

PHIL 427 A01/500 A02
Advanced Studies in Early Modern Philosophy:
Kant, Critique of the Power of Judgment

CRN# 12751 / 12754
MTh 10:00-11:20, Room TBA

Instructor: Dr. Thomas Land
Office: CLE B 331
Office Hours: Wed 3:00-4:00 and by appt.
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Course Description

What is it to assess something aesthetically; for instance, to characterize it as beautiful? Is it to ascribe a particular property to it? Or is it to say that the object so characterized gives rise to a certain kind of experience? Both? None? Kant develops his theory of aesthetic judgment in the third of his three *Critiques*, the *Critique of the Power of Judgment*. Seemingly unrelated, in the same book he offers a theory of what it is to think about organisms – what is involved in characterizing something as living. Kant sees a deep commonality between these two topics, but whether we agree with him or not, his ideas in this area have been highly influential and continue to reward close study. Thus, Kant's account of aesthetic judgment influences aesthetic theorizing to this day; and his account of thought about life offers an intriguing proposal as to why biology may not be reducible to physics (not to mention its influence on 19th-century philosophy). In this class we will read both parts of the *Critique of the Power of Judgment*, seeking to understand Kant's sophisticated and complex views on these topics and occasionally placing them in relation to more recent developments.

Course Website

This course has an associated website on UVic's *Brightspace* tool. This will be used for assignments, communication, and to make available additional materials. To access your customized *Brightspace* page, sign in to UVic and click on *Online Tools*. You should see *Brightspace* as an option. If you are unable to access *Brightspace*, please contact me.

Texts

There is one required book, which is available in hard copy at the UVic Bookstore:

Immanuel Kant, *Critique of the Power of Judgment*, transl. Paul Guyer and Eric Matthews, Cambridge UP, 978-0521348928, required [= *CJ*]

Additional readings will be made available on *Brightspace*.

Other translations of the *Critique of Judgment* are available in English. You are encouraged to consult these in addition to the one that has been ordered; the latter, however, is the official, and required, text for this class.

The German text of Kant's corpus) is available online at <http://korpora.org/Kant/verzeichnisse-gesamt.html>

Course Format

The class will be taught as a seminar, with a focus on discussion and student-led formats. You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned material *in detail*. I will occasionally give short lectures, but these will be kept to a minimum. For this reason, how much you get out of this class will be more or less directly proportional to how much you put in. Think of honing the skills involved in preparing for, and conducting, in-class discussion of dense philosophical material as one of the central learning outcomes in an upper-level seminar such as this one.

Evaluation

a. Requirements

There are four requirements for this course, which are as follows:

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Due Date</i>	<i>Weight</i>
10 Weekly Discussion Questions	Wednesdays at 5:00pm	1% each
Class summary	TBD	15%
Midterm	Released: Oct 21, Due: Nov 4	25%
Final Paper	Released: Dec 2, Due: Dec 16	50%

Weekly Discussion Questions

During any 10 of 12 weeks, submit a question relating to the week's reading. The idea is for you to signal to the class what you find interesting and/or hard to understand, in order to facilitate class discussion. Write a paragraph to half a page. But: Don't just say 'What is Kant up to on page xyz?' Instead, explain what you *do* understand and what you don't.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you reach the required number of submissions. Graded pass/fail.

Class summary

Prepare a summary of the main points of class discussion. To be completed jointly with another student.

Midterm

A short paper on one or more assigned questions, with a focus on exposition.

Final Paper

A paper on an assigned question; alternatively, you may design your own topic, in consultation with me. The paper will combine exposition and discussion.

b. Late Penalties

Weekly Discussion Questions: Questions submitted after the deadline receive a mark of 'fail'.

Midterm and Final paper: 20 percentage points per day (weekends count as one day).

There are no exceptions to these deadlines unless there are good reasons for an extension.

c. N Grades

Students who have completed the two tests and the final exam will be considered to have completed the course. Failure to complete any one of these three requirements will result in a grade of "N" regardless of the cumulative percentage on other elements of the course. N is a failing grade and factors into GPA as a value of 0.

Course Schedule (may be adjusted as we go along)

Wk.	Date	Reading
1	Sep 8, 12	Introduction to Kant's Critical philosophy SEP entry 'Immanuel Kant'
2	Sep 15, 19	Judgments of Taste I: First and Second Moment <i>CJ</i> , §§ 1-8
3	Sep 22, 26	Judgments of Taste II: Third and Fourth Moment <i>CJ</i> , §§ 9-12, 18-22
4	Sep 29, Oct 3	Deduction of the pure judgment of taste <i>CJ</i> , §§ 30-40
5	Oct 6, 13	Art and Genius <i>CJ</i> , §§ 43-50
6	Oct 17, 20	The idea of a critique of the power of judgment <i>CJ</i> , Introduction
7	Oct 24, 27	<Life> as a philosophical concept Michael Thompson, "The Representation of Life"
8	Oct 31, Nov 3	Analytic of teleological judgment I <i>CJ</i> , §§ 61-64
9	Nov 7, 14	<i>No class on Nov 10 (reading break)</i> Analytic of teleological judgment II <i>CJ</i> , §§ 65-68
10	Nov 17, 21	Dialectic of teleological judgment I <i>CJ</i> , §§ 69-75
11	Nov 24, 28	Dialectic of teleological judgment II <i>CJ</i> , §§ 76-78
12	Dec 1, 5	TBA

Final paper due on December 16

Office Hours

I hold regular office hours. I encourage you to make use of these. No sign-up needed; just drop in. I especially encourage you to come to office hours if there is something you don't understand or if you are struggling in the course. The sooner you do, the better I will likely be able to help you. Office hours will be on Zoom. Use the office hour link provided in *Brightspace* under 'Course Tools' > 'Zoom'.

