

Kant on Practical Judgment

Graduate Seminar

Course Description: While judgment is a central notion in Kant's Critical philosophy, it receives far less attention in his practical philosophy than it does in both his theoretical philosophy and aesthetics. Indeed, he devotes only a few pages to the topic of judgment in the *Critique of Practical Reason*—in a section entitled the 'Typic of Pure Practical Judgment' (*KpV* 5:67-71)—and otherwise scattered remarks in the *Groundwork*. This is especially striking, given the relative importance of judgment for practical life: Kant repeatedly stresses that grasping a concept or understanding a rule—whether empirical or medical or legal—does not itself entail that I will be able to apply it in daily life (*KrV* A133-134/B172-173; *TP* 8:275). Given judgment's unique and essential role in mediating between theory and practice, one might even go as far as to say that *all* judgment—including, e.g., the theoretical and the aesthetic—has a practical aim. Our overall aim in this course will be to come to a better understanding of Kant's account of practical judgment. Questions we will ask include: what, for Kant, is a practical judgment? Are they determining, reflecting, both or neither? How should we situate Kant's account of practical judgment within his theory of judgment 'in general'? And, where does practical judgment fit with respect to related notions in his moral philosophy, such as practical reason, practical knowledge, and practical cognition? What role does the 'power of judgment' [*Urteilstkraft*] play in bringing about practical judgments? What about the faculty of Reason [*Vernunft*]? Does practical judgment also involve subsumption? Reflection? Imagination?

Assessment:

- *Participation:* 10%. You are expected to complete the readings in advance, and show up to class prepared to discuss them.
- *Presentation:* 20%. You will present on one of the week's readings, providing a short summary and raising some questions for class discussion.
- *Final paper:* 70%. You will write a 15-20 page research (i.e., thesis-driven) essay on a topic related to the course material.

Texts: All readings will be made available electronically; you are not required to purchase any texts for this course.

Course Schedule:

Week 1 – Kant on Judgment 'in general'

Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason* (A131/B169-A136/B175)

–, *Critique of the Power of Judgment* (20:195-226, 241-247; 5:167-181)

–, 'Theory and Practice' essay (8:275-289)

Week 2 – Kant’s Typic of Pure Practical Judgment

Kant, *Critique of Practical Reason* (5:19-41, 58-71)

Adam Westra, *The Typic in Kant’s Critique of Practical Reason: Moral Judgment and Symbolic Representation* (de Gruyter, 2016) [excerpts].

Week 3 – Practical Judgment as Determining and/or Reflecting

Beatrice Longuenesse, “Moral Judgment as a Judgment of Reason,” in *Kant on the Human Standpoint* (Cambridge UP, 2005).

Ted Di Maria, “Kant on Practical Judgment,” *International Philosophical Quarterly* (2019).

Week 4 – Practical Judgment as a Third Kind of Judgment

Onora O’Neill, *From Principles to Practice: Normativity and Judgement in Ethics and Politics* (Cambridge UP, 2018) [excerpts: ch. 4-8 (p. 53-136), ch. 13 (p. 193-208)].

Week 5 – Practical Knowledge

Stephen Engstrom, *The Form of Practical Knowledge: A Study of the Categorical Imperative* (Harvard UP, 2009) [excerpts: ch. 2 (p. 25-65), ch. 4 (p. 97-128)].

Week 6 – Practical Cognition

Karl Schafer, “Practical Cognition and Knowledge of Things-in-Themselves,” in Evan Tiffany & Dai Heide (eds.), *Kantian Freedom* (Oxford UP, forthcoming).

Jeremy David Fix, “Practical Cognition as Volition,” *European Journal of Philosophy* (2021).

Recommended: Marcus Willaschek & Eric Watkins, “Kant on Cognition and Knowledge,” *Synthese* (2020).

Week 7 – Practical Reason

Allen Wood, “Kant on Practical Reason,” in Mark Timmons & Sorin Baiasu (eds.), *Kant on Practical Justification: Interpretive Essays* (Oxford UP, 2013).

E. Sonny Elizondo, “Reason in its Practical Application,” *Philosophers’ Imprint* (2013).

Onora O’Neill, “Rationality as Practical Reason,” in Alfred R. Mele & Piers Rawling (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Rationality* (Oxford UP, 2004).

Week 8 – The Practice of Moral Judgment

Barbara Herman, *The Practice of Moral Judgment* (Harvard UP, 1993) [excerpts: ch. 4 (p. 73-93)].

Charles Larmore, “Moral Judgment,” *The Review of Metaphysics* (1981).

Talbot Brewer, “Rethinking Our Maxims: Perceptual Salience and Practical Judgment in Kantian Ethics,” *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* (2001).

Week 9 – Imagination and Moral Judgment

Mavis Biss, “Moral Imagination, Perception, and Judgment,” *The Southern Journal of Philosophy* (2014).

Alfredo Ferrarin, “Imagination and Judgment in Kant’s Practical Philosophy,” *Philosophy & Social Criticism* (2008).

Recommended: Samantha Matherne, “Kant’s Theory of the Imagination,” in Amy Kind (ed.), *The Routledge Handbook of the Philosophy of the Imagination* (Routledge, 2016).

Week 10 – Reflection and Moral Judgment

Nicholas Dunn, “Kant on Reflection and Practical Judgment” (draft)

Melissa Merritt, *Kant on Reflection and Virtue* (Cambridge UP, 2018) [excerpts].