



ST. JEROME'S UNIVERSITY

St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo
Department of Philosophy

PHIL 286J / GER 286

WINTER 2022

GREAT GERMAN THINKERS

TOPIC: The Philosophy of Immanuel Kant

Tuesdays and Thursdays @ 1:00 pm – 2:20 pm

Room SJ1 3016

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Professor Nikolaj Zunic
Office: SH 2003 [Sweeney Hall on the St. Jerome's University campus]
Phone: 519-884-8111 ext. 28229
Office Hours: By appointment only. Contact the professor to schedule a personal meeting.
Email: nzunic@uwaterloo.ca

The best and most effective way of contacting the professor is by e-mail.

E-mail messages will normally be answered within 24 hours.

Office hours will normally be conducted remotely by means of Microsoft Teams. However, opportunities for in-person meetings might be available. These will be assessed and scheduled on a case-by-case basis.

COURSE FORMAT

Since March 2020 university courses have been conducted for the most part remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This was supposed to change in winter 2022 with the plan that most courses were to be delivered in-person for the first time since the pandemic began. However, in December 2021 the University decided to return to remote learning for at least the first 3 weeks of the winter term because of fears related to the spread of the Omicron variant. Then on January 4 the University made another announcement that remote learning was to be extended until January 27.

Therefore, from January 5 until at least January 27, in accordance with University policies, **PHIL**

286J / GER 286 will be delivered remotely through LEARN.

(<https://learn.uwaterloo.ca/d2l/home>)

After January 27 it is our expectation to commence with in-person lectures at the university until the end of the winter term on April 5.

However, since the situation regarding COVID-19 continues to be unpredictable and uncertain, this may change during the winter term. So, we need to be prepared for any eventuality.

The mode of delivery and instruction in **PHIL 286J / GER 286** will be modified only if the University makes an official, public declaration of a change in policy. The course will not change procedures and format on its own without the senior administration of the University dictating such a change.

If at some point after January 27 there is another return to remote learning, then we will revert to the mode of instruction with which we began the winter term, that is, delivered entirely through LEARN.

The professor will post all relevant course material – e.g., the course outline, assignments, links, announcements – to the LEARN site.

LEARN will be a pivotal program that we will use in this course in both the remote and in-person learning environments. Therefore, all students enrolled in this course will need access to LEARN.

The course will be divided into four components:

- 1. Lectures**
- 2. Readings**
- 3. Discussions**
- 4. Assignments**

1. *Lectures*

There will be two different types of lectures delivered in this course: recorded and live.

(a) Recorded Lectures

For the duration of the online/remote delivery of the course—that is, from January 5 until at least January 27—all lectures will be recorded by the professor and posted to LEARN in the **Content** section.

The mode of content delivery for this first part of the course (until January 27) will be entirely asynchronous (= there is no set time to listen to and view lectures) instead of synchronous (= when a scheduled time is set for live instruction). All the lectures will be recorded, and students will have the opportunity to listen to the lectures on their own time.

Each recorded lecture will be a narrated PowerPoint presentation.

Each lecture will be typically 30 minutes in duration, although the lectures may be longer from time to time (for example, 40 or 50 minutes).

There will be two MP4 files posted regularly each week, one on Tuesdays and the second on Thursdays, by 1:00 pm. If for some reason the professor will be late in posting a lecture, he will announce this in LEARN.

If the University decides to return to online/remote learning later in the course, then we will follow this same procedure with recorded lectures as outlined here.

(b) Live Lectures

It is our expectation that lectures will be delivered in person starting the week of January 31.

We will, therefore, meet in person for regular live lectures at that point until the end of the winter term on April 5, unless there is a formal announcement from the University of a change to this format.

Lectures will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 pm to 2:20 pm in room SJ1 3016 which is located on the St. Jerome's University campus.

Any PowerPoint slides that may be used during the live lectures will be posted to LEARN, but without any added recorded narration.

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In both the recorded and live versions, the lectures will focus on the important concepts from the prescribed readings.