Email

I will sometimes communicate important information about assignments, readings, or other matters to you via email. Emails will be sent to the address listed in UVic's system as your contact information. It is your responsibility to check this email address once a day.

If you contact me via email, I will try to respond in a timely manner, which generally will be within 48 hours (longer on weekends). To make sure your email does not end up in my spam folder, I encourage you to put the course number in the subject line and use your UVic email address.

If you have a question about assignments, due dates, or other course policies, the syllabus should be your first resource. *I will not respond to any emails that ask questions which are answered in the syllabus.*

Your second resource should be posting your question to the discussion forum on course mechanics.

Intellectual property of materials on D2L Brightspace

Please note that all assignments for this course and all materials posted to the course's *Brightspace* site are the intellectual property of myself and the University of Victoria. Do not circulate this material or post it to note-sharing sites without my permission. Posting course materials to note-sharing sites or otherwise circulating course materials without the permission of your instructor violates the [Policy on Academic Integrity](#). Any evidence you are circulating materials without permission will be referred to the Chair of the Philosophy Department for investigation.

Online Student Conduct

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting critical academic discourse while providing a respectful and supportive learning environment. All members of the university community have the right to experience, and the responsibility to help create, such an environment. The University will not tolerate racism, sexualized violence, or any form of discrimination, bullying or harassment. *By logging into UVic's learning systems and interacting with online resources you are engaging in a university activity. This means that your conduct is subject to University policies in those settings.*

(<https://www.uvic.ca/services/studentlife/student-conduct/online-student-conduct/index.php>).

Academic Integrity (Plagiarism etc.)

Violations of academic integrity, such as plagiarism, cheating on exams etc., constitute breaches of university policy and carry serious penalties (e.g. failing the class, being put on disciplinary probation). Note that it is *your responsibility* to be aware of what constitutes plagiarism and other violations of academic integrity, and that *ignorance of this is not an acceptable excuse*. For information, please consult [UVic's Policy on Academic Integrity](#).

Accessibility

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you anticipate or experience any barriers to learning in this course, please feel welcome to discuss your concerns with me. If you require academic accommodations you need to register with the Centre for Accessible Learning (<https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal>). Please do so as early as possible. You can find information about academic accommodations through the Centre for Accessible Learning's website (<https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/programs/academic/index.php>).

Grading Scheme

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point	Grade Definition
90-100	A+	9	An A+, A, or A- is earned by work which is technically superior , shows mastery of the subject matter, and in the case of an A+ offers original insight and/or goes beyond course expectations. Normally achieved by a minority of students.
85-89	A	8	
80-84	A-	7	
77-79	B+	6	A B+, B, or B- is earned by work that indicates a good comprehension of the course material, a good command of the skills needed to work with the course material, and the student's full engagement with the course requirements and activities. A B+ represents a more complex understanding and/or application of the course material. Normally achieved by the largest number of students.
73-76	B	5	
70-72	B-	4	
65-69	C+	3	A C+ or C is earned by work that indicates an adequate comprehension of the course material and the skills needed to work with the course material and that indicates the student has met the basic requirements for completing assigned work and/or participating in class activities
60-64	C	2	
50-59	D	1	A D is earned by work that indicates minimal command of the course materials and/or minimal participation in class activities that is worthy of course credit toward the degree.
0-49	F	0	F is earned by work which, after the completion of course requirements, is inadequate and unworthy of course credit towards the degree.

Interpretation of these grade definitions is at the discretion of the instructor. If you receive a grade that you believe is unfair, please begin by discussing the matter with the instructor (or TA) in a respectful, open-minded manner. If you still believe the grade you received is unfair you can appeal the matter to the chair of the department.

For additional information regarding grades, please see pp. 51-53 of the most recent edition of the UVic Undergraduate Calendar.

All evaluations of tests and assignments will be calculated according to percentage scores. Letter grades and grade point scores are listed purely for reference.

Counselling Services

Your mental health is as important as your physical health. During the semester, you might feel overwhelmed, lonely, or stressed about your academic performance. You might experience a personal or family tragedy. The University provides free counselling services, and I encourage you to make use of these in this type of situation. (See www.uvic.ca/services/counselling/ for more information).

Course Experience Surveys (CES)

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, as in all other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. The survey is accessed via MyPage and can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. I will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity during the course.