BA Syllabus

**Lecturer:** Dr. John J. Callanan
**Email:** john.callanan@kcl.ac.uk

**Lecture Time:** Mondays 10-11 am, Sem 2
**Lecture Location:** tba

**Seminar Time:** Wednesdays 3-4 pm, Sem 2
**Seminar Location:** tba

**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 12-1 pm (by appointment, term time only)
**Office Location:** Room 710, Philosophy Building, Strand Campus
**Web:** [http://www.kcl.ac.uk/artshums/depts/philosophy/people/staff/academic/callanan/index.aspx](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/artshums/depts/philosophy/people/staff/academic/callanan/index.aspx)

**Course Description**
This course provides an introduction to the moral and aesthetic philosophy of Immanuel Kant. This year the course will focus entirely on Kant’s moral philosophy and will involve a reading of a seminal text in the history of moral philosophy, Kant’s *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*. Through a reading of these texts, students will gain a critical understanding of the nature of a Kantian approach to the topics of morality and freedom.

**Evaluation**
- **Formative assessment:** 2 x 1500-word essays, deadline tba
- **Summative assessment:** 2 x 2500-word essays, deadline tba

**Policy regarding late work**
- Assignments are due in class on the day specified on the syllabus. I will not accept late assignments past the due date.

**Notes**
- There are two meetings per week: one lecture and one tutorial.
- Therefore, plan your reading ahead of time for each class. On occasion the primary reading will be the same for both meetings but the recommended secondary readings differ.
- This module may be, but need not be, taken in conjunction with 6AANB018 Kant’s *Critique of Pure Reason*.
- The lecture schedule and reading list are subject to change.
- Individual lecture handouts will be available through Keats. Students are expected to bring both the syllabus and the week’s handout to every lecture, including Week 1.

**Prerequisites**
- There are no prerequisites for this course.

**Plagiarism Policy**
- We’re against it. What constitutes plagiarism? See here: [http://www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/humanities/depts/philosophy/current/plagiarism.html](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/humanities/depts/philosophy/current/plagiarism.html)

**Set Text**
Students must obtain a copy of the primary reading required for every lecture and seminar. Some versions include:
Primary Reading

• Students are expected to read all the primary material assigned for each meeting.

Secondary Reading

• I list an awful lot of secondary sources below for each lecture and seminar. Don’t try to read all, or even most of it. The list is there is to give students an idea of a range of approaches, and for those who want to look at certain topics in more depth, or for the purposes of their essays. Students are not required to do so, but I’d expect you to have familiarised yourself with at least one of the secondary readings listed in preparation for each class (e.g. the relevant section of one of the general introductions listed below). The best places to start are with the Cambridge Companions and the introductory works by Buroker and Gardner (see below).

• Note that among the secondary readings for each meeting, there will always be readings available online on either of KCL’s subscriptions to three different Eresources – Oxford Scholarship Online (OSO), EBook Library (EBL), and Cambridge Companions Online (CCON) Access through your king’s email account – search for the resources under the ‘Databases’ link. There are physical copies available of all the books listed below in the Maughan Library (even those that are also available online).

• All the other secondary materials listed are either (a) books available in the Maughan Library at KCL or at the Senate House Library, or (b) articles available online through your KCL username or through Senate House Library E-Collections. It is the student’s responsibility to acquire access to Senate House Library in time for the beginning of the course.

• The only internet resource I occasionally note here is the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (http://plato.stanford.edu/). However, it is not an adequate substitute for reading the secondary readings listed. So please use it sparingly. Note also that they have their own very clear citation policy – stick to it if you are using it for written work. Use no other internet sources.
Lecture Schedule

Lecture One – Kant’s History of Ethics

Lecture Two – The Science of the Laws of Freedom

Lecture Three – A Good Will

Lecture Four – Rationality and Morality

Lecture Five – Categorical Imperatives

Reading Week

Lecture Six – Kant’s Examples

Lecture Seven – The Humanity Formulation

Lecture Eight – Autonomy and Self-Legislation

Lecture Nine – Morality and Freedom

Lecture Ten – Kantian Ethics and its Critics

Some General Introductions to Kant’s Thought


Some Collections


Krueger, James & Lipscomg, Benjamin (eds.). Kant’s Moral Metaphysics. Berlin: de Gruyter. (EBL)


Some Advanced Works