Kantian Perspectives on Concepts
PHIL 285 – Winter 2008
Tuesdays, 2:00-4:50pm
Philosophy Seminar Room

INSTRUCTORS

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TEXTBOOKS

Kant, Lectures on Logic, J.M. Young, tr. (Cambridge UP, 1992)

Additional readings to be made available electronically through WebCT.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will be devoted to the analysis and evaluation of what the Kantian tradition has to say about the concept of a concept. Each meeting will begin by looking to how Kant himself addresses certain fundamental questions about the nature of concepts, and then move on to compare and contrast Kant’s own position with the views of more recent philosophers writing from a broadly ‘Kantian’ perspective, including: Cassirer, Frege, Hintikka, Parsons, Friedman, Strawson, Cassam, Longuenesse, Sellars, McDowell, Brandom, and Ginsborg. A primary goal of the course will be to explore the extent to which Kant’s account of concepts differs in its fundamentals from those of his predecessors as well as those of his successors.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Two 2-page responses to readings: Each seminar participant will be required to select two readings, one from Kant’s writings and another by a Kantian, each from different weeks, and then, by midnight Sunday prior to the relevant seminar meeting, to email a 2-page response to their chosen text to all seminar participants. This response should identify two or three main claims of the text, give a brief sketch of the main arguments intended to support these claims, and then raise two or three (critical or clarificatory) questions for discussion.
2. **One 1-page seminar paper proposal**: By the beginning of class in 8\textsuperscript{th} week (Feb 26\textsuperscript{th}), each seminar participant who is enrolled in the class will be required to send to both instructors a brief 1-page proposal for a final seminar paper. This proposal should identify the topic to be discussed, the main claim(s) to be pursued, and the primary texts to be engaged. (Though not required, participants are also warmly encouraged to meet with the instructors to discuss their proposals.)

3. **One 15-page seminar paper**: By the end of the Tuesday of exam week (March 18\textsuperscript{th}), each seminar participant will be required to email a copy of their seminar paper to both instructors.

**SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS**

(subject to adjustment)

* = recommended/background

1. Setting the context: ideas, the ‘workmanship of the understanding’, and **vérités de raison**

   Port Royal *Logique*, Part I, 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 (‘genus’, ‘species’), 8, 9  
   Locke, *Essay* III.1-3; IV.17.8  
   Leibniz, *Nouveaux Essais*, Preface; III.1 & 3; IV.17.8  
   *Logique*, Part I, 3, 4, 7 (remainder)  
   *Locke, Essay*, III.3.15-20  
   *Leibniz, Essais*, I.1

2. Concepts in general: Kant between Leibniz and Frege

   *Critique of Pure Reason* (henceforth ‘Critique’)  
   Dialectic: ‘Stufenleiter’ (B376-77)  
   Aesthetic: §1 (B33-36)  
   Logic: Intro §I (B74-76)  
   Analytic of Concepts: ‘Leitfaden’, 1\textsuperscript{st} section (B91-94)  
   Dialectic: The transcendental ideal (B599-601)

   *Lectures on Logic* (henceforth, ‘Logic’)  
   Jäsche §§1-16; Intro §§V & VIII;  
   Dohna-Wundlacken 701-4; 725-8; 752-6  
   *Blomberg §§10-14; §§115-123; §§249-291  
   *Vienna 904-13; 805-807; 834-40; 847-50;  

   Cassirer, *Substance and Function*, Part I, Ch. 1  
   Frege, 1882 letter to Marty  
   Frege, ‘Function and Concept’  
   *Frege, ‘Boole’s logical calculus and the Begriffsschrift’
3. Concepts, intuitions, and individuals

_Logic_

Jäsche §1 (review); §§17-21
Dohna-Wundlacken 762-4
Vienna 908-12 (review); 928-32
Blomberg §§260-1; §301

_Critique_

Analytic: §9 (B95-6)
Analytic: B-deduction, §19

Hintikka, ‘On Kant’s notion of intuition (Anschauung)’
Thompson, ‘Singular terms and intuitions in Kant’s epistemology’
Parsons, ‘Kant’s philosophy of arithmetic’ & ‘Postscript’
*Tolley, ‘Umfang as a technical term in Kant’s logic’
*Friedman, ‘Kant’s Theory of Geometry’

4. Conceptual analysis, analytic judgments, and definitions

_Critique_

B-Introduction §§IV-V (B3-18)
Analytic: Intro to Principles (B187-97)
Doctrine of Method (B740-60)