2. Readings

Students are required to read the selections from the prescribed book in accordance with the schedule contained in this course outline.

The readings for which students are responsible for studying are given in a weekly schedule.

The readings play a pivotal part of this course, as all the lectures and assignments will deal with them centrally.

Students are strongly advised to follow the readings schedule and diligently to do the prescribed readings.

3. *Discussions*

Each week fora for discussion on the week's main topics will be open for student engagement on LEARN.

- In LEARN go to **Connect → Discussions**.

These discussions are not intended to be solely a forum between students and the professor. Instead, they are mainly to be a site where students can discuss course material among themselves. The professor's involvement here is marginal.

The purpose of the discussion fora is to allow students to dialogue with each other, to pose and answer questions related to the week's topics, and to facilitate the comprehension of course material. In short, it is an opportunity for students to ask questions and to offer and receive responses.

Participation in the discussions is optional and will not constitute any part of the student's final grade.

4. *Assignments*

There are three assignments in this course. The entirety of each student's final grade will be based on these three assignments.

Each assignment will be an argumentative essay.

A very good resource to consult in order to understand how to write an effective philosophy paper is the following website:

https://philosophy.fas.harvard.edu/files/phildept/files/brief_guide_to_writing_philosophy_paper.pdf

**Please read through this document on how to write a philosophy paper before the first essay is assigned.*

The first two essays should be between 4-6 double-spaced pages (1200-1800 words). The third essay should be between 6-9 double-spaced pages (1800-2700 words). The essays will be based on topics corresponding to relevant sections of the course and thus will be specific to the readings that we are covering.

The first essay will deal with Kant's theoretical philosophy as presented in the *Critique of Pure Reason*.

The second essay will deal with Kant's moral philosophy.

The third essay will deal with Kant's views on aesthetic and teleological judgement, religion, and politics.

The instructions and topics for each essay assignment will be posted to LEARN approximately 3 weeks before the due dates.

All essay assignments must be submitted electronically to LEARN in the Dropbox section.

- In LEARN go to **Submit → Dropbox**.

Each essay will also be submitted to Turnitin, a program that scans essays for academic integrity infractions.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In the winter term 2022, the topic for **PHIL 286J / GER 286** is the **Philosophy of Immanuel Kant**.

Immanuel Kant (1724-1804) is one of the most important and influential philosophers in the western tradition of philosophy. Kant represents a major transition in modern philosophy, inspired by earlier thinkers such as René Descartes, Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, David Hume and Jean-Jacques Rousseau, but moving into new directions in concert with the intellectual and social developments of European civilization. He exerted an enormous influence on an entire generation of very significant philosophers, such as Johann Gottlieb Fichte, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, Friedrich Wilhelm Joseph Schelling, and Arthur Schopenhauer. In the 20th century and beyond Kant continues to be a major force in philosophy.

During his lifetime Kant was involved in shaping monumental movements in Europe. He was an outspoken adherent and promoter of the Enlightenment, which advanced political freedom and public rationality. He was also very influential in literary circles and in the lives of many artists, such as Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Friedrich Schiller, and Friedrich Schlegel, by providing the impetus for the Romantic movement.

One of the reasons why Kant is so central a figure in modern intellectual history is due to the diversity of his thought and the many different areas of philosophy that he wrote on. He can truly

be called a “Renaissance man,” since he treats a wide variety of topics in his writings, ranging from epistemology and metaphysics to science and logic to morality and politics to aesthetics and religion.

Nonetheless, Kant gained his reputation from his distinctive “critical” system of philosophy that was propounded over three books, namely, *Critique of Pure Reason* (1781), *Critique of Practical Reason* (1788), and *Critique of Judgement* (1790). These three works present Kant’s “critical philosophy,” for which he is best known and which influenced so many succeeding philosophers.

In this course we will be familiarizing ourselves with Kant’s ideas spanning his career since the publication of *Critique of Pure Reason*. We will read a number of selections of Kant’s writings and seek to understand why Kant is such an impressive figure in not only the history of philosophy, but in modern political history too. We will discuss the historical situation in which he lived and his significance for the development of philosophy in the 19th and 20th centuries. By the end of the course we will have a good grasp of the essence of Kant’s thought and why he is considered to be one of the most important philosophers ever.

