Introduction

This course will investigate the meaning, the nature, and the possibility of transcendental philosophy. In particular, the course will focus on distinguishing (externally) transcendental philosophy from a metaphysical approach to consciousness and (internally) the transcendental philosophies of Kant, Husserl, and Heidegger (of the 1920s). This investigation will be ordered around three broad themes:

1. The scope of transcendental philosophy (e.g., is the notion of the transcendental epistemological or ontological in character; is it limited to the cognitive domain or not).
2. The character of transcendental inquiry.
3. The nature of transcendental subjectivity and the question of transcendental idealism.

Readings

2


Thomas Aquinas, Saint. 1952. De veritate, q. 1, a. 1; q. 21, aa. 1–3.


A Note on the Readings

I have asked that the library put all the readings, with the exception of the article on neo-Kantianism from the online Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy, on reserve. Some readings will be available only in this way, since the Stern collection of essays is very expensive. Some of the articles are also available in the electronic journals section of the library, and Strawson’s The Bounds of Sense is available through the library as an e-book. Finally, you might be interested in buying some of the books from which we shall read lengthier excerpts. I have ordered the following books for the bookstore. But you might wish to
order them directly from the publisher (and, of course, you might be able to find used copies on the web for a cheaper price). The publisher information for these books follows:


I assume that everyone has a copy of Kant’s *Critique of Pure Reason*. If not, get one!!!

**Schedule**

**N.B.** The password for E-Res is “transcendental” (without the quotation marks).

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<td>11 September:</td>
<td>Organization and Introduction</td>
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| **Topic:** Categories and Transcendentals: Kant’s Critique of “Ancient Transcendental Philosophy” | **Readings:** 1) St. Thomas Aquinas, *De Veritate*, q. 1, a. 1; q. 21, aa. 1, 3.  
| 18 September: | What Kant’s *Critique* Tell Us About the Nature of Transcendental Philosophy and Transcendental Arguments |
| 25 September: | The Nature and Possibility of Transcendental Deductions |
3) Stroud, “Transcendental Arguments”. |
| 2 October: | More on the Nature and Possibility of Transcendental Arguments |
| **Topic:** | **Readings:** 1) Körner, “The Impossibility of Transcendental Deductions”.  
2) Schaper, “Arguing Transcendentally”.  
3) Schaper, “Are Transcendental Arguments Impossible”.  
4) Malpas, “Transcendental Arguments and Conceptual Schemes: A Reconsideration of Körner’s Uniqueness Argument”.

Date: Assignment:

11 October: **N.B. Class meets this week on Thursday rather than Tuesday because of the Gannon Lecture**

**Topic:** Post-Kantian and neo-Kantian Views of Transcendental Philosophy

**Readings:**
2) Rosen, “From Kant to Fichte: A Reply to Franks”.

16 October: **Topic:** Still More on the Nature and Possibility of Transcendental Arguments

**Readings:**
1) Stroud, “The Goal of Transcendental Argument”.
2) Aquila, “Two Kinds of Transcendental Arguments in Kant”.
3) Cassam, “Self-Directed Transcendental Arguments”.

23 October: **Topic:** And Yet More!

**Readings:**
1) Hookway, “Modest Transcendental Arguments and Sceptical Doubts”.
2) Bell, “Transcendental Arguments and Non-Naturalistic Anti-Realism”.
3) Malpas, “The Transcendental Circle”.

30 October: **Topic:** Critical and Phenomenological Transcendental Philosophies

**Readings:**
1) Husserl, “Kant and the Idea of Transcendental Philosophy”.

6 November: **Topic:** Critical and Phenomenological Transcendental Philosophies

**Readings:**
1) Husserl, *The Crisis of European Sciences and Transcendental Phenomenology*, pp. 73–84, 88–121.

13 November: **Topic:** Critical and Phenomenological Transcendental Philosophies

**Readings:**

20 November: **Topic:** Critical and Phenomenological Transcendental Philosophies

**Readings:**

27 November: **Topic:** A Current Version of Transcendental Philosophy?

**Readings:**

4 December: **Topic:** A Current Version of Transcendental Philosophy?

**Readings:**
Date: Assignment:

11 December: Topic: Phenomenological Transcendental Philosophy
           2) Husserl, Ideas Pertaining to a Pure Phenomenology and to a

18 December: Topic: Phenomenological Transcendental Philosophy
           2) Husserl, The Crisis of European Sciences and Transcendental

Requirements

1. Participation in class discussions; 10%.

2. Presentation paper, 20%: Each student will write one presentation paper on the readings assigned for
   the day of the presentation. The paper will be distributed to the class by e-mail no later than
   midnight of the Friday preceding the class (no later than the preceding Monday midnight for the class
   of October 11). The paper is not intended as an exposition of the readings. The presenter should
   focus on the issues common to the readings and form a thesis regarding the readings taken as a
   whole. The topic headings for each class provide a rough guide for identifying the relevant issues.
   The paper will not be read in class, but its author will be required to present a ten-minute summary of
   its main points.

3. Prepared comments, 10% : Each presentation paper will have a commentator. The commentator
   should prepare a critical comment of approximately ten minutes (approximately 4 pages) that focuses
   on the presenter’s main thesis or argument. The comments will be read in class, and the author of the
   paper will respond. General discussion will follow.

4. Research paper, 60%: Each student is expected to submit a research paper of 20–25 pages. I
   recommend that you discuss your topics with me. The research papers can be based on a
   presentation paper or comment, but need not be.