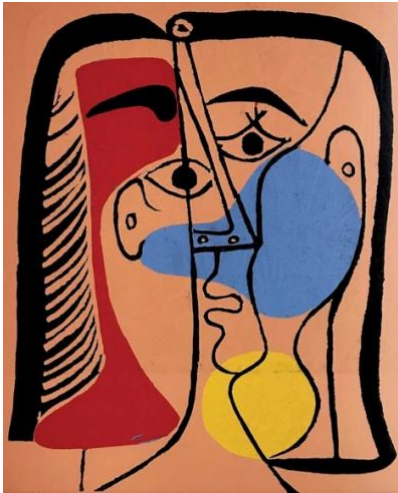


The Nature of Consciousness in Kant and Beyond



Grande tête rouge, bleue, jaune (1962)
Pablo Picasso

**Department of Philosophy
Johns Hopkins University
Course #: AS.150.413
Fall 2023**

Course Description

This course examines Kant's theory of consciousness, traces its major themes in selected post-Kantian thinkers such as Johann Gottlieb Fichte, William James, Edmund Husserl, and Edith Stein, and discusses contemporary challenges to Kant's theory. Important topics include the unity of consciousness, the perspectival nature of consciousness, subjectivity, reflexivity and self-consciousness, temporality and phenomenal qualities, intentionality, objectivity and intersubjectivity. Emphasis will be on close reading of the original texts, historically informed interpretation, and systematic argumentation.

Time: Th 1:30 PM – 4:00 PM

Place: Gilman 288

Instructor: Prof. Katharina Kraus

Schedule*

* This is a tentative schedule; modifications are at the discretion of the professor.

- **Week 1 (Aug. 31): Introduction to the seminar, the selection of topics and readings, and the assignments**

I. Kant's Transcendental Philosophy as a Philosophy of Consciousness

- **Week 2 (Sept. 7): Basic Introduction to Kant's Transcendental Philosophy as "Consciousness Philosophy"**
 - Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason [CpR]*, Transcendental Aesthetic: A19/B33-A30/B45; A31/B46-A36/B53
 - If you are not familiar with Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*, then I recommend that you also read the Introductions A and B (esp. sections I, II, IV, and V in the B-Edition)
- **Week 3 (Sept. 14): Kant (and Leibniz) on Self-Consciousness**
 - Kant, *CpR*, Transcendental Deduction B, §16: B131-136
 - Kant, *Anthropology*, Bk. 1: §1 (7:127-128), §§3-6 (7:131-140)
 - Leibniz, *New Essays on Human Understanding*, Preface (esp. 52-56)
 - Leibniz, *Monadology*, §14
- **Week 4 (Sept. 21): Kant on Objectivity and Object Constitution**
 - Kant, *CpR*, Transcendental Deduction B, §24: B150-156; §26: B158-165For further background on the Deduction of the Categories:
 - Kant, *CpR*, Transcendental Deduction A/B, §§10-13: A76/B102-A94/B129
- **Week 5 (Sept. 28): Kant on Temporal Experience**
 - Kant, *CpR*, The Three Analogies of Experience (A/B): A176/B218-A218/B265 (→ Focus on Second Analogy: A189/B232-A211/B256)
- **Week 6 (Oct. 5): Kant on the Subject of Consciousness**
 - Kant, *CpR*, First and Second Paralogism (A): A348-361
 - Kant, *CpR*, Refutation of Idealism (B): B274-279
 - Kant, *CpR*, Refutation of Mendelssohn's Proof (B): B413-426
- **Week 7 (Oct. 12): Recap: Kant's Transcendental Philosophy as "Consciousness Philosophy"**
 - In-Class Paper (instructions will be provided in due course)

II. Post-Kantian Developments in the Philosophy of Consciousness

- **Week 8 (Oct. 26): James and Husserl on Subjective Time-Consciousness and Lived Experience**
 - Excerpts from James, *Principles of Psychology*, in: Arstila/Lloyd, *Subjective Time*, pp. 3-23
 - Excerpts from Husserl, *Phenomenology of Inner Time-Consciousness (and other Lectures)*, in: Arstila/Lloyd, *Subjective Time*, pp. 61-73

- **Week 9 (Nov. 2): (Kant and) Fichte on the Consciousness of Freedom**
 - Kant, *Critique of Practical Reason*, Law of Pure Practical Reason: 5:30-33
 - Fichte, *System of Ethics* §§10-13: IV. 132-156
- **Week 10 (Nov. 9): Stein (and Husserl) on the Consciousness of Others: Intersubjectivity, Empathy, and Embodiment**
 - Excerpts from Edith Stein, *On the Problem of Empathy*, 1917, esp. II.2 ('On acts of empathy') and III.5 ('Transition to the foreign individual')
 - Excerpts from Husserl, *Cartesian Meditation V*, 1931

III. Contemporary Challenges**

** These are tentative suggestions for readings and topics, which may be modified according to students' specific interests.

