

## Course Overview

### 1. The Programme

Week, Date	(Rough) Topics	pp.
1	4.10. General Introduction, Kant's life, his project	
2	11.10. <i>Preface</i>	387–92
	18.10. [no meeting]	
3	25.10. <i>Section I</i> , good will, duty	393–9
4	1.11. <i>Section I</i> , universal and necessary laws	399–405
5	8.11. <i>Section II</i> ,	406–12
6	15.11. <i>Section II</i> , imperatives, hypothetical and categorical	412–23
7	22.11. <i>Section II</i> , a range of formulae	423–36
8	29.11. <i>Section II</i> , autonomy and heteronomy	436–45
9	6.12. <i>Section III</i> , freedom, pure practical reason	446–55
10	13.12. <i>Section III</i> , limits of practical philosophy	455–63

### 2. The Book

You need your own reading copy of the *Groundwork*. Translations must strike a reasonable balance between fidelity to Kant's text and readability in contemporary English. The standard, and hence recommended, translation is by Mary Gregor and J. Timmermann (2012). *Immanuel Kant: Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals* (revised edition). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. It is reasonably faithful to Kant's German, and reads quite well.<sup>1</sup> For an equally readable and perhaps slightly more accurate translation, go for the edition by Allen W. Wood (2002). *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals, Immanuel Kant*. New Haven: Yale University Press. The most readable edition is by Thomas E. Hill and Arnulf Zweig (2003). *Kant: Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. But note that it is not very faithful. The extras: the Gregory/Timmermann edition includes a foreword by C. Korsgaard. The Hill/Zweig has an extensive introduction. The Wood edition adds four interpretative essays to Kant's text.

Jonathan Bennett provides a simplified translation,<sup>2</sup> which can be useful to provide the gist for certain murky passages. But use this resource with care. *The Cambridge Edition of the Works of Immanuel Kant*, transl. and ed. M. J.

1 There is also a bilingual edition: Gregor M. & Timmermann, J. (2011). *Immanuel Kant. Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals. A German–English Edition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

2 Download at <http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/authors/kant>.

Gregor and A. W. Wood, (1999) *Practical Philosophy*. Cambridge University Press, also contains the *Critique of Practical Reason* (1788) and the *Metaphysics of Morals* (1797).

An online German edition of all of Kant's works, the *Akademieausgabe* (to which the marginal page numbers of all good editions refer), is available at: <https://korpora.zim.uni-duisburg-essen.de/kant/aa04.html>. The original second edition of 1786 can be read online or downloaded in several formats from <https://archive.org/details/grundlegungzurm01kantgoog>. The standard German editions are either by Reclam Verlag (ed. T. Valentiner) or Meiner Verlag (eds. B. Kraft & D. Schönecker).

### 3. The Coursework

Would you like credit (CATS points) for this course? No? Enjoy the course.

Yes? Produce text of about 2,000 words in total. Here are the options. (a) You can select questions from the coursework sheets during the course. So, if you choose 10 questions, each answer will be about 200 words; and if you do 20, they will amount to ca 100 words. (Your first answer is the formative coursework.<sup>3</sup>) (b) You can write an essay of about 1,500 words. There are three steps. First, you can arrange the topic with me. Second, you write a brief outline or plan of your essay (ca one page, or 500 words), which we will discuss. (This is the formative coursework.) Thirdly, you produce an essay for the specified deadline, which is 15 December 2017. (c) You can give a ten-minute presentation in class (with accompanying notes for me). (d) You can continuously write a course diary, where you reflect on your reading of Kant and the discussions in class as the course progresses. The idea is to document your engagement with the text.

### 4. The Resources

There is a website dedicated to this course, where I will put up the handouts and provide links to further material: <https://open.conted.ox.ac.uk/series/kant-groundwork-metaphysics-morals>. The invaluable *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* has a range of entries on several aspects of Kant's work; see <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/kant/> for a start.

There are a handful of commentaries, companions, and introductory texts at Rewley House library, some of them also accessible online (albeit with password or from within the library).

For those interested in Kant's life, see Kühn, M. (2001). *Kant. A Biography*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

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3 The Department distinguishes between *formative* and *summative* coursework. Formative coursework gives you the opportunity for getting feedback on your work during the course. The summative coursework is then the more formal assignment that matters for credit at the end of the course.