Since Kant’s philosophy can be challenging, we will proceed at a manageable pace in this course. The emphasis will be on spending time to arrive at a proper comprehension of Kant’s theories as opposed to rushing through his writings.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course aims to fulfill the following pedagogical objectives:

- To become acquainted with Kant’s mature philosophical ideas.
- To understand the historical impact of Kant’s philosophy.
- To recognize the perennial value of Kant’s philosophy.
- To learn Kant’s method of philosophizing.

REQUIRED TEXT

There is one book which students are required to purchase or acquire for this course. It may be purchased at the University of Waterloo Bookstore or through some other book seller, such as Amazon.

Immanuel Kant. *Basic Writings of Kant*. Edited by Allen W. Wood. New York: The Modern Library, 2001.

ISBN 0-375-75733-3

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

There are three written assignments for this course.

The first two essays will be relatively short, ranging in length from 4-6 pages each (1200-1800 words).

The third essay will be longer and more substantial, ranging in length from 6-9 pages (1800-2700 words).

The nature of each essay will be argumentative. What this means is that the professor will provide a selection of questions or topics to choose from and students will have to argue or defend a position by using logical reasoning and evidence from the texts and lectures. It is crucial that students learn philosophy by learning how to reason and argue their positions. Therefore, the essay assignments will aim to foster such argumentative and logical reasoning skills.

The detailed instructions for each assignment as well as the essay topics will be posted to LEARN approximately 3 weeks before the respective due dates.

This course uses the Turnitin software, so all essays will be checked for plagiarism.

There is no final exam in this course.

The breakdown of the assignments with their corresponding due dates and weightings is given in the table below:

ASSIGNMENT	DUE DATE	VALUE
Essay #1	February 4 at 9:00 pm EST	30%
Essay #2	March 11 at 9:00 pm EST	30%
Essay #3	April 8 at 9:00 pm EST	40%

COURSE SCHEDULE

The following is a weekly schedule for this course. It lists the readings that students are responsible to study each week. The lectures will relate to the readings as they are listed in this schedule.

All readings in this schedule refer to the prescribed book: **Immanuel Kant. *Basic Writings of Kant*. Edited by Allen W. Wood. New York: The Modern Library, 2001.**

Please consult this schedule throughout the winter term.

WEEK 1: January 6

Introduction to the course

Reading: *Basic Writings of Kant*, Introduction, pp. vii-xxv.

WEEK 2: January 10-14

Reading: *Basic Writings of Kant*, pp. 3-41.

Topic: *Critique of Pure Reason*: Preface and Introduction.

WEEK 3: January 17-21

Reading: *Basic Writings of Kant*, pp. 42-53.

Topic: *Critique of Pure Reason*: Space and Time.

WEEK 4: January 24-28

Reading: *Basic Writings of Kant*, pp. 54-87.

Topic: *Critique of Pure Reason*: Concepts and Principles of the Understanding.

WEEK 5: January 31-February 4

Reading: *Basic Writings of Kant*, pp. 88-115.

Topic: *Critique of Pure Reason: The Antinomy of Pure Reason.*

**ASSIGNMENT #1 is due on Friday, February 4 at 9:00 pm EST.
Please submit the assignment electronically to the LEARN Dropbox.**

WEEK 6: February 7-11

Reading: *Basic Writings of Kant*, pp. 119-141.

Topic: *Idea for a Universal History with Cosmopolitan Intent;
Answer to the Question: What is Enlightenment?*

WEEK 7: February 14-18

Reading: *Basic Writings of Kant*, pp. 145-182.

Topic: *Fundamental Principles of the Metaphysics of Morals.*

WEEK 8: February 21-25

READING WEEK

**There is no course activity from February 19 to 27.*

WEEK 9: February 28-March 4

Reading: *Basic Writings of Kant*, pp. 182-221.