- **Week 11 (Nov. 16): The Unconscious and the Particularity of Conscious Experience**
 - Excerpts from Sigmund Freud, *The Unconscious*, 1915
 - Excerpts from Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, 1949 (esp. Introduction, Vol. II, Ch. 2 'The Girl')
 - Béatrice Longuenesse, *I, Me, Mine*, Oxford: OUP, 2017, Ch. 7 ('Kant's "I" in "I think" and Freud's "Ego"')
 - Manon Garcia, *We are not Born Submissive: How Patriarchy Shapes Women's Lives*, 2021, Ch. 3, ('Womanhood as a Situation')
- **Week 12 (Nov. 30): Analytic Accounts and a Science of Consciousness**
 - Ned Block, "On a confusion about a function of consciousness". *Behavioral And Brain Sciences*, 1995, 18, 227-287. (Phenomenal vs. Access Consciousness)
 - Francis Crick and Christof Koch, "Consciousness and neuroscience". *Cerebral cortex* 1998, 8(2), 97-107
 - Ned Block, "Comparing the major theories of consciousness". In Michael Gazzaniga (ed.), *The Cognitive Neurosciences*, 2009, 1111-1123
 - Béatrice Longuenesse, "Kant on Consciousness and Its Limit". *Revue de métaphysique et de morale*, 2023, 1 (117), 7-26
- **Week 13 (Dec. 7): Animal Consciousness and Artificial Intelligence**
 - Gallup, G. G. Jr., & Anderson, J. R., & Shillito, D. J. "The Mirror Test". In M. Bekoff, C. Allen & G. Burghardt (eds.), *The Cognitive Animal*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2002, 325–334
 - John J. Callanan, "The Comparison of Animals". In John J. Callanan, and Lucy Allais (eds.), *Kant and Animals*. Oxford: OUP, 2020, 19-41
 - Tobias Schlicht, "Minds, Brains, and Deep Learning. The Development of Cognitive Science Through the Lens of Kant's Approach to Cognition". In Hyeongjoo Kim, and Dieter Schönecker (eds.), *Kant and Artificial Intelligence*. Berlin: de Gruyter, 2022, 3-38

Literature:

Primary Texts:

* Text Selections will be provided on Canvas from the following primary sources:

Immanuel Kant:

- *Critique of Pure Reason [CpR]* (1781/87). Ed. Paul Guyer and Allen W. Wood. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999.
- *Critique of Practical Reason [CpracR]* (1788). In: *Practical Philosophy*. Ed. Mary J. Gregor and Allen W. Wood. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999.
- *Anthropology from a Pragmatic Point of View [Anth]* (1788), in: *Anthropology, History, and Education*. In: *Practical Philosophy*. Ed. Günter Zöllner and Robert Louden. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999.

English translations are according to *The Cambridge Edition of the Works of*

Immanuel Kant, edited by P. Guyer and A. Wood (Cambridge University Press, 1992–).

Website with links to Kant's texts online:

<http://philosophyfaculty.ucsd.edu/faculty/ctolley/texts/kant.html>

Post-Kantian Literature:

- Johann Gottlieb Fichte, *System of Ethics According to the Principles of the Wissenschaftslehre* (1798). Translated by Günter Zöllner and Daniel Breazeale. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005.
- Edmund Husserl, *On the Phenomenology of Internal Time-Consciousness* (1905-10). The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff, 1966
- Edmund Husserl, *Cartesian Meditations. An Introduction to Phenomenology* (1931). Translated by Dorion Cairns. The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff Pub., 1977
- William James, *The Principles of Psychology* (1890). 2 Vols. New York: Henry Holt.
- Edith Stein, *On the Problem of Empathy. The Collected Works of Edith Stein. Vol. III*. Washington DC: ICS Publications, 1989.

Further Literature:

- *Subjective Time. The Philosophy, Psychology, and Neuroscience of Temporality*. Ed. Valtteri Arstila and Dan Lloyd. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.