_Logic_

Jäsche §VII; §§36-7; §§99-109
Dohna-Wundlacken 718-24; 756-60; 767-9
*Vienna 822-829; 913-25; 936-37
*Blomberg §§266-84; §161; §139

L.W. Beck, ‘Kant’s theory of definition’
L. Anderson, ‘The Wolffian paradigm and its discontents’
*W. De Jong, ‘Kant’s analytic judgments’
*L.W. Beck, ‘Can Kant’s synthetic judgments be made analytic?’
*R. Hanna, ‘Analyticity within the limits of cognition alone’, _Kant and the Foundations of Analytic Philosophy_, Ch. 3, §§0-3
*L. Anderson, ‘Is modus ponens analytic _sensu_ Kant?’

5. Conceptual holism: the inferential and referential dimensions of concepts

_Critique_

Dialectic: On the transcendental ideas (B377-89)
Dialectic: Transcendental ideal (B599-611; partly review)
Appendix to the Dialectic: on the regulative use of Ideas (B678-696)

_Logic_

Jäsche §§10-11 (review); §§110-13
Dohna-Wundlacken 760-62
Vienna 925-28
Brandom, ‘A Social Route from Reasoning to Representing’, *Articulating Reasons*, Ch.5, §§I-II.1
Brandom, ‘Some Pragmatist Themes in Hegel’s Idealism’, §§I-II
Fodor and Lepore, ‘Brandom’s Burdens’
*Tolley, ‘Determinancy and generality’
*Brandom, *Making It Explicit*, Ch. 2, §§I-III

6. Pure concepts and the Metaphysical Deduction: logical forms, categories, schemata, Ideas

**Critique**
- Logic: Intro §§II-IV (B79-88)
- Analytic of Concepts: ‘Leitfaden’ §§9-12 (B95-116)
- Analytic of Principles: Intro & Schematism (B169-B187)
- Dialectic: Intro §II (B355-366)
- Appendix to the Dialectic (B670-73)

**Logic**
- Jäsche §§3-6 (review)
- Dohna-Wundlacken 752-3 (review)
- Vienna 905-7 (review)

**Strawson, The Bounds of Sense**, pt. 2, II, §§1-4; pt. 4, §7
**Cassam, ‘A priori concepts’**

7. Concept-formation and -application: concepts as rules for synthesis

**Critique**
- Analytic: Leitfaden §10 (B102-109)
- Analytic: Transition to the Transcendental Deduction (A92-95)
- A-Deduction (A95-130; with a focus on the ‘threefold synthesis’ (A98-110))

**Logic**
- Jäsche §§5-6 (review)
- *Prolegomena* §§17-22

**Sellars, ‘The role of the imagination in Kant’s theory of experience’
**Longuenesse, ‘The three-fold synthesis and the mathematical model’, *Kant and the capacity to judge (KCJ)*, Ch. 2
*Longuenesse, ‘How discursive understanding comes to the sensible given’, KCJ, Ch.5

8. The validity of pure concepts and the Transcendental Deduction

**Critique**
- B-Deduction §§19-21, §26
- *B-Deduction §§15-18; §§22-25; §27

**Strawson, The Bounds of Sense**, pt. 2, II, §§4-9
9. Non-conceptual content I: sensation and objectivity

_Critique_

(Review:) Aesthetic §1; Logic Intro §1; Leitfaden §10; B-Deduction §26 (esp.
fn)

_Logic_

Jäsche Intro §V (9:33; review)

Sellar, ‘Sensibility and Understanding’, _Science and Metaphysics_, Ch 1
McDowell, Woodbridge lecture II
Allais, ‘Kant’s account of non-conceptual content’
Ginsborg, ‘Was Kant a non-conceptualist?’
Watkins, ‘Kant and the myth of the given’
*McDowell, MW, Lecture III & Postscript to III
*McDowell, Woodbridge lecture I

10. Non-conceptual content II: aesthetic judgments (of taste, of the beautiful, of the sublime)

_Critique of Judgment_ §1, §§6-8, §§15-16

_Critique_

Aesthetic §1n; A28-30; B44-45

_Logic_

(Review:) Jäschke §V; Dohna-Wundlacken 705-710; Blomberg §§18-34, §§98-
99, §108, §§249-50; Vienna 805-13

David Bell, ‘The Art of Judgment’
Ginsborg, ‘Aesthetic Judgment and Perceptual Experience’
Karl Ameriks, ‘New Views on Kant’s Judgment of Taste’
*Ameriks, ‘Taste, Conceptuality, and Objectivity’