Topic: *Fundamental Principles of the Metaphysics of Morals.*

WEEK 10: March 7-11

Reading: *Basic Writings of Kant*, pp. 225-271.

Topic: *Critique of Practical Reason*

**ASSIGNMENT #2 is due on Friday, March 11 at 9:00 pm EST.
Please submit the assignment electronically to the LEARN Dropbox.**

WEEK 11: March 14-18

Reading: *Basic Writings of Kant*, pp. 275-313.

Topic: *Critique of Judgment: Aesthetic Judgment.*

WEEK 12: March 21-25

Reading: *Basic Writings of Kant*, pp. 314-366.

Topic: *Critique of Judgment: Teleological Judgment.*

WEEK 13: March 28-April 1

Reading: *Basic Writings of Kant*, pp. 369-413.

Topic: *Religion within the Limits of Reason Alone*

WEEK 14: April 5

Reading: *Basic Writings of Kant*, pp. 435-475.

Topic: *To Eternal Peace*

*The last day of lectures for the winter term is April 5.
There will be only one lecture this final week.*

**Assignment #3 is due on Friday, April 8 at 9:00 pm EST
Please submit the assignment electronically to the LEARN Dropbox.**

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

January 5: Beginning of classes

February 19-27: Reading Week: No lectures or course activity

April 5: End of classes

April 18-26: Final exam period [Please note that this course does not have a final exam]

COURSE POLICIES

Lateness Penalty: The penalty for late assignments is 3% deducted from the grade of the paper for each day that the paper is late.

Absolute Deadline: The maximum allowable amount of time for submitting assignments beyond the due date is one week. So, for example, if the first assignment is due on February 4 at 9:00 pm EST, then this assignment may be submitted late, with the lateness penalty applied, until February 11 at 9:00 pm EST. After February 11 the first assignment will no longer be accepted.

Illness: If a student is unable to participate in the course because of an illness, the student must complete a Verification of Illness form and report the illness to the instructor so that appropriate measures or accommodations made be made. For more information, please visit the following webpage: <https://uwaterloo.ca/registrar/current-students/accommodation-due-to-illness>

Assignment Feedback: Essays will normally be returned to students graded and with feedback two weeks after the submission deadline.

Student Conduct: Students are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful and polite manner. Rude, obnoxious, or disrespectful forms of behaviour will not be tolerated.

CORRESPONDENCE

As indicated at the beginning of this document, the best way to contact the professor is by e-mail at nzunic@uwaterloo.ca.

If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, feel free to contact the professor.

When you write to the professor, please be sure to indicate your name and the course that you are enrolled in.

Use formal language and proper grammar in your correspondence.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. [Check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/ for more information.]

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances, www.sju.ca/sites/default/files/upload_file/PLCY_AOM_Student-Petitions-and-Grievances_20151211-SJUSCapproved.pdf. When in doubt, please be certain to contact the St. Jerome's Advising Specialist, Student Affairs Office, who will provide further assistance.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for their actions. [Check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/ for more information.] A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Discipline, www.sju.ca/sites/default/files/PLCY_AOM_Student-Discipline_20131122-SJUSCapproved.pdf. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to University of Waterloo Policy 71, Student Discipline, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm. For typical penalties, check the Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm.

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Appeals, www.sju.ca/sites/default/files/PLCY_AOM_Student-Appeals_20131122-SJUSCapproved.pdf.

Note for students with disabilities: AccessAbility Services, located in Needles Hall (Room 1401) at the University of Waterloo, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term, www.uwaterloo.ca/accessability-services/.

Turnitin.com: Text matching software (Turnitin®) may be used to screen assignments in this course. Turnitin® is used to verify that all materials and sources in assignments are documented. Students' submissions are stored on a U.S. server, therefore students must be given an alternative (e.g., scaffolded assignment or annotated bibliography), if they are concerned about

their privacy and/or security. Students will be given due notice, in the first week of the term and/or at the time assignment details are provided, about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin® in this course. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor if they, in the first week of term or at the time assignment details are provided, wish to submit the alternate assignment.