii and Bvii-xliv.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
11. Course Resources

**Textbook Details**

You will notice that the margins of this edition contain numbers prefixed by an A or a B. Academic writing on the *Critique of Pure Reason* cites specific pages within the work by referring to the pagination of the first (A) and/or second (B) editions. You are to follow this convention in your assessment tasks. The schedule of set readings above lists the passages in terms of their position in Kant's original editions.

**Additional Readings**

**Websites**
Students seeking resources can also obtain assistance from the UNSW Library. One starting point for assistance is:
12. Course Evaluation and Development

Courses are periodically reviewed and students’ feedback is used to improve them. Feedback is gathered using various means including UNSW’s Course and Teaching Evaluation and Improvement (CATEI) process.

13. Student Support

The Learning Centre is available for individual consultation and workshops on academic skills. Find out more by visiting the Centre’s website at:
http://www lc.unsw.edu.au

14. Grievances

All students should be treated fairly in the course of their studies at UNSW. Students who feel they have not been dealt with fairly should, in the first instance, attempt to resolve any issues with their tutor or the course convenors.

If such an approach fails to resolve the matter, the School of Humanities and Languages has an academic member of staff who acts as a Grievance Officer for the School. This staff member is identified on the notice board in the School of Humanities and Languages. Further information about UNSW grievance procedures is available at:
https://student.unsw.edu.au/complaints

15. Other Information

myUNSW

myUNSW is the online access point for UNSW services and information, integrating online services for applicants, commencing and current students and UNSW staff. To visit myUNSW please visit either of the below links:
https://my.unsw.edu.au
https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/ABC.html

OHS

UNSW's Occupational Health and Safety Policy requires each person to work safely and responsibly, in order to avoid personal injury and to protect the safety of others. For all matters relating to Occupational Health, Safety and environment, see https://www.ohs.unsw.edu.au/

Special Consideration

In cases where illness or other circumstances produce repeated or sustained absence, students should apply for Special Consideration as soon as possible.
The application must be made via Online Services in myUNSW. Log into myUNSW and go to My Student Profile tab > My Student Services channel > Online Services > Special Consideration.

Applications on the grounds of illness must be filled in by a medical practitioner. Further information is available at: https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration

**Student Equity and Disabilities Unit**

Students who have a disability that requires some adjustment in their learning and teaching environment are encouraged to discuss their study needs with the course convener prior to or at the commencement of the course, or with the Student Equity Officers (Disability) in the Student Equity and Disabilities Unit (9385 4734). Information for students with disabilities is available at: http://www.studentequity.unsw.edu.au/

Issues that can be discussed may include access to materials, signers or note-takers, the provision of services and additional examination and assessment arrangements. Early notification is essential to enable any necessary adjustments to be made.