Kant’s (and Kantian) Ethics (Course Proposal)

Course Description: In this course, students will learn about Kant’s moral theory as well as contemporary discussions of it. Contemporary readings will offer interpretive insight into Kant’s text and raise pressing critical challenges for his project.

Requirements:
- Attendance at all classes, along with participation in discussion
- Readings finished before class
- One class presentation
- Completion (on time) of one shorter critical paper, one commentary on another student’s critical paper, and one term paper (may be an expansion/further investigation of the shorter paper)

Readings:
All readings will either taken from the Cambridge collection Practical Philosophy, translated and edited by Mary J Gregor or be posted online/available online through the university’s library resources.

Grading:
- Participation (attendance, discussion): 20%
- Presentation: 10%
- Essays: Shorter Critical Essay (20%), Commentary (15%), Term Paper (35%)

Some Readings, Arranged by Primary Text and Discussion Topic:

Kant’s Texts:
Groundwork of the Metaphysics ofMorals
Critique of Practical Reason (emphasis Book I)
An Answer to the Question: What is Enlightenment?
Metaphysics of Morals (emphasis Doctrine of Virtue)

Contemporary Texts (arranged by topic):
Applying Formulas:
  - Wood, The Formula of Universal Law, from Kant’s Ethical Thought
  - Korsgaard, The Right to Lie: Kant on Dealing with Evil
  - Lausten and Ugilt, Eichmann’s Kant

Kant and the Sensible:
  - Wood, Kant versus Eudaimonism, from Kant’s Legacy
  - Herman, Rethinking Kant’s Hedonism, from Moral Literacy
Zuckert, *A New Look at Kant’s Theory of Pleasure*

Ware, *Self-Love and Self-Conceit in Kant’s Moral Psychology*

Guyer, *Duty and Inclination, from Kant and the Experience of Freedom*

Spelman, *Woman: The One and the Many, from Inessential Woman*

Respect for the Moral Law:

Nauckhoff, *Incentives and Interests in Kant’s Moral Psychology*


Engstrom, *The Triebfeder of Pure Practical Reason*

Herman, *Transforming Incentives*

Respecting/Valuing Humanity:

Buss, *Valuing Autonomy and Respecting Persons*

O’Neill, *Between Consenting Adults, from Constructions of Reason*

Korsgaard, *Two Distinctions in Goodness*

Langton, *Duty and Desolation*

Bunch, *Throwing Oneself Away*

Stark, *The Rationality of Valuing Oneself: A Critique of Kant on Self-Respect*