

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2023-2024**

Philosophy 4050G/9015B: Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*

Winter Term 2024

Instructor: N/A

DESCRIPTION

Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* was the culmination of several strands in the tradition of early modern philosophy. But it was also a decisive turn away from the tradition in fundamental respects. Kant compared his "Critical" turn to the Copernican revolution in astronomy: Copernicus had showed that some motions we observe in the heavens are actually motions of ourselves, the observer; Kant argued that metaphysical principles we ascribe to the world are actually features of our own cognition. Kant's "Critical philosophy" had a profound effect on the development, not only of metaphysics and epistemology, but also psychology, logic, mathematics, and the sciences. In this course we will consider the fundamental ideas and arguments of the *Critique*, beginning with some of the pre-Critical writings that embody Kant's engagement with previous philosophers and the gradual transition toward his mature view. We will emphasize his changing views on the relation between reason and experience, the character of a priori knowledge, and the nature and purpose of metaphysics.

TEXTS

Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*. The translation by Guyer and Wood has been ordered at a

UtWOBooksstore. Additio

OBJECTIVES

1. To study classic and contemporary texts in the theory of knowledge
2. To understand the role of epistemological questions in knowledge generally
3. To understand and critically evaluate knowledge claims
4. To develop competence in critical analysis by careful reading and discussion
5. To develop skills of oral expression and argument through class discussion
6. To develop writing skills through written assignments

AUDIT

Students distinguish between the different types of knowledge and the different ways of knowing. They are able to identify and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different types of knowledge and the different ways of knowing. They are able to identify and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different types of knowledge and the different ways of knowing. They are able to identify and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different types of knowledge and the different ways of knowing.

